



Juan Carlos Contreras

February 5, 1958 - January 11, 2021

Please join us in remembering Juan Carlos. We invite you through this site to share your thoughts and fond memories with our family.

Events

JAN **Funeral Service** 02:00PM - 05:00PM

21

McCormick & Son Mortuaries

25002 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Hills, CA, US, 92637

JAN **Rosary** 03:00PM

21

McCormick & Son Mortuaries

25002 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Hills, CA, US, 92637

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



McCormick & Son Mortuaries - January 21 at 12:33 PM



“ Tío hermoso, hoy no pude acompañarte pero mi corazón está ahí contigo

Brenda - January 21 at 05:06 PM



“ Mi querido amigo, no hay palabras para expresar el vacío que tu partida deja. Vuela alto y deleitalos con tu hermosa voz.

DEP J.C.

Ana - January 21 at 05:09 PM



“ Hasta siempre querido amigo Juan Carlos, tu memoria perdurara en la vida de todos los que alguna vez compartieron tu amistad.

Pepe y Marcia Cornejo, Denver Colorado

Jose y Marcia Cornejo - January 21 at 05:21 PM



“ Descansa en Paz amigo

Martha Peña - January 21 at 05:22 PM



“ I will miss you forever ❤️

Brandon Aguirre - January 21 at 05:23 PM



“ Juan Carlos, our school will never be the same. You leave a void that no one else can fill. I will always remember your loving kindness to the students, parents, and staff.

Patty Arias - January 21 at 05:28 PM



“ Mr.Contreras se nos fue muy pronto nunca lo olvidare gracias por todo lo que hizo por mi y mis hermanos 😊☐

Alexa Bravo - January 21 at 05:37 PM



“ We are joining you virtually, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with your beautiful family. May you find comfort and strength in one another. We are so sorry for your loss. Blessings.

Maria Elena - January 21 at 05:41 PM



“ My favorite teacher of all time you will be missed, thank you for all the advice and lessons both for guitar and life , ill always carry that till we meet again .

Luis Lopez - January 21 at 05:51 PM



“ Que dios te tenga en su gloria amigo.

chachis talledo - January 21 at 06:02 PM



“ Te envío un fuerte abrazo Astrid querida, para ti y para tus hijos. Que Juan Carlos goce de la eterna Gloria. Dios mediante que ustedes se llenen de paz y de fuerza para celebrar la vida de Juan Carlos.

Mercedes Castro G - January 21 at 06:06 PM



“ Juan Carlos fuiste siempre el Don Quijote moderno; siempre un caballero, fiel a tus valores, buscador de la justicia y defensor de los inocentes (tus alumnos). Tuviste la suerte de poder combinar tus dos pasiones; la música y la literatura. Descansa en paz querido amigo.

Lizette Osle

Lizette Osle - January 21 at 06:07 PM



“ One of the nicest man you could have ever met. Amazingly talented with such a kind heart. Always motivated everyone to do better but because he knew we could do it. Was always happy and smiling everyday. You will forever still be in our hearts Mr. C, thank you for everything you have done for me till my senior year. You have always believed in me and I know that you still will be. Fly high Mr. C 😊

Jazmin Llamas - January 21 at 06:10 PM



“ Amigo Juan Carlos. Muchas gracias por tu amistad. Te vamos a extrañar pero nunca te olvidaremos.

Moe De La Mora - January 21 at 06:22 PM



“ My words cannot begin to express the appreciation of so many of his students and faculty for his amazing accomplishments with the students and spreading of joy to everyone. At Saddleback students who are identified as learning different with individual education plans are often in general education classes. Juan Carlos was able to bring out the best in those students of mine who were so lucky as to be in his class. Thank you, Juan Carlos. We who are left here on planet earth will recall your graces and hold the memory of your contributions to the progress of humanity. May you rest in peace.

Marina wycoff - January 21 at 06:29 PM



“ Mi más sentido pésame a toda la familia. Que Dios lo tenga en su gloria Señor Juan Carlos descansa en paz.

Mariagracia - January 21 at 06:29 PM



“ I want to mention that Mr. C was one of the most amazing teachers I could've ever gotten. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 I wasn't able to see him in person, but I know if I could've had the chance to I'm sure it would've been lovely. Not only was Mr. C One of the most supportive teachers ever, he was compassionate and never give up on his students. Even if his worst students weren't doing well, he would give them some type of encouragement to do better and always give them a chance to improve their grade in his class. The small memories I have of Mr. C are in remarkable. I'm really sorry to his family because I know it's not an easy recovery especially his wife and kids. I would like to mention that he's in a much better place now. He will always be remembered by those who love him. Thank you Mr. C for the many wonderful memories. I wish I can type more and express the emptiness I'm feeling in the current moment, but my words won't be able to fulfill the way I'm feeling. Fly high Mr. C - Brielle canales

Brielle Canales - January 21 at 06:32 PM



“ Quiero mencionar que el Sr. C fue uno de los maestros más increíbles que pude haber tenido. Desafortunadamente, debido a COVID-19 no pude verlo en persona, pero sé que si hubiera tenido la oportunidad, estoy seguro de que hubiera sido encantador. El Sr. C no solo fue uno de los maestros más comprensivos de todos los tiempos, fue compasivo y nunca se rindió con sus estudiantes. Incluso si a sus peores estudiantes no les estaba yendo bien, les daría algún tipo de estímulo para que lo hicieran mejor y siempre les daría la oportunidad de mejorar su calificación en su clase. Los pequeños recuerdos que tengo del Sr. C son extraordinarios. Lo siento mucho por su familia porque sé que no es una recuperación fácil, especialmente para su esposa e hijos. Me gustaría mencionar que ahora está en un lugar mucho mejor. Siempre será recordado por quienes lo aman. Gracias Sr. C por los maravillosos recuerdos. Desearía poder escribir más y expresar el vacío que siento en el momento actual, pero mis palabras no podrán satisfacer lo que me siento. Vuela alto Sr. C

Brielle Canales - January 21 at 06:35 PM



“ I want to mention that Mr. C was one of the most amazing teachers I could've ever gotten. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 I wasn't able to see him in person, but I know if I could've had the chance to I'm sure it would've been lovely. Not only was Mr. C One of the most supportive teachers ever, he was compassionate and never give up on his students. Even if his worst students weren't doing well, he would give them some type of encouragement to do better and always give them a chance to improve their grade in his class. The small memories I have of Mr. C are in remarkable. I'm really sorry to his family because I know it's not an easy recovery especially his wife and kids. I would like to mention that he's in a much better place now. He will always be remembered by those who love him. Thank you Mr. C for the many wonderful memories. I wish I can type more and express the emptiness I'm feeling in the current moment, but my words won't be able to fulfill the way I'm feeling. Fly high Mr. C

Brielle Canales - January 21 at 06:43 PM



“ SR Contreras lo vamos a recordar siempre ,que DIOS y todos sus angeles salgan a su encuentro,muchas gracias por toda su motivacion que le dio a mis 3 hijos y creer en ellos .descanse para siempre.

familia terrones - January 21 at 06:43 PM



“ Quiero mencionar que el Sr. C fue uno de los maestros más increíbles que pude haber tenido. Desafortunadamente, debido a COVID-19 no pude verlo en persona, pero sé que si hubiera tenido la oportunidad, estoy seguro de que hubiera sido encantador. El Sr. C no solo fue uno de los maestros más comprensivos de todos los tiempos, fue compasivo y nunca se rindió con sus estudiantes. Incluso si a sus peores estudiantes no les estaba yendo bien, les daría algún tipo de estímulo para que lo hicieran mejor y siempre les daría la oportunidad de mejorar su calificación en su clase. Los pequeños recuerdos que tengo del Sr. C son extraordinarios. Lo siento mucho por su familia porque sé que no es una recuperación fácil, especialmente para su esposa e hijos. Me gustaría mencionar que ahora está en un lugar mucho mejor. Siempre será recordado por quienes lo aman. Gracias Sr. C por los maravillosos recuerdos. Desearía poder escribir más y expresar el vacío que siento en el momento actual, pero mis palabras no podrán satisfacer lo que me siento. Vuela alto Sr. C

Brielle Canales - January 21 at 06:44 PM



“ Juan Carlos was a wonderful human being. He inspired many students, his family, his friends, and everyone who crossed his path. We will miss his charisma and his enchanting voice. We'll miss not seeing him at Romeo's and other places where he played regularly. His legacy will live forever. May we all carry the torch of friendship, inspiration, and selflessness, as Juan Carlos did. We will miss you, Juan Carlos. Rest in divine, eternal peace.

Laura - January 21 at 06:47 PM



“ Conocí a JUAN CARLOS por medio de FERNANDO CAYO en Lima hace más de 30 años. Siempre admiré la forma como ellos combinaban y arreglaban las canciones. Lo dejé de ver muchísimos años y cuando me reencontré con Fernando muchos años después, lo primero que le pregunté fue que había sido de la vida de Juan Carlos. Me contó que estaba en Los Ángeles y que venía a Lima de vez en cuando. Cada vez que venía a Lima en los últimos 20 años nos juntábamos para tocar música con Fernando, y siempre se generaba una magia muy linda cuando eso se daba. A pesar de no haber visto a JUAN CARLOS tan seguido y tan continuamente, aprendí a apreciar su generosidad, su don de gentes, su sentido del humor, y su profunda fe. En un viaje que hice a los Estados Unidos, lo llamé y le pedí que me ayude a escoger una guitarra para llevarme a Lima. El generosamente me llevó a la tienda más grande de su zona, y pasamos un par de horas escogiendo y probando guitarras hasta que él escogió la guitarra que hasta ahora tengo. Luego de esa reunión, Me invitó a comer a su casa y tuve la oportunidad de departir con su linda familia. Luego de eso hicimos un poco de música y me dejó en mi hotel. Siempre tuve la ilusión de volvernos a encontrar y volver a hacer música con él en sus visitas a Lima pero el destino no permitió que eso se vuelva a dar. A pesar de no ser uno de mis más íntimos amigos, su partida me ha dejado un gran vacío porque Juan Carlos era una de esas personas que no necesitas tantos años para conocerla y apreciarla, su fuerza, su energía, y el aura que él tenía permanentemente, dejaba una profunda marca en el corazón de todosLos que tenían contacto con él. Que Dios lo tenga a su lado y que proteja a su familia.

martin tagle - January 21 at 07:10 PM



“ Juan Carlos, it was such a pleasure to work with you at Saddleback. Your care for your students was central to everything that you accomplished in the classroom. You had such a great and kind heart, and you will be missed and remembered. My sincere condolences to your family.

Alexandra Ito - January 21 at 07:28 PM



“ Réquiem para un amigo-hermano
Silencio y paz. Fue llevado al país de la vida. ¿Para qué hacer preguntas? Su morada, desde ahora, es el descanso y su vestido la Luz. Para siempre. Silencio y paz. ¿Qué sabemos nosotros? Dios mío, Señor de la Historia y dueño del ayer y del mañana, en tus manos están las llaves de la vida y la muerte. Sin preguntarnos, lo llevaste contigo a la Morada Santa, y nosotros cerramos nuestros ojos, bajamos la frente y simplemente te decimos está bien. Sea tu voluntad. Silencio y paz. La música fue sumergida en las aguas profundas, y todas las nostalgias gravitan sobre las llanuras infinitas. Se acabó el combate. Ya no habrá para él lágrimas, ni llanto, ni sobresaltos. El sol brillará por siempre sobre su frente, y una paz intangible asegurará definitivamente sus fronteras. Señor de la vida y dueño de nuestros destinos, en tus manos depositamos silenciosamente este ser entrañable que se nos fue. Mientras aquí abajo entregamos a la tierra sus despojos transitorios, duerma su alma inmortal para siempre en la paz eterna, en tu seno insondable

y amoroso, oh Padre de misericordia. Silencio y Paz

Gracias a la familia Contreras por darnos la oportunidad de darle el último adiós.
HASTA SIEMPRE AMIGO HERMANO - JUAN CARLOS CONTRERAS LIZA
PROM. 74 GW.

carmen soto - January 21 at 07:51 PM



“ Un abrazo fuerte a toda la familia! Mi más sentido pésame ! Juan Carlos es ahora un maravilloso ser de luz Y su ángel protector también...

C Elizabeth - January 21 at 08:00 PM



“ Acompañamos en forma virtual a nuestro gran amigo Juank Siempre te recordaremos tus amigos de la promo GW 74

javier rodriguez - January 21 at 08:08 PM



“ Juan Carlos, I will always remember the song I sang with you when I was sixteen: Con los años que me quedan by Gloria Estefan. Anytime I hear it I think of you.

Chini

Mary Barrios - January 21 at 08:09 PM



“ Astrid thank you so much for the Live service Even though I wasn't there with you, know that my heartfelt sympathies were I pray you and your family find comfort in all those beautiful memories you shared with us, in the video, during the Live Service JC, Husband, Father, Teacher, Mentor and Maestro will always be in our hearts

Irene Sakioka - January 21 at 08:13 PM



“ Acompañámos en forma virtual a nuestro gran amigo Juank Tus amigos de la promo 74 GW

javier rodriguez - January 21 at 08:15 PM



“ Juan Carlos, fuiste un gran amigo y gran ejemplo de papá para mi hija. Tu y Astrid hicieron muchísimo para nosotros. Tengo bellos recuerdos en su townhouse. La hora familiar cuando nos sentábamos todos a comer los ricos platillos de Astrid. Y más todo lo que me ayudaste en Spurgeon y con las decoraciones de su 2, 3, y 4 cumpleaños de mi Julie. A Dios Mio porque te llevó. Quería estar allí hoy y lla me prepare mentalmente para ir. Pero mis doctores me aconsejaron no ir por mi delicadez de mi salud. Pero si vi todo por el sitio. Astrid, linda mujer que eres, ahora tienes un ángel cuidandote a ti y Manny y Karina. Un abrazo fuerte a todos ustedes.

Pronto pondré las dos misas que pedí para ti Juan Carlos en la Parroquia Del Divino Niño en Colombia

Cuidanse Astrid, Manny, y Karina. Sending lots of Love and Healing Energy

Vee - January 21 at 08:26 PM



“ Mr Contreras, sé que será recordado con aprecio por todas las personas que lo conocimos, como maestro y como el gran ser humano que fue, a mi hijo que asistía a clases especiales en Saddleback le bastó una sola vez que asistió al club de guitarra para recordarlo siempre, pues la paciencia que tuvo con él dejó un grato recuerdo tanto en él como en mí, estará siempre en nuestros corazones...

Descanse en Paz

Rosa González - January 21 at 08:37 PM



“ Mis mas sentidas condolencias para Astrid, Karina, y Manny. Siempre recordaremos a Juan Carlos como un ser de luz que ahora goza de la presencia de nuestro Padre celestial.

Fuertes abrazos

Luz y Stephen Torrey

Luz Torrey - January 21 at 10:25 PM



“ Querida Astrid lo siento mucho. Un abrazo muy fuerte.

Romy Grundel Byrne - January 22 at 12:20 AM



“ Descansa en paz y con Dios a tu lado

maria elena bicer - January 22 at 12:14 PM



“ Mis mas sinceras condolencias para la familia por tan lamentable perdida.

Ya está gozando de la presencia De Dios nuestro señor. Descanse en Paz

Carmen Morales - January 22 at 07:39 PM



“ Maestro, Amigo. Fuiste como un padre para mi... Dios te bendiga. Te voy a estar siempre muy agradecido por todo loque tu me enseñaste musical mente..gracias mi querido. Amigo. escribo estas palabras con un nudo en la garganta..... Jorge Gutierrez

Jorge Gutierrez - August 16 at 06:20 PM



“ Nevada lit a candle in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



Nevada - February 07 at 11:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



jose - February 06 at 09:13 AM



“ Oh my God!!! I am so extremely saddened in hearing of the untimely passing of my longtime and dear friend and fellow musician Juan Carlos! I was not aware of his passing until this morning when I was on the computer and got a Facebook notification that it was his birthday today. I immediately got a big smile on my face and shouted across the room to my wife Sandy, that it was his birthday and it was so exciting for me to reach out to him and not only wish him birthday blessings but also try to catch up since we really haven't spoken with each other that much over the past year or so! And of course moreso this past year due to Covid. I was so stunned when I started seeing the wishes to Juan Carlos in Heaven and thought it might be someone pranking him but soon my happy and elated mood turned to terrible sadness!

I am so blessed to have known such a good man, a fellow musician, a fellow educator as my wife is, a spiritual man as myself and a lover of the world and this beautiful blessing that we call music and the gifts we were given to be able to play and create it! My wife Sandy and I met Juan Carlos and Astrid many years ago at the original Villa Roma Restaurant in Lake Forest owned by our mutual friend Victor where we both often played at different times and soon found that we all had so many mutual friends who all celebrated life together at this restaurant. Through the many times of seeing each other at the restaurant and breaking bread together, we became friends as well as fellow musicians and our wives became friends. We seemed to have such parallel lives with Juan Carlos and Astrid being educators as well as my wife Sandy and Juan Carlos and I being musicians and lovers of the same types of music and of course we all appreciated good food and wine! Juan Carlos and I soon realized that with our mutual love and appreciation of the same types of music that we could really entertain an audience and each other, by performing together...And we did...so many times over the years. Juan Carlos even took the place of one of my guitarists in my band one night at the last minute and we had an unforgettable night of performing together for an entire evening which we had never done before!

Over the years, we often talked about putting a band together but with our equally busy lives it never happened. Juan Carlos and I did not see each other on a regular basis the last few years but ours was a friendship that embraced the mutual love and admiration every time we saw each other...Juan Carlos will always be my friend! I am a much better person for knowing Juan Carlos and having shared a part of his life...I am so sad today but I know you are up in Heaven my friend playing in that great big band in the sky! Play on my friend and sing out loud...we will hear you from the Heavens above...Adios Mi Amigo...Mucho Amor y Paz
Bobby and Sandy Allen

Bobby Allen - February 05 at 02:17 PM



“ Queridos Astrid, Karina y Manny,

Hace unos días me acabo de enterar del fallecimiento de nuestro amado Juan Carlos. La noticia me dejó paralizado y lágrimas acudieron a mis ojos. Yo realmente quería a Juan Carlos como a mi propio hermano. Lo admiraba, lo respetaba, y vivía constantemente agradecido por lo tanto que él me enseñó. Recuerdas cuando yo le decía al verlo: "Maestro"...Si, él compartía su conocimiento y me enseñaba con gran amor y cariño cualquier tema que yo quisiera aprender de él. Él por siempre será el mejor amigo que yo pude tener. Oh! Como le extraño! No puedo alcanzar a imaginar que difícil debe ser para ustedes tener que resignarse a no ver su rostro o escuchar su voz....

En él se juntaban las cualidades de todo un hombre de valor. Su inteligencia, su amabilidad, su ética, su consideración y su innato deseo de ayudar a los demás se conjugaban para hacer de él un ser humano singular. Yo me considero bendecido por haberlo conocido. Siempre recordare todos los momentos que pasamos juntos....

Para muchas personas tal vez, él ya nos ha dejado y lo puedo entender. Pero para mí, No. Debido a mis estudios e investigación de NDEs, él ahora está más vivo que nunca, y al tanto de todo lo que pasa a su alrededor. Simplemente está en otra dimensión. Estoy absolutamente convencido de que lo volveré a ver. ya que siento que no fue casualidad que nos conocimos. Y él, siendo un espíritu muy especial, vino a la tierra a tocar las diferentes vidas de las personas para ayudarles a creer en ellas mismas...En mi caso, eso fue lo que él hizo conmigo, Siempre sentí una conexión con él que era difícil de explicar con la lógica del hombre....

Donde sea que estés ahora maestro, sé que te voy a volver a ver. Hasta pronto mi querido Juan Carlos.

Astrid, Karina y Manny, los acompaño en su dolor en estos duros momentos.

Sinceramente,

Ricardo Linares.

Ricardo Linares - February 04 at 06:54 PM



“ im sorry that you past away im hoping to see you again someday

Alexis - January 24 at 03:19 PM



“ Lobelia Martinez lit a candle in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



Lobelia Martinez - January 21 at 09:23 PM



“ Mi querida Astrid, cuanto lo siento, nunca olvidare a Juan Carlos, siempre nos trato con un gran cariño y respeto. El estará velando por ti y sus hijos hasta que se vuelvan a encontrar. Un beso al cielo para Juan Carlos, que en paz descanse.

Amparo Reynafarje - January 21 at 09:11 PM



“ Robert Morales & Laura Cristina, Dame Salsa Cubana purchased the Thoughts & Prayers for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Laura Cristina - January 21 at 08:19 PM



“ Querido Juan Carlos tengo una pena inmensa en mi corazon por tu pronta partida. Estaras siempre en nuestro pensamiento, oraciones y corazon al igual que Astrid, Manny y Karina. Partiste pronto, muy pronto amigo... solo le pido a Dios te guarde siempre y al mismo tiempo decirte muchas gracias por siempre compartir Tu amistad con nosotros ... descansa en Paz amigo mio. Te voy a extrañar ... sera hasta la proxima con Fe y Esperanza siempre en Nuestro Senor Jesucristo Amen.



Marilu Macedo de Barrios - January 21 at 08:18 PM



“ Me cuesta aceptar la pronta partida de Juan Carlos, solo nos queda rezar por su alma pero también para que Dios les dé a mi querida primita Astrid y los chicos muchas fuerzas para seguir adelante soportando está gran pena con entereza y resignación. Juan Carlos te recordaré siempre como el primo que nos regalaba mucha felicidad y alegría cada vez que nos reuniamos contigo, tu música y tú cariño por la familia!!! Eternamente agradecida que Dios te bendiga con la gloria eterna, amén!!

Elisabeth Benavides - January 21 at 08:51 PM



“ Thank you for always keeping me on track. Thank you for everything Descansa en paz Mr.Contreras lo queremos mucho.

Britney Campos - January 25 at 12:14 PM



“ Descansa en paz querido JC

Nevada Zuniga - February 07 at 11:38 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Guitar Club



Eduardo Yñiguez - January 21 at 08:10 PM



“ Beautiful service. To Astrid, Karina, and Manny, we really wish we could have been there in person, but we understand that due to the circumstances it would have been impossible. But it just goes to show how many people's lives Juan Carlos touched, including mine, and watching everyone share their stories was moving.

We will deeply miss him.

Chini, Marilu & Willy



Mary Barrios - January 21 at 08:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 21 at 07:58 PM



“ Dios lo tiene en su gloria A toda la familia mi más sentido pésame! Juan Carlos es un hermoso ser de luz y estoy segura que está muy cerca de ustedes! El amor tan grande que se tienen siempre los unirá! El no ha muerto, su espíritu es eterno!
Vickyta y familia un fuerte abrazo de luz a la distancia!

C Elizabeth Viale - January 21 at 07:52 PM



“ Jazmin lit a candle in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



Jazmin - January 21 at 07:29 PM



“ Con mucha pena por tú partida, descansa en paz.

Zonia Nieto - January 21 at 07:03 PM



“ Evelyn Castro sent a virtual gift in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



evelyn castro - January 21 at 07:02 PM



“ Juan Carlos, querido primo, siempre estarás en nuestro corazón con los más lindos recuerdos y en un lugar muy especial para nuestra mamá Nelly, tu segunda madre para tí. El amor que se sentían era recíproco y muy hermoso. Ella veía en tí el hijo varón que nunca tuvo; amoroso, atento, lleno de detalles hacia ella. Ahora con sus 93 años no sabe que partiste, pero estamos seguras que al mencionarle tu nombre, con una sonrisa y un gesto de amor, te tendrá siempre presente. Sabemos que desde donde estés seguirás llenando de luz el corazón de todos los que te conocieron y amaron. Nuestras condolencias a la familia y rogamos al Señor que los llene de fortaleza para sobrellevar esta dura prueba. Familia Chavez Maldonado Nelly, Nena, Gladys, Liz y Myrtha

Myrtha Chavez - January 21 at 06:59 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 21 at 06:19 PM



“ Mr. Contreras was always a pleasure to be around. He welcomed me into his home and always provided Manny and I support while we were in college. I wish I had the opportunity to spend more time with him. A great man who left behind a compassionate and caring family, always looking to improve the world. His presence and legacy has made the world a better place. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. He will be missed, may he rest in peace.

Atef Aresheh - January 21 at 06:05 PM



“ Cynthia Botello Salas lit a candle in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



Cynthia Botello Salas - January 21 at 06:00 PM



“ I'll never forget the impact Mr. C left on his students. I walked into his classroom Freshman year in high school, TERRIFIED of having to take his class because I was so scared of other kids making fun of me for being Hispanic and not being able to speak Spanish - not to mention I was TINY so also very self-conscious. But on my first day, Mr. eliminated any fears I had. He told me I had nothing to be afraid of - no one would pick on me if he had anything to do with it. Long story short - he noticed me, and noticed that I would keep to myself and invited me to guitar club. I said "Mr. C, I don't have a guitar, I can't even play anyway." His response "Just come by. You can just listen or study." So I figured, why not? When I went, he handed me the smallest guitar he had, and he said "I want you to try. Just try, that's all I'm asking." I said no, I really really fought him on playing. But he kept coming back and asking until I agreed. Haha. I'll never forget how irritated I was because I was so adamant on not trying. But, despite my attitude, he showed me what to do, came back 5 minutes later - "Que Linda, you're a natural. Never tell yourself you can't do something without trying. And if you try, and fail, TRY AGAIN. Now smile." And he called over some of his best guitar-playing students so that they could talk to me. I went to his classroom every Friday, I loved Fridays, for my entire 4 years at Saddleback. I made friends, I could be myself, never afraid of being judged. See, the thing is, he wasn't just a Spanish teacher. Mr. C encouraged us to be ourselves, he pushed us to challenge ourselves, he encouraged friendship, he created a safe space for everyone to be whoever they wanted to be. And he took such pride and joy just sitting in his classroom grading assignments while we all played our random, loud, probably not-so-great music - but to him, it was music to his ears. I am so saddened, and still in disbelief that you're gone Mr. C. I wish I had the opportunity to tell you that you were the first person in my life who helped shape me into who I am today. Your presence, your guidance, your kindness - you were the first person I encountered during a time where I could have gone down a bad path. But because of you, I started trying. I started opening up to people. I became confident. Thank you, so much Mr. C. For everything you did for me, and for everything you have done for so many other students. You'll be so missed.

Jessica Bernal - January 21 at 05:49 PM



“ Wow, thank you for sharing this

Kam - January 22 at 01:45 AM



“ Jessica, what beautiful sentiments and what a story!!! Thank you!

Sandra - January 28 at 10:20 AM



“ I was in Mr. C's class freshman year and he was the one who taught me to be proud of my roots. I was fragile and self-conscious but he helped me grow. He amazed me with all his stories and music, he was the main reason why I participated in the talent show at saddleback, he gave me the confidence to be able to go up on that stage and sing. He still continues to be a role model to me and many others. You will be missed.

Cynthia Botello Salas - January 21 at 05:48 PM



“ Maria Elena lit a candle in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



Maria Elena - January 21 at 05:42 PM



“ Juan Carlos was an amazing teacher and musician. He had an infectious smile. He always greeted us at Villaroma, Romeo Cucina, and other musical events that we attended where he sang and played the guitar. He made John's retirement party and Jim's 60th birthday party very special. He is missed by all of us. He is now a shining star in the sky.
Sending our love and condolences to Astrid and his family.
John Gustafson, Jim Moore, and Walter Alvarado

Jim Moore - January 21 at 05:40 PM



“ My dear Mr. Contreras. Your passing has left an ache in all of our hearts. You were truly one of a kind. Such a caring and giving soul to all those that you came across. I will forever be grateful for the time I got to work beside you in your classroom. The patience and energy you put into teaching our special ed students never went unnoticed. All of your students adored you. I will miss running into you in the parking lot and our hello's and a hug in the front office. Thank you for the laughs, tears, talks, advice and encouragement that you gave me. I will forever cherish all of it. Rest in Paradise.

Vanessa Chavoya

Vanessa Chavoya - January 21 at 05:32 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 21 at 05:11 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Contreras. He will be missed by his Saddleback family.

Macy Reagan - January 21 at 05:10 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 21 at 05:06 PM



“ My dear friend, Juan Carlos Contreras, there is not enough words to express and truly say how you are and will be always remembered. As a husband, father, teacher, colleague, mentor and so on, you were pivotal to all. Each person that you talked with, shared a word or two, or expressed your view with gusto always came across with passion. I will always remember the moments when we joined forces to tackle the WASC team and the many performances we entertained the Saddleback students and staff. I hold dear to my heart the many chats that we had about all things in life. My wife and I will truly miss your smile and kindness that you always shared with us. Our lives have been enriched because you are such a blessing to us.
Jesus and Joyanna Rios

Jesus Rios - January 21 at 05:02 PM



“ My deepest condolences go out to Mr. Contreras' family and as well people who knew him for a long period, god even for a few days because it only took a short amount of time to get to like Mr. Contreras. I came late to his class, in terms that I was enrolled late. I wasn't confident in my ability to understand the Spanish material whatsoever. I was slacking very hard and overall felt overwhelmed. I really believe Mr. Contreras knew I wasn't working to my potential because he told me to turn in any of the assignments I had done (I was nervous to talk) I did and.. I had a B! That day I was so proud, I enjoyed Spanish more and honestly felt more confident in Spanish and in general. He very quickly grew to be my favorite teacher. Mr. Contreras used to make jokes about our icons, which always made me laugh. He made class fun, he inspired us, he changed us. Mr. Contreras used to always talk about how I wanted to leave the class (Which I was hinting at when I first came to one of his office hours-) but that now I had a A. I was always happy when he mentioned it, I always laughed since it put me in a completely happy mood. His classes were always the most fun, he would explain over and over if a student needed him to. Plus, I was in awe whenever he would randomly pull out his guitar and begin playing and singing, he was truly talented. Mr. Contreras will always stay a huge impact in my life, I really think he's changed me entire study ethic and future. He made me believe in myself, and I thank him for that. There's so many things I could say. Mr. Juan Carlos Contreras, rest in peace, you made such a difference with all your hard work. Thank you, truly.

-Carla Osio

Carla - January 21 at 05:02 PM



“ Christine Vu purchased the Godiva Gold Ballotin (36 pc) for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Christine Vu - January 21 at 05:01 PM



“ Christine Vu purchased the Cheeseboard Complete for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Christine Vu - January 21 at 05:00 PM



“ Mis más sentidas condolencias para la familia de Juan Carlos, un hermano para mi. Nos conocimos en las reuniones de departamento de español desde hace cinco años. Desde el primer día que nos conocimos nos tratamos como hermanos. En cada reunión nos escapábamos del resto del grupo p[ara comer juntos. Tengo mucha tristeza y lo recordaré siempre con eterno cariño y respeto. QED, mi querido hermano.

Gustavo Urrea - January 21 at 04:55 PM



“ You will be dearly missed Mr. Contreras.
On behalf of the Class of 2011, here are some beautiful flowers for your beautiful soul. Rest In Peace.



Erika Fuentes - January 21 at 04:45 PM



“ A la Esposa, Hijos, Hermanos, Hermanas , Familiares y Amigos de quién fue JUAN CARLOS CONTRERAS deseo Felicitarles por haber compartido sus días , un muchacho Joven , Alegre , Juguetón, Amigable y “TALENTOSO”, después de leer todos esos bonitos comentarios, me siento Triste por su inesperada partida, Alegre por el valioso legado que nos ha dejado y MUY ORGULLOSO por los Peruanos que vivimos en el extranjero que luchamos día a día por nuestras familias y por dejar dejar bien puesto el nombre de nuestra querida Patria “PERU”, GRACIAS POR TODO ESO Y MUCHO MÁS JUAN CARLOS , DESCANSA EN PAZ .
Tengo la esperanza que nuestro señor les brinde a todos ustedes La Paz necesaria durante este triste momento, DIOS LOS BENDIGA!!

To the Wife, Children, Brothers, Sisters, Relatives and Friends of whom JUAN CARLOS CONTRERAS was I wish to congratulate them for having shared their days, a Cheerful, Playful, Friendly and “TALENTED “ young man , after reading all those nice comments, I feel Sad for his unexpected departure, Happy for the valuable Legacy he has left us and VERY PROUD for the Peruvians who live abroad who fight day by day for our families and for leaving the name of our Beloved Homeland “PERU”in place.THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT AND MUCH MORE JUAN CARLOS , REST IN PEACE.

I hope that our Lord will give all of you the necessary Peace during this sad moment, GOD BLESS YOU !!

Randol - January 21 at 04:36 PM



“ I'm so deeply saddened by Mr. C's passing. Mr. C was by far my (and many others') favorite teacher in high school. Not only did he make learning fun but he was so passionate about teaching, music and his lust for life just showed in his energy.

Years after I graduated high school (Class of 2003), we'd kept in touch. He was a mentor to students not only while they had him for his class but throughout their high school journey and beyond. There was a time when I was struggling financially while working and going to college full-time. Mr. C called me to his class, gave me \$100 and I still remember his words - "don't worry about paying me back, pay it forward when I become successful."

My sincere condolences to the family. Mr. C, you'll always be remembered.

Ajay Viswanathan - January 21 at 04:30 PM



“ Que tu luz siempre esté encendida Juan Carlos Contreras Liza ,pedimos al señor por tu descanso eterno. Familia Liza Arzola



Milagros - January 21 at 04:22 PM



“ Te conocemos 50 años y por tu vida ejemplar sabemos que estas en los brazos del Señor, descansa en paz Juan Carlos Contreras Liza.
Familia: Liza Arzola

Olenka Dominguez Liza - January 21 at 03:55 PM



“ Mr. Contreras,

Thank you for your teaching, guiding, and inspiring myself and countless of others with your words and actions. I will carry your lessons and your spirit with me for the rest of my life. I will never forget your generosity and your compassion. You gave me a chance to be somebody.

If I feel a breeze or the warmth of the sun when I play guitar, I know it will be you.

I hope to one day make you proud.

Hasta luego, profe.

Rafael Martinez - January 21 at 03:31 PM



“ I walked into Mr. C’s Spanish for Spanish Speakers class on my first day of high school. I was actually a few minutes late because I couldn’t find it. I came in, apologized, and at the table near the window (the class was beyond capacity). He was talking to the class in his excited, energetic way, but something was nagging at him... he kept turning over to me and then continuing, as if convincing himself against what was on his mind. Then he finally stopped speaking to class, addressed me directly and asked, in English, “What’s your name?” I said Priscilla. Oh ok, and he continued speaking Spanish to the class – but not a moment later turned back to me and asked, confused, “What is your last name?” I said Gonzalez. “Oh, ok!” He continued, question resolved. And I will take the liberty to say I became the teacher’s pet! He always complimented my work and showed the way I organized my CUADERNO to the class – literally taking it from my desk and walking around with it. I’m sure I would try to grab it before he did, but he was always too fast! I’m sure I blushed profusely. But I was also proud. I had the privilege and honor to take his Spanish courses for two years, and to spend some time in Guitar Club. One of my crowning moments of high school will forever be playing the Sleepwalk duet with Mr. C, and feeling like the coolest, most important person in the universe. He could make you feel that way. That is rare, and beautiful. Salud Maestro. Con todo mi Corazon, Priscilla

Priscilla Gonzalez Sainz - January 21 at 02:59 PM



“ He was a very loved and caring person and he was just always there for you whenever regardless if it was school related or not, he will forever be in our hearts.

Andy Garcia - January 21 at 02:16 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the family of Juan Carlos. He was loved by all at Saddleback and will be missed tremendously. Prayers to the family for peace.

Amy Scruton - January 21 at 02:01 PM



“ Juan Carlos will forever be in our hearts. It was a privilege to have met him and have shared beautiful moments with him and his family. These photos are from a Christmas Eve we spent at the Contreras family house about 17 or 18 years ago. Thank you God for sending JC to this world to make a difference with his kindness, love, patience, talent and the list goes on.



Marisela Montoya - January 21 at 11:33 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers and deepest sympathy to Juan Carlos Family. Mr Contreras you will be remembered forever. From Will and Anita Rogers n Jason n Gelin

anita rogers - January 21 at 03:20 PM



“ Te vamos a extrañar y tener en nuestras memorias siempre, Juan Carlos.

Gustavo - January 21 at 04:59 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - 'Wherever a beautiful soul...' was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 21 at 10:17 AM



“ Thank you Mr. Contreras for all the time you took out of your personal life to bless others and for being like a father figure, friend, and roll model to those who needed it. Thank you for all the happiness you brought and the talents you shared with all those who met you. It pains me to know your gone and I won't see you again but your persona and character lives through us all. Rest well maestro y gracias por todo.



Carlos Rivera - January 21 at 05:09 AM



“ Mayra lit a candle in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



Mayra - January 21 at 03:08 AM



“ I will always remember Juan Carlos as being a truly gifted teacher who could light up the room with his genuine love for his teaching craft and that of his students. He was always so willing to share his methodologies with all of us at Saddleback. He could find brilliance in strategies that most of us easily tossed aside.

I especially loved the way he could reach out to his students with his guitar club. In my class, I would have difficulty motivating them. Then I'd go to an assembly and see them smiling away as they performed for the crowd. He found the one area where they could be a success and it definitely showed on their beaming faces.

He brought out the best in all of us at Saddleback. He is so deeply missed!

Much love and prayers to his family,
Dianne Iwamoto

Dianne Iwamoto - January 21 at 01:51 AM



“ Recuerdo mi primer día en su clase de AP Lenguaje y Cultura. Una niña de solo 13 años, muy tímida y calladita, desorientada en un ambiente donde me sentía sola porque mis compañeros eran mucho más mayores que yo. El Señor Contreras me hizo sentir como que yo sí pertenecía a su clase, y me recordaba que si tenía las ganas, podía lograr lo que quisiera. Él era mucho más que un maestro para mí; el cariño que le llegué a tener venía verdaderamente de mi corazón. Casi cuatro años después y todavía visitaba su salón para saludarlo y platicar un ratito porque él era del tipo que aunque le sobrara trabajo que hacer, encontraba unos cinco minutos para tener una conversación contigo. Las palabras no hacen justicia para describir lo que sentí cuando me enteré de las noticias. Sentía que mi corazón no aguantaba, pero recordé mis palabras favoritas que él mismo me dijo y recordaré para siempre: “ ¡Pero eres toda una fiera! “. En estos momentos difíciles tenía que ponerme valiente y ser la fiera que el Señor Contreras miraba en mí. Gracias a él, sigo luchando como una fiera cada día, y sé que orgullosamente me mira desde el cielo con una sonrisa en su cara como siempre acostumbraba. Que vuele con los Angelitos, Maestro, estoy eternamente agradecida por el impacto que tuviste en mi vida. Sé que ahora estás en mejor lugar y aunque te extrañaré con todo mi corazón, que descanse en paz, Mr. C. <3



Araceli Martinez - January 21 at 01:24 AM



“ El maestro Contreras no era solo un maestro, para mi fue mucho más que eso, fue esa persona que me enseñó que los sueños se hacían realidad y que cada día luchara y siguiera corriendo detrás de ellos y cuando me cansara, parara y me tomara un descanso y después siguiera hasta alcanzarlos, fue aquel mentor que me ayudaba cuando yo no estaba bien, me enseñó que la literatura iba más allá de solo escribir palabras sin sentido, me enseñó que todo en esta vida tiene un significado, me enseñó que cada individuo nos podríamos manifestar y luchar a través de la literatura, hacer que nuestra voz fuese escuchada al mundo. Por esas y mil razones más te doy las gracias señor Contreras. Te extrañare hoy y el resto de mis días. Vuela alto, muy alto.

-Angel Farias

Angel Farias - January 21 at 12:26 AM



“ Juan Carlos Contreras was a dedicated Family Man, Spanish Language Teacher, Musician, and a great Friend!

Juan Carlos Contreras was an extraordinary teacher. Every afternoon He was teaching the students in his classroom, free of charge, how to play the guitar. Every year He organized the Talent Show for the Saddleback High School students. He was many times the Teacher of the Year! What a legacy....

I had a privilege to play with him on many occasions the compositions of Daniel Fogelberg for flute and guitar and Antonio Carlos Jobim's tunes. I miss you very much my Friend.... It is a great loss for our community....

Rest In Peace..... play and sing with the Angels in the Heaven....

My deepest condolences to Astrid, Karina, Manny and Family. God Bless you. Love and prayers, Ania Briscoe and Family.



Ania Briscoe - January 20 at 10:46 PM



“ Anya, so well expressed.

Thank you for letting the world understand more about the Juan Carlos Contreras legacy. He is irreplaceable and will be sorely missed. As you mention the angels will have another voice to join in peace and harmony.

Marina wycoff - January 21 at 12:39 PM



“ Thank you Marina..... great loss.....every time I play his favorite composer's tunes (Daniel Fogelberg) and Antonio Carlos Jobim's I think of my Great Friend Juan Carlos and his legacy! Thank you Juan Carlos and your Family for your friendship since 2006....

Ania Briscoe - January 27 at 10:22 PM



“ My fondest memories of Mr. Contreras was when I was fortunate enough to be in his Spanish 1-2 AP class my sophomore year, he definitely got my Spanish up to par, including my penmanship. I cherish the moments when he would play his guitar when he would get the chance, a true treasure and remarkable teacher after all these years. Saddleback's beloved Rockstar

Descansa en paz Maestro Contreras



Nestor Jaimes - January 20 at 10:45 PM



“ I refuse to let him be just a COVID statistic & choose to remember him through these little memories instead. From my blurry digital camera capture of him performing “Dust In The Wind” with his students in the 2011 Talent Show , to him sharing his memory of being my younger brother’s Spanish teacher , & to continuing to teach me even in 2019 when he highlighted HIS accomplishment in life that didn’t necessarily involve playing for an iconic musician ... he had made such an impact in my life along with thousands of my peers. My favorite memory of him would be watching him prepare us little beans for the annual talent show It never mattered to Mr. C if we had talent or not. What mattered most to him was we had passion & courage to express ourselves on that stage. That was the kind of educator he was, always shaping each person’s self-esteem & self-worth in the smallest, yet the most long lasting ways. RIP señor



Fritzi Washington - January 20 at 10:38 PM



“ Saddleback High School Guitar Club purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Saddleback High School Guitar Club - January 20 at 10:36 PM



“ The man was a legend. He had the look, the voice, the poise of a true man. He was the Dad that you wished was your Dad. He was the level of cool that we all strived to be. Such a well-rounded person. My favorite memory was being able to quickly play some music with Manny & Juan and I remember Juan's beautiful singing voice and for the chorus he spontaneously said "The World is a Ghetto" and he reflected his feelings and emotions in it so amazingly- it was a spontaneous song but he sang as if he had wrote it with all his heart. Very passionate and compassionate human being. I'd like to thank him for the awesome family he raised and I see a lot of memories from students on here that are making me happy to read. I wouldn't be doing Juan justice if I didn't say VIVA PERU. You belong to God

Kam Ghassemy - January 20 at 09:51 PM



“ Juan Carlos epitomizes The Great Teacher: thoughtful, knowledgable, gracious, kind, caring, driven, talented, and humble.

I read in one of the other posts that when "Juan Carlos was speaking with you, he made you feel that you were the only one in the room." This resonates with me the most - he made you feel special; listened to; respected. Juan Carlos was a special human being who positively influenced countless lives.

God bless you, Juan Carlos. You will never be forgotten.



JG - January 20 at 09:37 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 20 at 09:35 PM



“ Juan Carlos was many things. He was a wonderful husband, a great father, and a fantastic teacher. For me Juan Carlitos was a forever friend. I spent so many weekends with JC, Astrid, and friends. Every birthday, event or just any old day, I will think of you and the music we sang or danced to with you. I will miss your huge personality and quick wit. You left us too soon! I will be there for Astrid, Karina, and Manny if they need anything. Rest In Peace my friend.
Love always,
Nancy Blackburn

Nancy Blackburn - January 20 at 09:03 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 20 at 07:41 PM



“ A la familia, Juan Carlos un excelente hombre y amigo sincero. Lo extrañaré siempre..
con cariño.
Felipe Anaya

Felipe Anaya - January 20 at 05:21 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 20 at 12:48 PM



“ Healing & Hope Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 20 at 12:18 PM



“ I've had Mr.Contreras freshman year he's always been that teacher that everyone can wait to have I loved because he has that uplifting spirit where if you walked in with a problem and you went to talk to him he would go out of his way to cheer you up. When it was your birthday he would grab a guitar play and sing happy birthday and everyone in the class would join to me both years I had him he has gone out of his way to help me catch up in his class that's just the kind of person he was.

Osmin Salinas - January 20 at 12:14 PM



“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



McCormick and Son Mortuary - January 20 at 11:37 AM



“Words alone cannot express just how much you touched our lives. You were more than just a friend, you were family. Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. There are special people in our lives who will never leave us even after they are gone .. Juan Carlos is that person.

Astrid, Karina and Manny you are in our hearts now and always."

Love, Sandra & John

McCormick and Son Mortuary - January 20 at 11:28 AM



“ Queridos Astrid, Manny y Karina, Estamos muy tristes por la noticia de la partida de Juan Carlos. El siempre tan carinoso y con su musica alegre a muchas personas y toco muchos corazones... Nunca nos olvidaremos los Viernes en Villa Roma... lindos momentos que pasamos disfrutando de su amistad y la de ustedes y de su musica!! Tenemos el consuelo que seguro que ya estara disfrutando de la Gloria de Dios y tocando su guitarra en el cielo!! El sera el Angel de la Guarda que siempre estara velando por ustedes y en sus corazones!! Astrid querida, tu y tu familia estaran en nuestras oraciones y en nuestros pensamientos. Rezaremos mucho para que Dios les de muchas fuerzas y que la Fe los acompañe en estos momentos tan dificiles. Los estaremos acompañando el Jueves a las 2pm.
Reciban un fuerte abrazo con todo carino,
Roger y Cecilia Castle

Cecilia Gallastegui Castle - January 19 at 11:47 PM



“ Roger and Cecilia Castle purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Roger and Cecilia Castle - January 19 at 11:26 PM



“ Queridos Astrid, Karina y Manny, Cuanto lo sentimos Roger y yo de la perdida de Juan Carlos... El siempre tan carinoso y con su musica alegre a muchas personas y toco muchos corazones! Nunca nos olvidaremos de los Viernes en Villa Roma... lindos momentos que pasamos disfrutando de su amistad y la de ustedes y de su musica! Se le va a extrañar muchisimo!! Un consuelo que tenemos es que seguro ya esta disfrutando de la Gloria de Dios y tocando su guitarra en el cielo!! El sera el Angel de la Guarda que siempre los estara acompanando, aunque no sea en persona, su espiritu estara siempre en sus corazones. Astrid querida, tu y tu familia estaran en nuestras oraciones y en nuestros pensamientos. Rezaremos mucho para que Dios les de muchas fuerzas y que la fe los acompañe en estos momentos tan dificiles... Estaremos acompanandolos a la distancia el Jueves a las 2pm. Reciban un abrazo muy fuerte de nuestra parte.
Roger y Cecilia Castle

Roger & Cecilia Castle - January 19 at 11:13 PM



“ Jerry and Sandy Hartson and Family purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Jerry and Sandy Hartson and Family - January 19 at 09:26 PM



“ My dear friend Juan Carlos, you were the rhythm of Saddleback. How could such a humble man be so talented? There are no words to describe how much you are going to be missed. God bless you and your family. Rosalind Turner



Rosalind Turner - January 19 at 08:57 PM



“ Que tristeza perder a JC Me acuerdo en Bélgica cuando se conocieron solo cuarenta años atrás para mi fue ayer ,me acuerdo que estuvimos sentados en un moll para entrar a un bar conocerlo asi fue pero todos esos años se convirtieron en una familia que Astrid y JC creo ,Mi prima hermana lo conquisto lo adoro como el a ella ,la perdida mas grande que tenemos no solo yo ,Mari luna Richi la bebé que está dentro del amor para Mani y Kari A todos perdimos la mitad de nuestros corazones por la partida de mi Juanacho que tanto respete y admire por 40 años . pasemos lo peor juntos para eso somos una familia unida ,ahora mas que nunca , Astrid ,Mani Kar, Luna , La bebe Con todo mi corazón lo extrañaremos siempre ,pasemos juntos , juntos
Besos Billy

Luis Barreto - January 19 at 06:13 PM



“ Araceli G., Luis C. & Román M. de SAHS purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Araceli G., Luis C. & Román M. de SAHS - January 19 at 11:37 AM



“ Juan Carlos, you always had such great energy and passion for all you did. It was reflected through the work you did for all of your students and families. It gave me such pleasure to watch you in action and see the difference you were making. It always made me smile when your music filled the air at pep rallies. It will be one of my favorite memories of Saddleback. You will be dearly missed but I know your melody will be serenading us from above. Rest In Peace.
-Gerardo Correa

Gerardo Correa - January 19 at 11:07 AM



“ Juan Carlos nos deja un enorme vacío, porque durante años se ha entregado en cuerpo y alma no solo a sus alumnos, sino como jefe de departamento a su escuela y a la mejora de la enseñanza de idiomas en todo el distrito.

Sus conocimientos, su entrega, su talante y sus aportaciones han sido inestimables. Ha contribuido a mejorar los materiales y la tecnología que utilizamos, la página web que utilizamos y los exámenes que administramos anualmente. Siempre recordaremos la sesión de formación profesional que impartió para todos los maestros de español y francés del distrito a principio de curso hace unos años, acompañándola con su música y su guitarra, Fue estupenda y sumamente dinámica y refrescante.

Sí, todos perdemos a un educador que deja una huella muy profunda a nivel personal y profesional. Nos queda, a todos los que hemos tenido la suerte de conocerlo y trabajar cerca, su entrega y dedicación, su sentido de la justicia, su rigor en el trabajo, su sensibilidad hacia las necesidades de los alumnos y la comunidad, su creatividad, y su bondad de corazón. Lo llevaremos dentro de nosotros siempre como recuerdo y ejemplo.

María J. García y
SAUSD World Languages Department Chairs

María J. García - January 19 at 04:04 AM



“ A message to the Contreras Family on behalf of all of us at Saddleback who loved and respected Mr. Contreras and will always keep him in our hearts: It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that Roadrunner Nation mourns the loss of beloved colleague, teacher, friend, mentor, musician, role model, and inspiration to all that knew him, Mr. Juan Carlos Contreras. Mr. Contreras was a beloved member of our Saddleback family since 2000. He was more than an amazing Spanish teacher to his students; his passion for music and performing and teaching guitar and music to students was what made anyone who knew him see what a unique and beautiful soul he had. Whether he was playing and singing for his students during class, at our assemblies, Back To School Nights, Open Houses, or staff meetings, Mr. Contreras' voice and energy reverberated to all that were lucky enough to hear him. Mr. Contreras, your Saddleback family will miss you, but we will never stop hearing you playing and singing. Forever in our hearts, Rest In Peace Mr. Contreras.
Saddleback Family

I will never forget your last e-mail to me, Mr. Contreras, and I will cherish and forever remember your words of wisdom from that e-mail. I will miss doing morning announcements with you, miss hearing you sing Feliz Navidad during the holidays, and miss seeing your smiling face every day. You may be gone, but you will never be forgotten. - Dana Kassaei



Dana (Donna) Kassaei - January 19 at 02:30 AM



“ Siempre tan risueño y dispuesto a ayudar a quién lo necesitara. Tenía una energía contagiosa y llena de positivismo. Así lo recordaré, feliz y apasionado con la enseñanza, siempre pensando en lo mejor para nuestros alumnos. Gracias por los consejos, enseñanzas y anécdotas que compartimos como colegas en el departamento de idiomas. Ya te extrañamos enormemente y sentimos un gran vacío en el corazón.
Mis mas sinceras condolencias para la familia Contreras. Mr. C vivirá por siempre en nuestros corazones.

Norma Martinez - January 18 at 11:55 PM



“ From Lydia and Jimmy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



From Lydia and Jimmy - January 18 at 10:50 PM



“ Thoughts & Prayers was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 18 at 06:29 PM



“ Oh Juan Carlos, what can I say that hasn't already been said. What I loved most about you was how talented you were yet how modest you were and so willing to help anyone who wanted to learn to play the guitar. I know whenever I hear the Gypsy Kings I will have fond memories of Villa Roma, Tacu Tacu, Brio and Romeo Cucina.
God bless you and rest in peace, my friend.

Tu amiga,
Barbara

Barbara Peimbert - January 18 at 04:10 PM



“ I did not know Juan Carlos well, but I do remember that he allowed me to observe his lesson while I was in my masters program. I am grateful for his kindness. Bendiciones a usted y a su familia.



Maria Johnson - January 18 at 04:05 PM



“ The loss of someone dear to us is never easy. I hope all the cherished memories that you have of Juan Carlos brings you some light during this dark time.

Juan Carlos was a fellow teacher that I hold very dear to my heart. He was a man that I still hold the utmost respect for. Not only did he inspire many students and save many of them through music and his mere presence, he also inspired other teachers like myself. The first time in my entire life that I ever performed singing while simultaneously playing an instrument on stage was with Mr. C. He was there to back me on guitar the entire time so that I wouldn't be afraid. I saw Juan Carlos as a father figure—he taught me how to play the keyboard, pushed me outside of my comfort zone and inspired me to sing a song in Spanish with him despite the fact that I don't even speak Spanish, allowed me to experience what being in a band was like with our teacher band, joked around with me about my millennial habits, and also helped me as a younger teacher overall, but especially when it pertained to AP courses.

Juan Carlos was seriously a Renaissance man that could do anything and everything. I keep replaying memories in my head in which I was able to witness his keen ear and almost supernatural musical abilities. I remember a specific time when he asked me what song I wanted to sing, and all I had to do was play the song on my phone for maybe 20 seconds, and he would instantly play that song right there on the spot in front of me. I am truly thankful and blessed to have crossed paths with such an irreplaceable soul. Juan Carlos was truly was one of the coolest human beings to have ever roamed this planet.

Rest in Peace

Juan Carlos Contreras—an absolute legend...



Chyna Tran - January 18 at 12:57 PM



“ Thank you so much for sharing. I had similar experiences. Sr. Contreras was just great with our special education students who got placed in a GE Spanish class. God bless him forever.

Marina wycoff - January 18 at 06:34 PM



“ Mrs. Fields Nibblers Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 18 at 12:14 PM



“ Cecilia Barreto lit a candle in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



Cecilia Barreto - January 17 at 11:03 PM



“ I was a student at Godinez Fundamental High School from 2008-2012. I had Mr. Contreras for summer school (Spanish II). He is a teacher who truly cares about his students and I enjoyed talking to him. I wish I kept in touch with him after I graduated. God bless you and I pray for you and your family!
Leopoldo Garcia



Leopoldo Garcia - January 17 at 10:03 PM



“ Bailon's favorite song was "Ventura Highway"... it never failed... no matter what he would play it. JC was also the first person to make me feel comfortable singing in public (Tauna) . He absolutely knew every song out there and sang every song in many languages!



Bailon Arabe - January 17 at 07:58 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 17 at 07:36 PM



“ Bailon and Tauna Arabe purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Bailon and Tauna Arabe - January 17 at 07:15 PM



“ Alexis Jacovides purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Alexis Jacovides - January 17 at 04:44 PM



“ Sandra Corr lit a candle in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



Sandra Corr - January 17 at 10:41 AM



“ May Juan Carlos enjoy forever seeing God Face to face in eternity.

Elvira and Jaime Pimienta - January 17 at 01:47 AM



“ Escutia, García, Landrian, Osle purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Escutia, García, Landrian, Osle - January 16 at 05:33 PM



“ Juan Carlos will be dearly missed at our department chair meetings. His passion and dedication to students were evident in all of his words and actions. It was truly a privilege to have been inspired by him. Rosalia Escutia

Rosalia Escutia - January 16 at 05:02 PM



“ Thank you Mr. Contreras for inspiring us to play.



Ruben Salazar - January 16 at 02:40 PM



“ Thank you Mr. Contreras for inspiring us to play.



Ruben - January 16 at 02:22 PM



“ This is so beautiful. Thank you so much for sharing it, Ruben.

Sandra - January 17 at 10:36 AM



“ To the person who uploaded this if you could send me a copy I would really appreciate it

Eduardo - January 21 at 08:14 PM



“ Mr. Juan Carlos Contreras

A teacher
like none other

A friend
one could count on

A person
whose value is
endless.

While on earth,
his heart created
music and harmony
safety and warmth
ease of being
a refuge for all
who might take it
instruction with care
support one could
trust

And his memory lives
on in our hearts forever

-Sandra Corr
16 January 2021



Sandra Corr - January 16 at 01:54 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



gissel - January 16 at 11:45 AM



“ Juan Carlos was nice to everyone, and influential to many. Especially to those who may not have had much to grasp onto, Juan Carlos gave their lives meaning and hope. He was taken too soon. To his wife and daughter, the time was too short, but the fact that we were lucky enough to cross paths with this wonderful and talented man means that we were blessed.

Kit Houseman - January 16 at 06:44 AM



“ Thank you for your words filled with lovingkindness, Dear Friend. They mean a lot and I feel the same. Just lucky to have known Juan Carlos, such an amazingly beautiful person.

Sandra - January 16 at 02:01 PM



“ Querido Juan Carlos,
You will always be remember as an amazing person, full of love, caring and compassion for all around you..,

You will always be present specially with your family.., even though they can not see you.., they know you will be walking right next to them at all times, loving them and protecting them through their goods and
Not to goods moments of their lives..,

Was a blessing having the opportunity meeting you and sharing moments of our lives together..,

Good Bless you and take care of Astrid, Karina and Manny

Cecilia Barreto - January 17 at 03:04 PM



“ Cecilia

Cecilia Barreto - January 17 at 03:05 PM



“ On behalf of all us teachers, students, and staff at Saddleback High School we send our condolences. Juan Carlos was an outstanding teacher, colleague, friend, and mentor to all of us at Saddleback. He had an enormous amount of joy for life, students, and music. He was full of energy and always willing to do what was needed for kids. We will cherish and never forget his big smile, huge heart, great hair, and the voice of an angel at our assemblies and guitar shows. An amazing man and human being that will never be forgotten. We were blessed to have known him and we are better because of him. He will always be our Musical Roadrunner.

Mr. B



edward bustamante - January 16 at 01:22 AM



“ All we can do is be there for each other with compassion -- and that's enough. Thank you for your lovely words and support of all of us who have been left in his wake. - Sandra

Sandra - January 16 at 01:58 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 15 at 11:56 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Alejandra Mora - January 15 at 11:07 PM



“ Alejandra, thank you so much for the effort you put into making this truly beautiful video. I will never forget you and your lovingkindness. Love to Mariel as well from me:) Hope you are well and happy and at ease in your life, though things are so difficult. Your face in the picture with Juan Carlos shows how much love you had for him as does this video. I am so sorry for your loss. Love, Mrs. Corr

Sandra - January 16 at 01:30 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Alejandra Mora - January 15 at 11:04 PM



“ My deepest condolences to all the family and friends.
JuanCa! I used to call you. You we're like my older brother friend and in many ways the person that open my eyes to music. From the 80's in Peru to the 90's in California Wow! What a trip you will be dearly miss and thank you for listening and being there. It was always great to talk to you. I am blessed that I have so many wonderful memories with you. I Can picture you in Heaven right now playing your Ovation guitar.

isaac varon - January 15 at 08:42 PM



“ Dear Astrid, our most sincere sympathies to you and your family for the loss of Juan Carlos. We will always remember his larger-than-life personality, his humor, his love for family and students, and of course, his music. Please know that we share in your grief.

Con amor,

Amelia and Eduardo Perez

Amelia Perez - January 15 at 08:01 PM



“ El mejor de todos!
Vuele alto Mr C , me quedo con todas sus enseñanzas y las memorias de lo que compartimos juntos!
No es un adios, es un hasta luego...mientras valla guardandome un espacio para cuando me toque, este cantando con usted!
Por siempre en mi corazón!!



Alejandra Mora - January 15 at 07:37 PM



“ Sr Contreras o como le llamábamos en Confianza Mr C, gracias por los mejores dos años de mi vida, donde su clase fue una salida para mis problemas y la música el mejor rincón donde podía ser feliz, gracias por dar luz y alegría a mi corazón, también por enseñarme a que un maestro es un padre más en nuestra vida que nos transmite su sabiduría, amor y comprensión. A veces la vida se lleva lo mejor que el mundo tiene, pero quiero decirle a cualquiera que me lea, que gracias a Mr C aprendimos muchas cosas y crecimos sabiendo que no importa que problema tengamos, la vida es maravillosa, y que siempre encontremos ese rincón en el cual esa luz nunca se apague ☐ lo quiere por siempre la Señorita Corona ☐



sonia - January 15 at 07:30 PM



“ Los maestros del Depto. de Idiomas -Saddleback purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



Los maestros del Depto. de Idiomas -Saddleback - January 15 at 06:07 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Estudiantes del Club de español y las clases de Norma Martínez



Norma Martinez - January 15 at 05:40 PM



“ Dear Contreras Family,

We are sorry about your loss. We will always remember Mr. Contreras for his positive attitude. He would always smile and he was a great guitar player. In his years working as a teacher, he touched many of our students lives, including our very own classroom assistant, Mr. Oscar Zuniga Magno, a former student of his. He volunteered many hours to the on campus guitar club. We will always remember him going to our classroom holiday parties.

Our thoughts are with you.

Sincerely,

The Young Men of 604,



Gabriel Ramirez - January 15 at 04:53 PM



“

Dana (Donna) Kassaei - January 19 at 02:09 AM



“ Gabriel Ramirez lit a candle in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



Gabriel Ramirez - January 15 at 04:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 15 at 03:04 PM



“ Thank you for being one of the best teachers ever! You will forever live in the heart of each and everyone of your students. My condolences to the family. Dios lo tenga en su Santa Gloria. Amén☐



Eymy Murillo - January 15 at 02:41 PM



“ Mr.C never disappointed in making anyone feel welcome. He always had stories to share with everyone. He helped so much that his impact will live on forever. You will be missed and never forgotten.



Carlos Martiez - January 15 at 01:16 PM



“ Angel Prado lit a candle in memory of Juan Carlos Contreras



Angel Prado - January 15 at 01:16 PM



“ Mr. C was never my teacher but treated me like I was his own child. He didn't know but found kindness and gentleness in his big heart to greet me every morning. He didn't have to but he did because he was a light to saddleback that could never be replaced. I watched how he made everyone so happy and smile, he made my days a lot better than they were. He was full of energy and he love his job just as much as his kids. He will never be forgotten by those who were touched by his light. We love you Mr.C

ashley robinson - January 15 at 01:08 PM



“ Astrid, Karina y Manny compartimos el dolor profundo de esta abrupta separación. Juan Carlos, será siempre el hijo que mi mami Nelly, escogió y para nosotras Nena, Gladys, Myrtha y yo, Liz el hermano, al que tendremos presente en lo profundo de nuestro corazón. Un abrazo inmenso y que Dios les dé fortaleza, paz y resignación, en estos momentos difíciles. Están en nuestras oraciones.



Liz Chávez Maldonado - January 15 at 12:26 PM



“ Juan Carlos was one of the persons in this world that was consistent, he truly cared about the person he was speaking to, even to the point of blocking out anyone trying to interrupt. He always had a kind word as he greeted you. He was a natural teacher. He was able to see a struggling student and give them encouragement, many times through music. His students were engaged with challenging content and rose to the level of his expectations. He loved our community and understood the struggles of being a newcomer to America. He often spoke of his family with admiration in his eyes. He was proud of each of you along with the generations of students and families to whom he devoted his career. He was professional, always forward thinking. He was prepared for his innovated lessons often times including cross curricular classes; English and Art as well as Music.

In my many years of teaching I have encountered innovative, loving teachers and Juan Carlos is one of my top five favorite teachers. As I visited his class, often times to request his help with something, he would include me in his class discussion. It was always a joy to enter his class. The entire World Language Department was enriched by his participation. He never thought he was the best teacher, he saw himself as a life long learner and gleaned ideas, strategies and techniques from his Saddleback family.

There is a whole in my heart that cannot be filled with the simple thought that he will not be there to continue the guiding the youth of our community. We are all better people just knowing Juan Carlos. He will truly be missed.

My prayers are with you his family.
God Bless you and love each other as he loved you,

with Deep Sympathy,

Crystal Fitzgerald-Jimenez

Crystal Jimenez - January 15 at 12:09 PM



“ Mis condolencias para Astrid, Manny y Karina. No hay palabras para describe esta pérdida de un gran amigo de la niñez y adolescencia. Estudiamos juntos en Callao-Perù y el destino nos juntaria aqui en Los Angeles años despues con otros demàs compañeros y hermanos (como el nos llamaba). Hoy solo queda e li gran recuerdo de Juan Carlos como niño, adulto y gran amigo y buen padre de familia que fue. Fuerza y bendiciones a su familia.

Sinceramente,
Mary Linares.

Mary Linares - January 16 at 07:09 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Juan Carlos Contreras.



January 15 at 12:28 AM