



## Antonio "Tony" Flores-Cruz

September 12, 1946 - July 16, 2014

Antonio "Tony" Flores-Cruz age 67, of Wheatfield, IN passed away early Wednesday July 16, 2014 at his residence. He was born on September 12, 1946 in Puerto Rico to Maria Cruz (Gonzalez) and Bernado Flores Rivera, both deceased.

Tony attended Gary Public Schools and was a United States Army veteran. On September 30, 1981, he married Karen Jean Gorup, who survives. He was a retired Car Sales Associate for Homewood Chevrolet. He worked as a car sales associate for over 40 years. He attended St. Cecilia Catholic Church in DeMotte. Tony enjoyed gardening, working on his car and riding his bicycle. He was also a wiz at playing the lottery.

Tony is survived by his loving wife, Karen.

Children; Debra Flores; Brenda (Jorge) Arzola; Nancy Flores; Peggy Flores all of Miami, FLA; LeeAnn (Dennis) Roak, Wheatfield, IN; Antoinette Flores, Alexandria, VA; Victoria Flores, Worth, IL and Asia Propp, Highland, IN.

23 grandchildren

Sisters, Fran Lueke, Atlanta, GA; Carmen (Mingin) Gonzalez, Miami, FLA and Mary Jo (Vickers) Chambless, Dunwoody, GA.

He was preceded in death by his parents

Friends may call on Friday July 18, 2014 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM (central time). A Funeral Service will be held at 7:00 PM at Jackson Funeral Service of DeMotte with Father Dave Hellman officiating. Cremation will follow. Memorials may be made to Vitas Hospice or St. Cecilia Catholic Church

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 18. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Service of DeMotte  
200 3rd Street, SW  
P.O. Box 681  
DeMotte, IN 46310  
(219) 987-5300  
info@jacksonfuneral.com  
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

## Service

JUL 18. 7:00 PM (CT)

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# Tribute Wall

EC

“ So sorry to hear about your loss Karen. May the many memories you have give you peace. Esther

Esther Cruz - July 23, 2014 at 12:10 AM

KF

“ My loving sweet husband , I don't know what I'm going to do without you !! After 33 years of marriage we've had good times & bad , and still the love remains. So I'm just thinking of this as just another bump in the road!! Till we meet again sweetie!! You remain in my heart , Love , Hugs , & Kisses always

karen flores - July 21, 2014 at 05:40 PM

KA

“ Karen sent a virtual gift in memory of Antonio "Tony" Flores-Cruz



Karen - July 20, 2014 at 07:53 AM

KA

“ Karen sent a virtual gift in memory of Antonio "Tony" Flores-Cruz



Karen - July 20, 2014 at 07:52 AM

KA

“ Karen lit a candle in memory of Antonio  
"Tony" Flores-Cruz



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**Karen** - July 20, 2014 at 07:50 AM

MJ

“ My brother, Tony, put a fly in my mouth and ran away when I was  
about 5 years old!

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**Mary Jo** - July 19, 2014 at 12:48 PM

LE

“ Vicky: I got to see different side of dad when I worked with him. To see dad working a deal was exciting. He got a new pep in his step and a look in his eye that brought excitement and inspiration. When I first started he tried to teach me but I learned more by watching him than I could ever say. He had a natural connection with people that included his story telling, wit, and sense of humor. When I became a mother I realized what it is to worry for your children and gained a greater appreciation for dad's constant concern. At the time I was not working and had many worries about bringing Ayden into the world he was always there for us at the drop of a dime. As a new mother my dad made sure that if I needed something I had it.

*Even though today is a sad day we must remember to take everything with a grain of salt, as dad always said, because everything will work itself out. Dad is no longer suffering and now we all have an angel on our side that will continue to guide and protect us.*

*MAY you rest in peace we love you dad*

*Love Vicky*

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LeeAnn - July 19, 2014 at 04:48 AM

LE

“*Antoinette: you all know that my dad was a funny man but what many don't know is that he was a simple and sentimental man, more concerned with life than with material things. He loved to garden, feed the birds, spoil his poodles but more than anything else, he was a giver. He taught us that no matter how little we had, there was always someone with less and even when we had little to give, we had plenty to share. He frequently collected clothes and toys to personally give to others and whenever given something, you could be certain it was quickly regifted. He was not a man of material things.*

*When my dad taught me to drive, my driving lessons consisted of serving others. For example, one of dad's friends, Tom, now deceased, was diagnosed with a heart condition. Tom was the sole caretaker of his elderly mother. My driving lessons consisted of me taking Tom for groceries, visiting Tom's mom and talking for hours and playing with her dog, or taking Tom's mom to church. My dad was teaching me to drive but he taught me so much more than that. I am certain that Dad was thinking of his own mother on our trips to Tom's.*

*He was patient and gentle and generous with his time, a gentleness that could only come from a man with three sisters and 8 daughters..no brothers and no sons. I share a name with my dad and could only hope to be as amazing as him. Love you dad.*

*Love Antoinette*

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**LeeAnn** - July 19, 2014 at 04:48 AM

LE

“ LeeAnn: We all know I was Daddy's little girl.

*My dad taught me a lot and helped to bring me to the person I am today. From as far back as I could remember, my father and I had a special bond. As you all know, my father's passion was car sales...and guess where I am today? Following in his footsteps. Through every breaking moment in my life, especially when I thought I was able to go out on my own, my father was there to guide me and bring me back to reality. For instance, at 18, I had been in the business just a short time and wanted to get my own apartment. So I found one and left a deposit. When I got home and told Dad, he sat down and asked me what in the world was I thinking?*

*He got a pen and paper and started writing a budget. He said, "You don't have furniture, basic necessities...you need food, bills, gas money. You don't have enough for all that. But, me being me, I was going to prove I could do it on my own.*

*So I went out and found a dollar store...not a real dollar store...and went on an apartment shopping spree. I spent about 300\$ and the cashier helped me out to my car and thanked me. When I got home and showed mom and dad what I bought, all excited to go off on my own, I pulled out 10 cups, towels, bathroom decorations, plates, table settings, and a bear made out of sea shells that reminded me of wella in Puerto Rico...dad brought me back to reality again.*

*He said, "well, you still need a bed, couch, and a table for your table settings. What about bills? You just spent half of your rent!" He taught me to be the frugal person I am today.*

*There was one time I could prove my dad wrong..I went against his advise and met my husband.*

*He was concerned that we were coworkers and said " LeeAnn*

*what are you thinking?*

*A dog doesn't crap in his own backyard." But once he met Dennis and our kids, our lives as two separate families became one. Dennis became the son he never had, and the kids quickly built an up breakable bond. For all of my 30 years, there hasn't been a week or month that has gone by that my father hasn't been there to give some type of advice. My father was always there to guide me and I know he will continue to be.*

*Love LeeAnn*

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**LeeAnn** - July 19, 2014 at 04:47 AM

LE

“*Asia: I would like to say that dAd was a great person and a great dad. He would always tell me lots of jokes. He was very funny. He always gave to people, he was always just himself. He was very strong and positive. We will never forget dad for who he was because no matter where we are, we are always a family. He just wanted peace and now he has it. We all love you.*

*Love Asia*

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**LeeAnn** - July 19, 2014 at 04:46 AM

JS

“*My sincere condolences to Karen and all of your family. Tony will live on in your memories of the good times and love you shared.*

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**Judy Stephen** - July 18, 2014 at 01:26 PM

RJ

“ I played in the band for Tony & Karen's wedding reception, which I will always remember. Sending my love to my cousin Karen and her family.

Rich Stephen Jr. - July 18, 2014 at 01:22 PM

ES

“ I first met Tony waiting at a Ford Dealership where I also met Vicki. We both learned a tremendous amount from him while working together. He was a very kind man who loved his family most. R. I. P

Emily smith - July 18, 2014 at 12:12 PM

PP

“ I remember a trip to Wisconsin where Tony bought a hat ( it wasn't an ordinary hat it had a fish thru it). Well traffic was backed up on the tollway coming home. So Tony puts on this hat and had everyone looking and laughing. That hat was so stupid you had to laugh even stuck in traffic. That is only one of the fun times we had. Miss you. Love Peg & Marty

Peggy Popek - July 18, 2014 at 09:07 AM



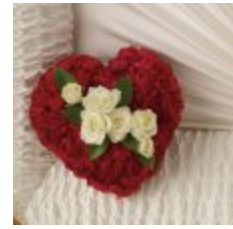
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Antonio "Tony" Flores-Cruz.



July 18, 2014 at 12:38 AM



“ *A Devoted Heart Casket Insert was purchased for the family of Antonio "Tony" Flores-Cruz.*



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July 17, 2014 at 05:54 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Antonio "Tony" Flores-Cruz.*



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July 17, 2014 at 02:40 PM



“ *I remember calling the house asking for Toni (Antoinette) when we were in high school. Tony would answer and do one of these things: the normal thing- call Antoinette to the phone, tell me I had the wrong number because he didn't know who I was asking for, tell me I called a pizzeria, etc lol...he had me questioning if I dialed the right number quite a few times until I came to expect this kind of stuff when I called lol...*

*The suffering is over. I know you'll help them get through this difficult time and continue to watch over your family. I'll do my best with Toni. She's been like a sister to me since high school.  
Rest in Paradise, Mr. Flores*

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**Melanie V.** - July 17, 2014 at 10:43 AM

 Natalie  
Popek

“ I have so many! I'll try do this without crying, but my favorite is when I had just gotten my drivers license and he asked me to come over to watch the kids so he and Auntie Karen could go out. But instead, he surprised me with a dealer car (comfortable!) to use for the weekend! I was in my glory! My Mom and Dad were quite nervous with him trusting me at such a young age with a brand new car driving all around downtown Chicago with my friends, but he laughed and said "I was once young too, just have fun, be careful and you wreck it, you bought it!" He was forever Young! I will miss you Uncle Tony... Until we meet again! xoxo

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**Natalie Popek** - July 17, 2014 at 09:02 AM

MD

I remember when Tony lent us a van to go on vacation to Springfield. We had it for almost an entire week and enjoyed it so much that we bought a van from him when we returned. I also enjoyed going to the dealerships where he worked to look at cars. When I found a car that I liked he would tell me, "No you don't want that one!" We bought about six cars from him through the years and if there was something wrong with it he would have it fixed immediately while we went out to lunch together. He was the only car salesman I ever liked!! R.I.P. my friend. Your cousin, Mick

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**Michael Dragas** - July 20, 2014 at 09:22 PM