

Obituary

Reflections of a Life Well Lived



Irving Bruce Rivas gained eternal peace on July 8, 2023.

Irving "Sonny" Bruce Rivas was born to Leroy Rivas and Elizabeth Terry Rivas, June 18, 1948 on a beautiful, radiant day of sunshine. His mother gave Irving the nickname, calling him "Sonny", he was affectionately known as Uncle Sonny to most in the community.

He was preceded in death by his parents Elizabeth and Leroy Rivas; his siblings, Aretha Brown; Leroy Rivas and Harry Rivas; his Aunts Willa Mae Burgohy, Doris Lawery and Lucille Terry; Niece Anitra Brown and brother-in-law Embrey McCoy.

He was christened in Bethel AME Church and was a lifetime member. He attended Douglass High School and graduated from Key West High School in 1966. In 1968, Irving was drafted into the United States Army, 6thBN (HAWK) 65thArty, during the Vietnam War, where he served honorably. His decorations: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Services Medal, Matrious Unit Citation, Army Commendation Medal, and Expert Badge.

Upon his return home, Irving studied at Florida A&M University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1974. Irving was a very proud "Rattler".

Irving pursued a career in Education with the Monroe County School District for ten years. He continued his career with Department of Children and Families, serving the citizens of Monroe County for eight years. He retired from Comcast Corporation after a career of fifteen years, where he took pleasure in creating a lifetime of memories. His co-workers described him as dedicated, loyal, genuine, loving, outspoken, one of a kind, and supportive.

Growing up in a very close-knit family, Sonny's cousins were raised as his siblings. Sonny had a Love for his family and Life that was immeasurable. He poured his heart and soul into his family. He treated everyone with kindness, sharing the fruits of his labor. He had a strong influence and instilled the importance of education, independence and perseverance through life skills and challenges among all those he encountered.

He was a community activist with a strong work ethic, positive attitude, a God-fearing spirit, and a Love for advocacy. As a brother, father figure, and family member he demonstrated Love, compassion, humility, and strength with determination.

He was a "bridge over troubled waters" for many; he exemplified grace and was admired. Irving "Sonny" Rivas was truly a man of unshakable conviction, great integrity, and honor.

Sonny had a passion for cooking, one of his many qualities, he enjoyed preparing his specialty dishes for family gatherings and events, his famous arroz con pollo, tuna pasta salad and bake hams, were all cooked to perfection and beautifully displayed.

He had a Love for sports, particularly, Tennis - watching the Williams Sisters, Venus and Serena, at the US, Australian, French Open, and Wimbledon. Sunday Football was a must and he enjoyed watching his favorite team, The Miami Dolphins. He appreciated his friendship with the fellas at the domino table.

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15