



Randel M. Ortega

JUN 6, 1960 - NOV 13, 2015



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Randy passed away at home in Merryville, Louisiana. He was 55 years young. He is survived by father Claro Ortega of Neosho, Missouri; daughter Ashley Ortega of Houston, Texas; sister Tania Bowman & Kevin of Joplin, Missouri; brother Dana Ortega & Angel Curtis of Neosho; sister Krisi Ortega of Neosho; and girlfriend Meg Sanut of the home. His dear mother preceded him in death by only 9 days.

Randy was born on June 6, 1960 in Los Angeles, California and adopted by parents Claro Ortega and Wyvetta (Forga) Ortega. He spent his childhood in Santa Ana. From the time he could talk, he made fast friends with everyone he met. In 1976, the family moved to Neosho, Missouri and he attended high school there.

During his years in Neosho, friends nicknamed him “Taco.” Indoors, he was a whiz at futsal (table football). Outdoors, he and a team of buddies competed in a local softball league. His life-long passion for sports included college football and the San Francisco ‘49ers.

About 1984, he moved to Houston, Texas where he would spend the next 25 years working as a bartender at various bars, restaurants and hotels. It was a natural fit for his sociable and fun-loving personality.

In 1999, Randy and Judy Schmidt were blessed by the birth of their daughter Ashley. Over the next 16 years, love for his daughter brought out the very best version of himself. His pride and devotion shone for all to see.

Starting in 2001, he took a second job as a member of the Dish TV sales team. By 2010, the company relocated him to Merryville, Louisiana. He also began tending bar at Steamboat Bill’s in DeRidder. As usual, his megawatt smile and winsome charm earned him many friends and loyal customers.



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On November 13, Randy left us too soon. We mourn his loss but take comfort in the belief that he has been reunited with his mother. He was a beloved son, brother, father and friend. His light lives on in us.

A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, November 21 at 1:00 p.m. at Labby Funeral Home in DeRidder, Louisiana. A Reception will be held at 4:00 p.m. at Steamboat Bill's.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Randel by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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