



Maritza Luciano

November 26, 1957 - October 9, 2019

Maritza Luciano, 61, of St. Cloud, Florida, transitioned on Tuesday, October 9th, 2019 after a courageous battle against pancreatic cancer. Maritza was from Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, born to Wilson Luciano and Ana Carlo.

Maritza had strawberry red hair and an adorable left cheek dimple as a child, and spent most of her teenage years in New Mexico as her father studied and she gained a love for John Denver, Native American culture, and a life-long affair with jewelry. There she perfected her English, which would help her as she ventured to the States by herself and her three girls in 1988. August 3rd, 1988 was her first day with the Osceola County school system, a job she got just three days after arriving from PR. The majority of her life was selflessly dedicated to her three daughters; Xamarie Ponce, Lorraine Cotto, and Angie Link, and then her beautiful grandchildren; Daniel and Kimberly Ponce, Gabriel Cotto, and Gavin and Eva Link. Average days for Mama as we were growing up included being able to juggle work and home, comfort us through teenage broken hearts, earn enough money to cover a multitude of prom dresses, get up early on Saturday mornings to sing and clean the entire house, and even cover us with Vick's through flu season. Even as a grandmother, she would travel overnight 5 plus hours to babysit her babies last minute, and help clean our homes as our life became too overwhelming. Mom was always there to rescue us if we were in distress, we knew we could always count of her. It was daily that we spoke on the phone, and even in the end, she waited triumphantly for her three daughters to come home to her, before she went home to our Precious Lord.

As an educator and school administrator, she devoted herself to mentoring her students, teachers, and peers. Her accomplishments included Teacher of the Year awards both here in Florida and Puerto Rico, Ida S. Baker Distinguished Minority Award, Who's Who Among America's Teachers, and many more. She also gained her Masters degree in ESOL and Educational Leadership, as well as certifications in biology, chemistry, middle grades, ESOL endorsement, and educational leadership. Even as she fought her battle with cancer, she stayed up to date with her teaching certifications, her love for teaching ran deep in her veins. It was through the 30 plus years in this county that she was able to

touch many lives, and we are all eternally grateful for her advise, leadership and love.

Her life was spent dedicating her time to her daughters and students, and as we navigate this new world without her physical presence we truly know “when you look at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know.” We saw and experienced that love fully, and live in gratefulness as we are eternally wrapped in her arms.

Mom, Ms.Luciano, requested we celebrate her life and accomplishments in a Celebration of Life, that will be held this Sunday, October 13th, at the Portofino Vista community center from 2-4pm along with her dear family and friends.

Cemetery

Osceola Crematory LLC

1715 Old Boggy Creek

Kissimmee, Fl., 34744

Events

OCT 13 **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

Portofino Vista Community Center

3141 Allegra Circle, St. Cloud, FL, US, 34772

Comments



“ Ms Luciano was an inspirational being. I had the opportunity to meet a wonderful person and give her support as I am a cancer survivor. She visited me when I was at the hospital, and once shared the experience of having and fighting a terrible illness.

Zaidy Hernandez - October 16, 2019 at 07:15 PM



“ This is what she shared on January
Today was a very blessed day! I met with good friends for lunch . Call it a battery charging experience. #friendsempower
#panerabreadmeeting



Zaidy Hernandez - October 16, 2019 at 07:05 PM



“ A wonderful woman I got to know while teaching with her at Parkway Middle School. Later on she was friends with my daughter at Cypress Elementary when Maritza became an administrator. Her beautiful smile and love of children will be greatly missed. Q



Kathy Donato - October 13, 2019 at 11:10 PM



“ Great person, help me along in my teaching care. I used to stick my head in to her office on the way out of school at DIS and talked with her after school. Very sad, R.I.P. I'm sure she will be missed.

JOSEPH MARCHEGGIANI - October 13, 2019 at 10:50 PM



“ Maritza always had a smile and would help everyone! She was the best teach, asst principle and principle in Osceola. She's gave me a signed year book when she was principle, I will forever cherish it!

Cindy - October 13, 2019 at 04:28 PM



“ I will never forget Mrs. Luciano. She helped make me the teacher I am today. She gave me my first teaching experience and we had a great 3 years. You will be in my heart and I will miss you. Rest in Peace and may my mom welcome you. XOXO

Victoria Velez - October 13, 2019 at 04:23 PM



“ I have many beautiful memories of Maritza Luciano. First, her beautiful smile, and a pretty face to go with her dimple whenever she greeted the teachers and staff at DIS. Ms. Luciano had the courage and strength to face each day with valor. I still see her going up and down the stairs at DIS whenever something went wrong. Either a fight broke out with students, or helping the students to achieve success by addressing the importance of getting to school on time. Maritza always called me Ms. Abby or Abicita "como estas" she was so nice to me when I lost my son from meningitis. She would hug me and send a teacher to cover for me in the classroom. Maritza had the courage of a lion, and the strength of a bull. Thank you Maritza Luciano for being the best Principal I've had. Rest among the angels with our lord Jesus Christ. I will miss you and until we meet again. You raised strong daughters just like you. I LOVE YOU. Ms. Abby

Abigail petez - October 13, 2019 at 03:14 PM



“ Maritza and I had a unique friendship. She was my boss but also my friend. We grew very close sharing our love for God and our families. She was very devoted to her daughters, mother and grandchildren. She was a hardworking person and never expected any more out of those she was responsible for than she did herself. We had some funny times. I remember walking in one day and she had a napkin up to her mouth and when she saw it was me she took the napkin away and was smacking on gum!! She said "I love chewing gum but we can't chew in front of the students". She then spit it out before going outside. The most fun thing I remember about her though was her lipstick. It didn't matter if Maritza was going to the front office, going to a meeting or to the lunchroom. Before she walked out of that office she touched up her lipstick. I used to kid her about it. She referred to me as her little sister but I always reminded her I am the oldest. She loved her students and always treated them with respect and made them feel like what they had to say was important. She was caring and compassionate. I could go on and on but it's not the same as having her with us. I do know without a doubt that Maritza loved God and she had an

amazing faith in him. I will truly miss my friend but I know without a doubt that she is in the Father's arms and she's whole and complete and with those that went before her ----her daughters are right about the belly laughs, and I know when Maritza entered heaven and saw the beauty she let out one of those deep, big belly laughs! Maritza also loved music and so my dear friend, you sing with the angels and make sure they all have their lipstick on. So thankful for a good friend, good times and wonderful memories.

Much Love,
Ellen

Ellen West - October 13, 2019 at 01:12 PM



“ Ms. Luciano was a wonderful inspiration to me, when I worked under her leadership as a Science teacher at Neptune Middle School. She was a beautiful person and one who I owe a great deal of thanks for her kindness, her inspiration, and her mentorship. Please accept our condolences, our thoughts and our prayers.
Nicole F. Acquilano and family

Nicole Acquilano - October 13, 2019 at 09:46 AM



“ “I will hold you in my heart until I hold you in heaven.” “The only time a goodbye is painful is when you know you will never say hello again”
Rest In Peace Mari

Roxanna Longoria - October 13, 2019 at 08:10 AM



“ Roxanna Longoria Ferrer sent a virtual gift in memory of Maritza Luciano



Roxanna Longoria Ferrer - October 13, 2019 at 07:57 AM



“ Xamarie, Lorraine, and Angie my hearts aches at the loss of your mother. I was blessed of meeting your mother as Xamarie and Lorraine were students in Saint Cloud High School and Saint Cloud Middel when I started working there on 1992.

Through the years we shared many experiences as teachers, ESOL colleagues, and as she became and administrators and I went to work at Student Services.

Your mother was such a kind, loving soul. She always called me Sonita whenever she called my office. I have missed those calls since I retired this summer.

My prayers are with you and your families. May the Lord give you strength.

With my deepest sympathy,
Sonia Drudge

I won't be able to attend the service as I embark in a new career on that day. I will be thinking of you during my travels.



Sonia Drudge - October 12, 2019 at 09:47 PM



“ She assisted in interviewing me and when I got the position on the spot the first thing she said was "hija you will be happy here" and took me directly to see her pride and joy our "6th grade center"! She was like a mom to me, always smiling and caring for all of us at Neptune MS. I will forever miss her!

Sylmari Plume - October 12, 2019 at 08:55 PM



“ Jacqueline Simons lit a candle in memory of Maritza Luciano



Jacqueline Simons - October 12, 2019 at 05:32 PM