



Felix M. Torres-Colon

March 31, 1957 - February 5, 2020

Felix M. Torres-Colon of Willingboro, New Jersey, passed away on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at Samaritan Healthcare and Hospice in Mt. Holly. He was 62.

Born in Fort Lewis, Washington, the son of Maria Torres and the late Felix Torres-Burgos, Felix was a graduate of Pemberton High School and Harvard University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history. He also completed graduate coursework in city planning at MIT.

Felix was empathetic, intelligent, wise and willing to listen to other people's perspectives. He used humor and laughter to skillfully challenge BS—the Harvard professors had nothing on him. He always told the truth and brought generosity, authenticity, joy and warmth to the lives of everyone he touched. Felix was in the forefront of efforts to cultivate racial equity, diversity and inclusion. He mentored and collaborated with many professionals. His legacy will continue in their work.

Felix was a veteran leader in the community development field, bringing decades of social justice, community engagement and real estate development experience to his work. He was the executive director at New Kensington Community Development Corp. (NKCDC), a community-driven non-profit and chartered member of the NeighborWorks network. NKCDC works with residents and local businesses to advance social equity and economic empowerment in the Fishtown, Kensington, and Port Richmond neighborhoods of Philadelphia. Under Felix's leadership, NKCDC developed 51 new units of affordable housing and new office space at Orinoka Civic House, expanded staff to include 11 new Community Health Workers, brought new home repair partners to Kensington, helped over 500 people buy their first home, and brought trauma-informed care practices and an equity lens to its work.

Prior to NKCDC, Felix was the Director of Program Development at Saint Joseph's Carpenter Society (SJCS, a nonprofit devoted to improving quality of life and creating safe neighborhoods through homeownership in Camden, New Jersey). Before SJCS, Felix led

Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) agencies in Baltimore, Maryland, and Manchester, New Hampshire. Earlier in his career, Felix taught at a community-lead elementary school that used the seven values of Kwanzaa in their curriculum.

Felix showed compassion for people and pets alike. He and his wife, Sharon, fostered and placed more than 70 homeless dogs and adopted three fur babies of their own—George and Gracie, and Diesel. At the time of his passing, Felix was fostering senior dogs Jax and Athena for Monkey's House, a hospice for homeless dogs, and two kittens, Domino and Rocco, for Burlington County Animal Shelter.

Felix is survived by his wife of 15 years, Sharon Anderson; brothers, Felix Jr. (late wife Milagros) and Edwin Torres; sisters, Mary Evelyn Torres and Mercedes Torres-Rohwer; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Eda Negrón and Ana Rosa Torres, and a brother, Juan Ramon Torres.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the visitations on Sunday, February 9, from 6 PM to 8 PM at Perinchief Chapels (438 High St., Mt. Holly) and on Monday, February 10, from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM at Corpus Christi Catholic Church (11 S. Sunset Rd., Willingboro). A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 AM, following the visitation at the church. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, March 7, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Felix's memory to the New Kensington Community Development Corp. (www.nkcdc.org) and Monkey's House hospice for dogs (www.monkeyshouse.org).

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **9**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Perinchief Chapels
438 High St.
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Visitation

FEB **10**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Corpus Christi RC Church
S. Sunset and Charleston Rds.
Willingboro, NJ

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **10**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Corpus Christi RC Church
S. Sunset and Charleston Rds.
Willingboro, NJ

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ricardo Guthrie - February 22, 2020 at 03:47 AM

RG

“ *"Bubba Felix, Bubba Felix--it's a bubba senSAYshun!" yes, Felix Torres was loved by kids of all ages--especially when he was a teacher in Roxbury during the 1980s. Led by Principal Roma da Rosa Monteiro, the K-8 school was an Nguzo Saba school run by the Catholic Diocese--truth! But the Black and Latino kids came from all backgrounds and they loved Bubba Felix! As we all did: from La Organizacion Estudiantil Boriqua (La O), and Student Strike: Shut Down Harvard, to the Greater Roxbury Neighborhood association; to the Central American Solidarity Association to CISPES, to Anti-Apartheid (SASC), and Mobilization for Survival, and the Anti Nuke March and the African Liberation Day marches, and wheat-pasting flyers at night and running from the Transit cops, Protesting against the Klan, and going to Vermont and New Hampshire to see Bernie Sanders before he became a Demo-Crat; we organized and preached that Reaganomics is Racism, and created a Coalition Against Black Genocide, and the Clergy and Citizens for Justice, and Concerned Tenants of Grant Manor, and Juanita B Wade for School Committee, and yes--Jesse Jackson for President (twice!), and playing Puerto Rican DOMINOES with brother Rhinold Ponder and Aaron Estis in Central Square, and posting a sign on the door beneath a picture of Sam Nujoma: "Are the windows closed?"; and DIPLOMACY and backstabbing; and rice and beans, and beans and rice con pollo/juntos! and Guille Ramos, and Con Salsa with Jose Masso, and companeros like Dayna and Linda, and Mark Warren, and Ken and Juanita, and Marcia and many others united in struggle. And I'm just going to have to post this before I lose it, again.*

"Are the windows closed, Aaron?"



Ricardo Antonio Guthrie - February 22, 2020 at 03:31 AM

AS

Thank you so very much for sharing about Felix in the 1980s in Boston. So many powerful activities laying the groundwork for greatness.

Anderson Sharon - February 23, 2020 at 08:03 PM

AR

“*When that this body did contain a spirit,
A kingdom for it was too small a bound...*” ~Shakespeare, Henry IV

*Keeping you in constant prayer and thought.
Love, Amy Reilly*

Amy Reilly - February 10, 2020 at 10:47 AM

CM

“*Our thoughts and prayers are with Sharon and family. Remembering fondly how welcome you made us feel when we first moved to Baltimore and fun times cheering on the Kinetic Sculptures. Felix will be deeply missed.*
- Christy and Jamie Metzler

Christy and Jamie Metzler - February 09, 2020 at 11:11 AM

AS

Thank you, Christie and Jamie. The Kinetic Race in Philadelphia is considering an award in Felix's name. Looking forward to seeing what they come up with.

Anderson Sharon - February 23, 2020 at 08:05 PM

LL

“ Our sincere condolences on the loss of Felix. He was a big hearted lug who made my sister happy and matched her intelligence and drive for helping others. (2 legged and 4 legged) 🐕🐕🐕🐕👤♂👤♀



We enjoyed his easy going style and friendly personality. Gussie remembers eating with Uncle Felix the time the gull stole someone's dinner.

May we all move forward with a few pages from Felix's playbook. We will be better for it.

Love you Felix!

We are heartbroken and crushed for you and send our deeply felt condolences.

Much love ❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏

Linnea, Dave and Gus Lemon

Linnea lemon - February 07, 2020 at 03:24 PM

AS

Love you. Thank you.

Anderson Sharon - February 23, 2020 at 08:05 PM

LM

“ My heart is breaking over losing our dear friend Felix. He was always the person who would stand up for what is right. Our prayers are with his family. Lily McNair-Roberts & George Roberts.

Lily McNair-Roberts - February 07, 2020 at 03:22 PM

AS

Thank you Lily. I'm sorry we didn't have more time hanging out together. Sharon.

Anderson Sharon - February 23, 2020 at 08:06 PM

MT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mercedes Torres-Rohwer - February 07, 2020 at 10:48 AM

LL

Love this ! Felix and his puppy pile!

Linnea lemon - February 07, 2020 at 06:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ruben Medina - February 06, 2020 at 09:10 PM

RB

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Felix. Praying for the Family during this difficult time.



Rodney Bullock - February 06, 2020 at 07:36 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Edwin Torres - February 06, 2020 at 07:11 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Edwin Torres - February 06, 2020 at 07:02 PM