



Reinaldo "Rey" Ayala

June 28, 1962 - April 6, 2015

Reinaldo Ayala, Sr. (1962 -2015)

Reinaldo "Rey" Ayala, 52, of New Haven, CT, surrounded by his loving wife and children, passed away peacefully on April 6, 2015, at Connecticut Hospice in Branford.

Rey was born in Utuado, Puerto Rico, son of the late Ramon H. and Marcelina Ayala. His family moved to New Haven in 1977, where he attended Lee High School. Years later, he earned a BA in Spanish from Southern Connecticut State University, graduating magna cum laude and a member of Sigma Delta Pi national honor society. He went on to earn a Master of Arts in Romance Languages. His master's thesis is a novel, "The Code of Notre Dame," which will be published posthumously.

He met the love of his life, Juanita Shelton-Merritt, in 1979, who survives him, along with their four children, Ray Jr. (Maura Brigantic), Tiffany, Christian, and José. He also leaves behind his siblings Carmen A. Ledesma, Ramon Ayala, Maribel Lugo (Gilberto), Diocleciano Ayala (Carmen), Ana I. Torres (Ramiro), Filomena Ayala (Angel Fernandez-Chavero), and Diogenes Ayala (Ana), and his siblings' many children and grandchildren. He is predeceased by his brother Alberto Ayala.

He was an active member of the Saint Aedan's Roman Catholic Church for 26 years, and a Third Degree Knight of Council # 0001 with the Knights of Columbus. His love for and devotion to the Church and his parish was boundless and continues to inspire all who knew him.

He worked at various companies in New Haven and retired from the City of New Haven in 2011 after serving in several positions in the public school system. He returned to the public schools in 2014, teaching Spanish at James Hillhouse High School. He worked through the debilitating pain of his illness until he was hospitalized.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at St. Aedan's Church on Saturday at 10 a.m. Friends are asked to go directly to church. Burial to follow at Evergreen Cemetery, with a reception at St. Aedan's immediately after. Calling hours are Friday from 4 - 8 p.m. at Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Ave., Hamden. To leave an online condolence please visit www.reyayala.com

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

769 Ella T. Grasso Blvd
New Haven, CT

Previous Events

Calling hours

APR 10. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 288-7114
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

Funeral service

APR 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Aedan Church
112 Fountain St.
New Haven, CT

Tribute Wall

AT

“ Today Jan 22,2016 I still miss you , I will never forget the song that we practiced together but no one heard , I sang it to you on your last hours on Earth and you seemed at peace when i sang it to you , then I showered your forehead with many kisses and a last goodbye .



ana ayala torres - January 23, 2016 at 03:51 PM

CC

“ Mr. Ayala taught in the classroom right across from me. I remember his professionalism towards his work and his students, and his wonderful smile. We miss him here at Hillhouse.

Cynthia Clampitt - April 25, 2015 at 02:10 PM

MS

“ I knew Ray from high school, Luis Muñoz Rivera. I would like to express my sincere condolences to Diogenes and the rest of the family. I lost my mother a year ago, and I understand how hard it is. But I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love. May God's peace and comfort find all of you during this difficult time.
Mary Solis-Streater, Ana Lily Ayala's aunt.

Mary Solis-Streater - April 10, 2015 at 04:38 PM

RC

“ Resha C. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Reinaldo "Rey" Ayala.



Resha C. - April 10, 2015 at 02:36 PM

RF

“ Rey and I frequently talked after Mass at St. Aedan's during coffee. I shared some of my humorous poems with him, and later he gave it a try. He apparently was a poet, with talent I didn't know about. A friend, filled with energy and compassion, he will truly be missed.



Ron Faoro - April 10, 2015 at 12:59 PM

TE

“ Cousin Juanita & Family, my deepest sympathy and condolence to you and your family. My prayers are with you and your family at this time of great sadness. From your Uncle Kenny's Family.
Cousin Terri Edwards & Sisters & Aunt Sybil Merritt

Teresa Edwards - April 10, 2015 at 10:27 AM

DK

“ *Daniela Castellanos, Laura Funez and Maria Kelderhouse purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Reinaldo "Rey" Ayala.*



Daniela Castellanos, Laura Funez and Maria Kelderhouse -
April 09, 2015 at 04:41 PM

RS

“ *La paz del Señor sea con la familia de Rey, trabajamos juntos en el BOE de New Haven CT, y puedo decir que siempre brillo en su compartir con todos nosotros su humildad y alto sentido de compañerismo; Quiero que sepan que los llevo en mis oraciones al Señor para paz y Fortaleza en estos momentos tan difíciles;*

Rev. Danny Soler

Rev. Danny Soler - April 09, 2015 at 03:48 PM

SH

“ *Juanita and family,
How is it that a heart can be broken and full of joy at the same time ? My heart breaks for the loss of your wonderful Rey, but feels joy for the love you shared and the incredible children you raised. May the love you shared, the joy of your children and your cherished memories be your strength in your time of need. What a legacy your precious Rey has left!*

With love, Sandy,Harold & Emma

Sandy Houston - April 09, 2015 at 07:02 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Reinaldo "Rey" Ayala.*



April 09, 2015 at 06:58 AM



“ *Dear Juanita,*

I will always remember Rey as a fun-loving kid in middle school where I was a substitute teacher and at St. John the Evangelist Church in New Haven back in the 1970's where I played the organ.

I remember meeting you, Rey and your children again years later at the ATT store.

I was so happy to see you again. Rey was a wonderful husband and father!

I was very happy that he had accomplished so much during his lifetime.

I was very sad to read on Facebook of his passing.

Although I won't be able to attend the funeral Mass because I have a funeral at my church where I play the organ, Rey will be in my prayers as well as you and your children.

*Love,
Nancy Campaniolo*

Nancy Campaniolo - April 08, 2015 at 10:24 PM

VL

“ *Ray Rest in Peace...you will be missed,juanita sorry for your loss*

Valerie Lomax - April 08, 2015 at 09:08 PM



“ *Reinaldo fue un hermano muy excelente. Se dedico mucho a su familia y fue de gran ejemplo para todos nosotros. Aprendio guitarra al principio muy joven en la Iglesia San Miguel de nuestro pueblo natal (en el 1980.) Luego mas tarde tambien aprendio a tocar cuatro de Puerto Rico. Yo aprendi algo de guitarra antes que el, pero el me excedio por su mucho talento y dedicacion. Que Cristo bendiga toda su familia.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 04:20 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 04:09 PM



“ *Mis condolencias a Juanita, Ray-Ray, Tiffany, Christian y Jose. Jesucrito los bendiga a todos.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 04:08 PM



“ *Adrian Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:43 PM



“ *Yamil Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:43 PM



“ *Angela Fernandez was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:42 PM



“ *Celina Fernandez was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:42 PM



“ *Ricardo Torres was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:41 PM



“ *Adriana Torres was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:41 PM



“ *Cynthia Torres was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:40 PM



“ *Giovani Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:39 PM



“ *Josua Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:39 PM



“ *Magali Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:39 PM



“ *Marisol Gonzalez was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:37 PM



“ *Roberto Lugo was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:37 PM



CF

“ *Cousin Juanita and Family; You have my Deepest Condolence and Heartfelt Sympathy with the passing of your Husband, Friend and Father. Keep Your hands in Gods Hand for He Carest for All of You.*

cousin Ric Douglas & Family - April 08, 2015 at 03:37 PM



“ *Hermosa Daghter Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:36 PM



“ *Lui Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:36 PM



“ *Michel Guzman was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:35 PM



“ *Javier Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:34 PM



“ *Alice Daisy Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:34 PM



“ *Jaimito Ledesma was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:34 PM



“ *Jose Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:33 PM



“ *Christian Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:32 PM



“ *Tiffany Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:32 PM



“ *Ray-ray Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:31 PM



“ *Gilberto Lugo was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:30 PM



“ *Angel Fernandez was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:30 PM



“ *Ramiro Torres was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:29 PM



“ *Caridad Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:29 PM



“ *Melba Elizabeth Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:27 PM



“ *Ramon Luis Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:24 PM



“ *Melba Nieves was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:20 PM



“ *Diogenes Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:16 PM



“ *Filomena Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:13 PM



“ *Ana Iris Torres was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:11 PM



“ *Dioclesiano Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:07 PM



“ *Juanita Ayala was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:05 PM



“ *Maribel Lugo was added to the Family Tree.*

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:03 PM



“ Alberto Ayala was added to the Family Tree.

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 03:01 PM



“ Ramon Ayala was added to the Family Tree.

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 02:58 PM



“ Carmen Alicia Ayala was added to the Family Tree.

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 02:54 PM



“ Marcelina Ayala was added to the Family Tree.

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 02:50 PM



“ Marcelina Ayala was added to the Family Tree.

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 02:45 PM



“ Ramon Humberto Ayala was added to the Family Tree.

Ramon Ayala - April 08, 2015 at 02:36 PM



“ Juanita, Ray Jr., Tiffany, Christian, and José we are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. ~ Yesy, Elmer, Jaileen, Micaela & Janitza.

Yesy Rivera - April 08, 2015 at 02:07 PM