



Christopher Dean Rivera

March 7, 1951 - December 13, 2021

Christopher Dean Rivera passed away at his home on the afternoon of Monday December 13th, 2021. He was 70 years old and proud that he still had a magnificent head of hair. Born in Glendale California in 1951 to Sheila and Joe Rivera, he considered himself a lifelong Angeleno despite living in Corvallis, Oregon for the past 30 years. In 1969, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the United States Army to serve in the Vietnam War where he earned a medal for sharp shooting and volunteered to train with dogs to sniff out bombs and to parachute. He ended his military career as an MP in Germany where he learned a variety of colorful swear words that he would later teach his children.

Christopher was a multitalented man with a myriad of hobbies throughout his life, many of which he would pass on to his children. He was an excellent baseball player, a keen photographer, an obsessive cinephile, an avid WW II history buff, and the world's biggest USC football fan—he never missed watching a game. He participated in his eldest daughter's photography business as her assistant and was inordinately proud of her IMDB credits, auditioned for community theater with his youngest daughters, and helped his son navigate his own high school sports career. He was always so proud that his son—known as “the boy”—inherited his love of sportsmanship and strong work ethic. His family will miss discussing the Oscars and football season with him annually.

He was also the most devoted family man. He never missed one of his children's events, regularly attending every night of their programs or games. He once went to every night of the same community theater play and sat in the front row just to show his support. When his youngest both attended the University of Southern California, he would fly down for their finals week to make sure they ate well, and to pick up extra supplies for them as they studied. He was thrilled that they chose to be Trojans and tickled when they went into careers that he found interesting—nursing and project management. He also enthusiastically attended the events of his grandchildren. Whether it was a ballet recital or a volleyball tournament, he was there—often with his trusty camera in hand to document the day. He was also incredibly proud of his wife's accomplishments, including the acquisition of her MBA, and regularly touted her achievements. He even liked to brag about his beloved dogs: first Kobe and Molly, and lastly Pipsqueak and Kiwi his two youngest daughter's dogs that he looked after in his retirement. In fact, he spent much of his retirement finding ways to help his children succeed where he could, whether that was helping them get their kids to daycare or packing up all their things for a cross-country move. His role as “family cruise director” and patriarch will be impossible to replace.

There were few topics he knew little about, as he was a prolific reader and lifelong learner. He has left his children with an absurd number of books, an even larger number of ‘dad factoids’, mischievous senses of humor, a plethora of USC related gear, a deep love of In-n-Out, a strong dedication to family, and an admiration for those who work hard like he did. He was also well liked by their friends and their families and will live on in the large number of “Papa Rivera” stories that abound in the Corvallis and Los Angeles areas. Despite his stern demeanor, he was the parent that supported the dreams of not just his own children, but those of their friends as well. He was also the one you could always text about your troubles and get the same comforting response:

“just come home.” He was the kind of man you would want in your corner and that infamous sense of comfort, and his willingness to be on your side always, will be missed dearly.

He is predeceased by both of his parents Sheila and Joe and his beloved older brother Lawrence Rivera. He is survived by his wife Aviva, his half-sister Mary Alice, his four children Kammie, Keith, Hannah, and Bonnie, three grandchildren Isabella, Quentin, and Jordan and two “grand pups” Pipsqueak and Kiwi.

His grumpy and crunchy exterior hid a soft center underneath. As a result, he was often the staunch defender of the rather small, the vulnerable, and the misfits. As such, in lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to some of his favorite charities which include the USC Shoah Foundation, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, and the Defenders of Wildlife. For those who wish to celebrate his life, the family suggests heading to a sunny beach (his favorite place to be), participating as an extra in a movie (a lifelong dream he had yet to fulfill), and buying as many books at a local bookstore as you can hold (a regular expenditure of his).

Tribute Wall

SK

“ Oh man...Chris, Chris, Chris...this has taken me 9 months to get to writing, partially because I knew it would be so difficult. I wish I had written it sooner my friend, but I'm glad to be writing it now.



Chris had the absolute purest of souls and the sharpest of wits. He was a marvelous friend and a loving neighbor. Words cannot begin to express how much he meant to my siblings and I...he was our uncle next door!

As my sister and I played around the neighborhood with Hannah and Bonnie several times per week, Chris and Aviva were an equal presence in our childhood. If we did something naughty, Chris would be sure to give us a stern, though gentle talking to. However, deep down behind that serious facade, he was an absolute jokester. Man, did he love to tease! Whether it was a dry and witty joke or a playful ribbing, he never failed to make us laugh. From a very young age, he dubbed me "Baby Stephen". Despite my age of 26 at the time of his passing, he STILL referred to me as "Baby Stephen". It is a nickname that I will cherish for life and remembering it will always gives me a hearty chuckle. :)

Even after we moved a full mile away, we would occasionally see him on his daily walk around town. It was always a delight to catch up and the conversation flowed like we had never moved. Whether it was discussing current events, collegiate sports (a loyal Trojan, but we forgave him), or what the family was up to, he always made time to say hi. He was especially keen to tell us what his kids were up to. He was one proud papa!

You will be profoundly missed Chris. You were the best neighbor a young kid could ask for. My love for you as my "adopted uncle" will follow me for life and I will always remember you fondly for your presence and impact in my childhood.

I also want to send my love and condolences to his sister Mary, his three lovely daughters Hannah, Bonnie, and Kammie, his son Keith, his grandchildren, and of course his amazing wife, aka my "adopted aunt", Aviva.

I love you all and hope you continue to find healing as you remember this truly wonderful man, Christopher Rivera.

Rest in peace old friend. I miss you dearly. <3

Stephen "Baby Stephen" Kyker - September 16, 2022 at 06:11 PM

SG

“ *He loved his family and was very proud of them. I am so very sorry for your families loss- he was a great man.*

Susannah Gardner - December 24, 2021 at 09:41 AM

AR

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Aviva Rivera - December 23, 2021 at 09:45 PM



“ *Chris was very personable. I enjoyed chatting with him in our office when he came to pick up Aviva for lunch. He was such a sweet husband.*

Pei Kupperman - December 23, 2021 at 07:03 PM

MD

“ I loved that Chris and I shared the same Birthday. He was always so kind and caring. May your memories with Chris bring you comfort and strength. He was a huge family man and loved you all so deeply!

Meaghan Deitz - December 23, 2021 at 01:28 PM

CR

“ My prayers reach out to offer comfort to the family in this time of such a deep loss.

Charlotte Rooks - December 23, 2021 at 12:55 PM

SF

“ Our deepest condolences to the family. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can assist the family in any way.

Stephen A Friedt - December 22, 2021 at 05:06 PM

LD

“ I had the pleasure of getting to know Chris and his daughter Hanna a bit when we shared a stage together for Mid Summer Nights Dream at ACT theater. I will remember him mostly for 3 things. His coolness, his kindness and his obvious love for his family. He will be deeply missed as this world could sure use a lot more souls like him. Rest high old friend.

Loren Dunn - December 20, 2021 at 09:16 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - December 20, 2021 at 05:09 PM