



Andy J. Garcia

January 28, 1928 - March 6, 2021

Andy Garcia, born Jose Andres Garcia, and known professionally as Andrew J. Garcia, Jr., Esq. passed away peacefully in his sleep, at age 93, beside his wife, Andrea, on March 6, 2021. Andy wore many hats in his long life. Andy was first and foremost a family man. He was also an Athlete, a Lawyer, a Judge, an Ambassador, an Employer, a Coach, a Mentor, a Philanthropist, and a friend to so many who were lucky enough to know him.

Andy was born Jan. 28, 1928 in Tampa, Florida, to Dora and Cuban-Born Andres Jose Garcia. Andy grew up playing on the sandlots of Ybor City and graduated “Most Popular” from Jesuit High School in 1946, having lettered in basketball, swimming, tennis, football, basketball, baseball, and track. He was proudest of winning the Tennis City Junior Championship of 1946. His abilities in drama were also showcased in the productions of Room Service and Brother Orchid. His first year of college was at St. Louis University on a football scholarship. When an injury sidelined him, he transferred to Spring Hill College (Class of 1950) in Mobile, Alabama where he played on and captained the tennis team. He also played on the city-league basketball team. In 1985, he was inducted into the Spring Hill College Athletic Hall of Fame. Andy continued his education at University of Florida’s Law School only to be cut short after one year when he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Upon discharge in 1954, Andy returned to Tampa to work with his father in the produce import business. Much of this time was spent at

their farms in Cuba and playing with the Cuban-Davis Cup Team.

Life in Cuba was idyllic as Andy divided his time between a penthouse apartment in Havana, the tennis courts of the Havana or Vedado Tennis Clubs, his family hometown of Bejucal, and farms on the mainland of Cuba and on the Isle of Pines. It was after he was refused entry onto one of his farms that Andy returned to Tampa and completed law school at Stetson University in 1962. After serving as a legislative aide in Tallahassee, he focused his practice in Tampa, he served in private practice, as an arbitrator, and sat as a city judge. He also counseled the Local Police Department and Tampa Jai-Alai Players. In 1967, he was appointed Honorary Council of El Salvador by Lyndon B Johnson. His tennis career continued as a member of the Tampa Yacht and Country Club and Palma Ceia Country Club. Andy's winnings included 1962 City Doubles Championship, 1967 Florida Hard Court J.V. Doubles, 1969 Florida Hard Court Men's 35 Doubles, 1970 T.Y.C.C. Men's Doubles Championship, 1973 Florida Closed Championships Men's Junior Vet's Doubles, and 1976 Doctor-Lawyer Championship.

As the produce business in Tampa grew, Andy moved to Miami to run Lowell Distributors, a branch of Crews and Garcia Produce. This business provided a gateway and first job for many of Andy's family and friends, for whom he played an integral role in helping escape and emigrate from Cuba. He continued his law practice with Barry Garber & Nick Buoniconti. Andy's love of tennis also continued at the Royal Palm Tennis Club which led him to become Director of Tennis at the Sheraton Royal Biscayne Hotel on Key Biscayne. There he ran clinics, and coached many juniors, dignitaries, and celebrities from around the world. Helping him run a full-scale tennis academy were Donna Fales, former coach and captain of U.S. Federation Cup Team, and Sue Cobb (before she went back to law school, challenged Mount Everest, and was Ambassador to Iceland). They were assisted by Joe Goblisch and Ann Goldman, both past Florida junior champions. Andy mentored Gisa Schwarte

in coaching and she joined his staff. Andy continued playing competitive tennis and won the Florida State Father and Son Tennis Championship with his son Andy III. They also succeeded on the National Father and Son Clay Court Championships. Andy relocated to the Key Biscayne Hotel and Villas as Tennis Director and continued his coaching career assisted by Ray Garrido, Juan Weiss, and Gisa. Many ATP pros and junior players were sponsored by Andy, including Jose Luis Clerc, Javier Frana, Fernando Dalla Fontana, Martin Jaite, and Luis Hines. As he stopped playing competitively, he transitioned into coaching and managing ATP players. He was a life member of USTA as well as an inductee of the Miami-Dade County Tennis Hall of Fame. Andy also enjoyed relaxing on the beach at the Key Biscayne Beach Club and boating as a member of the Key Biscayne Yacht Club. In his retirement, Andy set down his racket and picked up golf clubs spending more time at Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, where many years previous he inaugurated the first two tennis courts at the club alongside his Cuban Doubles partner and first Ocean Reef Tennis Director, Juan Weiss. His leadership continued there as a member of the Condo Boards for E Dock and Fisherman's Cove. Andy's golf skills earned him membership in the "Hackers" golf group. As a member of St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church in Key Largo, Andy also served on the financial advisory board for then-pastor, Enrique Delgado. Andy also gave back financially to his community with many donations to various charities.

Andy was a loving and generous patriarch to his family and is survived by his brother Ernest ("Cookie") Garcia, two nieces and a nephew in Tampa, his wife Andrea Jo Garcia and their daughter Jennifer Hewett (Jeff), his children Mary Lou Ewing and Andy Garcia III (Cathy) and their mother Linda Valenti Christian, and his grandchildren Lauren Ewing, Allegra Garcia, Ashley Garcia, James Hewett, and Julia Hewett. Andy also leaves behind numerous cousins, extended family, and many godchildren, most notably his namesake Andy Garcia, whose parents, cousin Rene and Amelie, were like siblings to Andy

during his time in Cuba. Andy was loved and will be missed by many: friends, family and acquaintances alike.

In lieu of flowers, please make an offering of your time or treasure to a charity of your choice.

The Funeral Mass will begin promptly at 10:30 am, Thursday, March 18, 2021, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 5125 South Apopka-Vineland Road, Orlando, FL 32819. COVID safety procedures require masks and social distancing in the parking lot and in the church. Livestream will be available at holyfamilyorlando.com. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage and click on Holy Family Church Webcam.

A Reception Lunch will be held immediately following the Mass at the Orange Tree Golf Club, 7540 Woodgreen Drive, Orlando, FL 32819.

Inurnment will be at the Centro Asturiano Memorial Park, 5400 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Tampa, Florida on Friday, March 19, 2021, at 10:00 am. Prior to the inurnment, Andrea will be attending the 8:30am daily mass (duration approximately 30 minutes) at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 5225 N Himes Ave, Tampa, FL 33614, and invites those desiring the Eucharist that day to join her.

The family of Andy J. Garcia invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his loving memory.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

MAR 18. 10:30 AM (ET)

Holy Family Catholic Church
5125 South Apopka Vineland Road
Orlando, FL 32819

Reception

MAR 18. 11:45 AM (ET)

Orange Tree Golf Club
7540 Woodgreen Drive
Orlando, FL 32819

Mass

MAR 19. 8:30 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
5225 N. Himes Avenue
Tampa, FL 33614

Inurnment

MAR 19. 10:00 AM (ET)

Centro Asturiano Memorial Park
5400 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33610

Tribute Wall

CA

“ After arriving home from the Celebration of Life for you my blessed father-in-law I am now ready to put some thoughts into writing. To say that I was blessed with an exceptional father-in-law is unquestionably an understatement. He welcomed me as one of the family when I married his son Andy, III. So many wonderful memories of him that it will be impossible to replicate in a tribute to his long and wonderful life. My own father passed away suddenly in 2004 and he stepped in very effortlessly to support me in my loss and I will be so forever grateful for his love and love of family and fun for life attitude. He was very involved (along with his wonderful and loving wife Andrea) in the raising of our two beautiful daughters Allegra and Ashley. As he and Andrea lived close to us on Key Biscayne, they would often have them for overnight sleepovers, which in the morning when I asked did you have breakfast, they would respond, “Yes, Papa gave us chocolate. 😊 Another memory is when our daughter Allegra received her “restricted” license and after only having driven a golf cart in Ocean Reef, my husband let her drive home from LaSalle High School. Indignant, I called Gar and said do you know that YOUR son let Allegra drive home not having driven a car before? He answered, “Great” and I was stunned knowing how much he adored his family. He then went on to say, “Well, actually when Rene, Sr. was in the hospital at Mercy, I let Jackie Garcia drive home to Key Biscayne as she was only (not sure here, I believe, 10 -12 years old). Well, that certainly let the air out of my indignant balloon! At the end of the day Jackie arrived safe at home and so did Allegra.

Rest in Peace, I love you for forever and will keep sharing what you lived along with the wonderful traditions of family and what it means the rest of my days.

With All my love,
Cathy

Cathy - March 20, 2021 at 06:47 PM

AI

“ Today you went to your final resting place here on earth. I love you more than words can describe. Rest In Peace my Hero.



andy garcia III - March 19, 2021 at 02:29 PM

AG

“ IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDY GARCIA, MY GODFATHER

How can one express the extreme loss of someone so close to you, someone you loved so dearly? The extreme emptiness that one feels now and forever? We have to find solace in our memories, in our time together and what we shared.

I had the great privileged and blessing to have “The Original” Andy Garcia as he called himself as my godfather and namesake. Andy was my “padrino” put soon after my father Rene Garcia “El Alcalde” passed who was his cousin and running mate in 1950’s Havana. Andy began to tell folks he was my father. I would run into people who had run into him at Ocean Reef or anywhere and they would say, “Hey I met your father! What a great guy! He loves you so much, he is so proud of you! I would not correct them to say that he was my Godfather because I knew that my father passed that torch on to him since he was gone, and Andy felt that responsibility and pride to step up and claim it.

One of my fondest memories of Andy was visiting him in Tampa in the early 60’s at his home and riding his lawn mower with Andy jr. Him enjoying our connection. Later on, when we lived in Crespi Park in Miami beach he bought me a new Schwinn banana seat handle bar bicycle. It was my first bike in exile. Within a few days my bike was stolen and I was devastated and Andy heard about it and he came and took me back to the bike store and got me the identical bike as a replacement. I road that bike for over a decade all over Miami Beach. to school, to little league at North Shore Park, to the beach. Always thinking of Padrino. Although we didn’t see each other often, I could not escape the extraordinary love he had for me. As he had for all his family.

Later on in life, we were able to reconnect on a deeper level as we were next door neighbors on Key Biscayne. He would often show up at the door un announced and say “Garcia! Café! Or let’s go fishing or let’s go by some avocado trees I know where they have the Garcia #1’s. And we went with my father and him like two old Guajiros searching through nurseries in Homestead for the variety that they recognized as there brand from Cuba. We planted one at

his house on the Key it bore fruit, but mine that is still there has not. Perhaps now that he is with my father, they can put the Guajiro touch on my Garcia #1 tree.

He turned me on to Tennis and always said that he is ready to play a Gangster role in any of my films. He shared treasured stories of old Havana, watching Beny More at the Ali Bar, pulling off capers with my father. Always saying in his Tampa accent "Your Daddy and I..."

I treasure those times together as neighbors on the Key how he cared for and treasured all his kids and grandkids and all of our Garcia Kids, Jose, Caro Jackie, Victor, Dominik, Daniella, Alessandra and later Andres. They all would call and run to Uncle Andy's house! He was like the Pied Piper. Everyone followed and loved Andy.

Oye Garcia! When are you going to put me in a movie! Well, you don't need a movie Padrino. Because you are the star of your own well lived exemplary life.

I will carry on your example, your love and your name with great pride and privilege.

Rest in Peace Garcia! And give all my love to my father when you see him and know that I know that you and he will always be looking after all of us. And with all our heart and effort we will continue to make you proud.

Your generation paved the way for all of us to fulfill our dreams here in the land of the free.

May god bless you Garcia!

Until we meet again.

Andy Garcia

Los Angeles, Ca. 3/17/21

Andy Garcia - March 18, 2021 at 01:47 AM

AN

Your kind words are so true my dad "Our Dad" was a father, friend to everyone he met .He knows how much you loved him for sure. I am so lucky and blessed to have Him and you in my life.

Andy - March 20, 2021 at 06:52 PM

JC

“ *My condolences to all in the Garcia family. Andy always made me feel welcome and that he was genuinely happy to see me. Joe Cuellar*

Joe Cuellar - March 16, 2021 at 09:30 AM

WK

“ *The years go by too quickly but when we lose someone great memories flood back to mind. Andy was so much fun during my years on The Key, on and off the courts, and was the quintessential level headed gentleman and pal. The memories help with the pain of such a loss.*
Wade

wade knowles - March 14, 2021 at 05:46 PM

AI

Because of our Dad's we became great friends for life. Thank you for your kind message here

andrew Garcia III - March 15, 2021 at 10:33 AM

FD

“ Andy was such an amazing, spirited person who had a great impact on my life. He was like a second father to me throughout my high school and college years. I was lucky enough to work for him at the Royal Biscayne Hotel as well as the Key Biscayne Hotel. I always rode my bike to work because he would frequently have run errands and I'd get to drive his 911. Not a bad perk! His generosity towards others and his sense of humor were unmatched. He also loved to embarrass me whenever he had the opportunity and then just laugh. I definitely have thicker skin because of him.

My condolences to Andrea, Andy, Cookie and the rest of the Garcia family. Many condolences and healing thoughts your way. Rest In Peace Palangana!

*Much love,
Fifi Sardiña Derby*

Fifi Sardiña Derby - March 14, 2021 at 04:30 PM

AI

beautiful message. My dad was so special in many ways to the people he knew and met along the way.

andrew Garcia III - March 15, 2021 at 10:34 AM

ME

“ Thank you for being our Dad.



mary lou ewing - March 14, 2021 at 02:24 PM

KP

“ *More memories.*



Karen Garcia Patterson - March 14, 2021 at 02:20 PM

MV

“ *I've always had a special connection with Andy since we first met. His good nature, smile and positive drive was infectious.*

When he bought his Yacht I took a pic and then superimposed a really cool background and gave it to him. Little did I think he would treasure it to the point he would hang it on his Yacht.

A great guy who I will always think of him and appreciate his friendship.

Manny Vidal

Manny Vidal - March 14, 2021 at 12:27 PM

KP

“ *Memories of Havana & Indian Rocks Beach*



Karen Garcia Patterson - March 13, 2021 at 04:31 PM

KP

“ *Looking back at many memories of my Uncle Andy, and thankful for his loving care and support of my dad over the years. R.I.P. Uncle Andy.*

Andy, Joseito & Cookie



Karen Garcia Patterson - March 13, 2021 at 10:20 AM

KP

“ *Uncle Andy, Welo & my dad*



Karen Garcia Patterson - March 13, 2021 at 10:14 AM

SL

“ *Sundea LaRocca lit a candle in memory of Andy J. Garcia*



Sundea LaRocca - March 13, 2021 at 07:55 AM

MJ

“ *Andy, you were by far the most interesting person I ever met. I loved hearing all your stories; you had so many good ones. I know you are telling stories on the other side now. You will be missed by so many and my condolences go to your family that you loved dearly.*

A life well lived... indeed. Mo

Maureen Johanson - March 12, 2021 at 09:22 PM

AI

“ *Dad you look great here. Love you and miss you more than you know 🙏*



andy garcia III - March 12, 2021 at 07:46 PM

AI

very nice job Andrea thank you

andrew Garcia III - March 13, 2021 at 02:54 PM

AG

“ 1 file added to the album Andy Garcia "The Original" blessed to be his godson! and namesake . i wwill carry his name and examp



Andy Garcia - March 12, 2021 at 12:04 PM

GL

“ Andy i worked for you'd company Ruskin since the age of 16 back and forth till the day you closed Ruskin I remember doing your Cuban coffee each morning . You were a special person in my life you were a father figure Andy i will always remember you my condolences to all your family.

Gloria Lugo - March 12, 2021 at 07:41 AM

HG

“ Condolences to the Garcia family, and all who knew Gar, on his passing. We were fortunate to have Gar and Andrea as neighbors and lucky to count Andy III and Cathy as close friends.

Gar was one in a million. Interested and interesting, fun, multi-talented, hardworking, stern when needed but most of all kind, generous and loving. May his memory be a blessing.

Henny Groschel-Becker - March 12, 2021 at 07:35 AM

TR

He was an amazing person and I know that he lived a great life and every one that knew him was touched by his wonderful and charismatic personality.

I always like him, really good man , I will miss him. Any time he walked to dock office at ocean reef he was coming with a Story , he was simple and extraordinary, I will remember you forever. Tony Cuba.

tony rodriguez - March 13, 2021 at 09:38 AM

CR

“ Good bye, my dear friend! I will never forget you! Manolo Santana



Claudia Rodriguez - March 12, 2021 at 07:20 AM

AG

“ To my Godfather “The Original “ Andy Garcia as he would say. I Have the great blessing and privilege to have you in my life. I will carry our name in your honor with the same passion, pride and joy if life that you exemplified. And in your honor I will continue to make you proud. You will never be forgotten. Te quiero García. Rest In Peace. I know you are with the García’s and that gives me solace. Love ya, Andy García

andy garcia - March 12, 2021 at 03:44 AM

AG

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Andy Garcia "The Original" My Godfather! I will carry on his name and I was blessed to have you in my life. As was my family.

Andy Garcia

Andy Garcia - March 11, 2021 at 11:23 PM

AG

“ 1 file added to the album Andy Garcia "The Original" blessed to be his godson! and namesake . i wwill carry his name and examp



Andy Garcia - March 11, 2021 at 11:13 PM

JV

“ My deepest condolences to the family for the passing of Andy. I had the pleasure of meeting him a few times over the past 5 and a half years since I have been with Ashley, his granddaughter. Ever since we met, we got along very well and very quickly. Since I am Cuban born, he would always tell me stories of his time in Cuba, whether it was through his business or playing tennis. He even told me a story of times when he has visited my hometown of Sancti Spiritus. Even though I only met him a few times throughout the years, I felt like I have known him forever, as I know the impact and role he had on his family. I am deeply saddened by this, but I also know that his legacy will never be forgotten. Rest In Peace Andy!

Jose Velazquez - March 11, 2021 at 09:26 AM

AI

Super thank you my Brother

andrew Garcia III - March 11, 2021 at 02:50 PM

AI

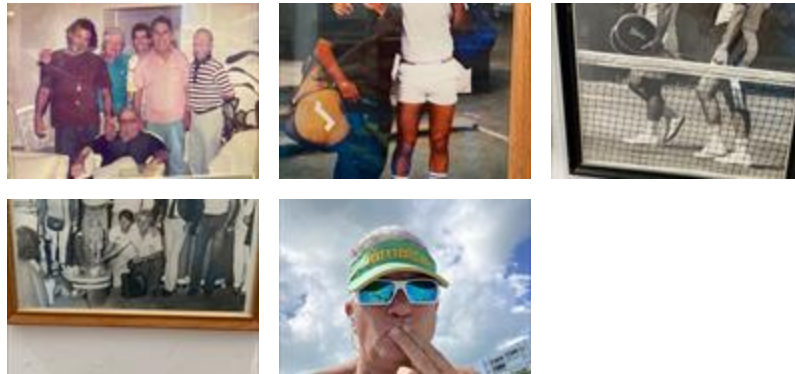
“ Hello dad just wanted you to know so many of your friends are sending so many messages. I have decided to celebrate your life with everyone you touched. So when you want you can read them and know your the best father, person I have ever met. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for raising me and keeping me on track. Sharing your life with me and I cannot thank you enough.



andy garcia III - March 11, 2021 at 07:54 AM

AI

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



andy garcia III - March 11, 2021 at 07:41 AM

JM

“ He was an influencer in my life and a role model for how you should be positive, disciplined and still have great fun in life. I will always remember how he made me feel welcomed and respected, which was a pretty rare attitude towards teenage men back then. It was as if he was demonstrating that if you wanted a young person to act like an adult, then treat them like an adult. Rest in peace Mr. Garcia, and thank you for giving me Andy Jr. as a friend. 💜

Jorge (George) Macedo - March 10, 2021 at 01:30 PM

SB

Mr. Garcia I'd like to thank you for sponsoring us in Royal Palm and for trusting us with your son Andy Jr. who added so much joy to our whole family over so many years. May you Rest In Peace. Sue Bennett

Sue Bennett - March 10, 2021 at 04:11 PM

 Luis Hines

I owe Andy in many ways. He discovered and gave opportunity to me to play tennis and exposed me to different social surroundings and tennis greats. Last time I spoke to Andy was 2018 I was in Philly playing grass court cup and he reminded me don't let the ball bounced. Thank You Andy Garcia for taking me under your swings at age 14. May your spirit be comforted!

Luis Hines - March 10, 2021 at 05:54 PM

DI

“ My deepest condolences on the loss of your loved one. It's never easy no matter what there age to lose a Father, Brother, Cousin or Husband. God speed, Rest Assured he's sitting at the right hand of God as I type this note.

Dino Iacovino

Dino Iacovino - March 10, 2021 at 12:49 PM

RG

*Andy,
I don't think I would have succeeded in my career and life without your help. You were always there to help me and so many members of the Garcia clan. My father loved you as a brother. You'll be up there with him having a cafecito and arguing on how things should be done.
God bless you.
Ramón Jr*

Ramon Garcia - March 10, 2021 at 11:39 PM

AI

connected forever

andrew Garcia III - March 11, 2021 at 02:54 PM

AI

“*Hey Gar.....I'm missing you a lot and I know you are now safe and sound in Heaven. I miss our early mourning calls over the past 15 years since your retirement from our business.
You will always be in my heart & soul until we meet again. I will do my best to carry the torch and give my family the love that we shared together through both the good & bad times. Life is a process and I will always remember all the messages and talks we had as I was growing up even though you may not have felt that I heard them. I have your necklace around my neck that Ashley brought me. Very special and a piece of your hair too.
Talk again soon.
Love Your only son,
Andy*

Andrew Garcia III - March 10, 2021 at 09:46 AM

SC

Gar, we have so many good memories- a lot from playing (and often winning) at Royal Palm and various tournaments. Many good times with Donna at our tennis camp. One of the first lessons you instilled in me in an early tournament when I gave a disputed line call to our opponents, was when you clearly and loudly stated "I will be the scorekeeper on this team". That did work out better. There are scores in life too and you amassed amazing scores with family and friends. You were admired, respected, and loved. You will always be in my heart, too.

Love, Sue

sue Cobb - March 10, 2021 at 02:52 PM

AI

I lover you Sue and Big Guy and me blood brothers Toby & Chris

andrew Garcia III - March 11, 2021 at 07:11 AM



Un abrazo muy grande para toda la familia y que en paz descanse nuestro querido Andy, siempre recordaré cuando estaba en su club en Key Biscayne , Royal Biscayne con unas maravillosas canchas de tenis, el golf course y la tienda , pero sobre todo su amabilidad con todos nosotros en acogernos como familia en ese maravilloso lugar !!!

Abrazos

Manuel Rodriguez - March 11, 2021 at 08:54 AM

SG

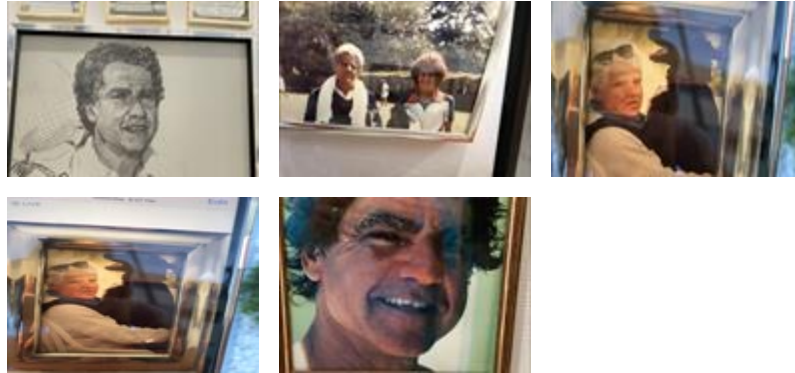
My thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of grief.

Sandra

Sandra Garcia Goolsby - March 11, 2021 at 09:48 AM

AI

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Andrew Garcia III - March 10, 2021 at 09:26 AM

SL

My sincerest condolences and prayers to this amazing family. I'm honored to have met you . What a tremendous life to be honored and celebrated. Mr. Garcia you will be missed truly. Fly high with the Angel's and rest peacefully. Your life is a amazing one and I truly honor you. God Bless you and your family.

*Sincerely with love,
Sundea LaRocca*

Sundea LaRocca - March 10, 2021 at 12:07 PM

AG

Andy Garcia, "The Original" , My Godfather. I will carry on his name and h privilege. I was blessed to have him in my life. As was my family. Rest in F /Users/andy/Desktop/IMG_2643.jpeg/Users/andy/Desktop/IMG_1774.jpeg

Andy Garcia - March 11, 2021 at 11:20 PM