



Jose A. Arroyo

November 27, 1938 - March 29, 2022

Jose Antonio Arroyo (“Cheo”, “Pop”, “Lelo”) of Winter Springs, Florida, cashed in on his final bet on March 29, 2022, at the age of 83, after complications from kidney failure.

Born in 1938, to Adelicia Melendez and Jose Arroyo, in San Juan, PR; Jose moved to New York at the age of 17, where he would meet his wife of sixty-three years, Luz. They would go on to have four children.

While his vocation, for over thirty years, was as a Chef at Cornell Medical School - cooking for the likes of Jacqueline Onassis, Placido Domingo, and countless others; his avocation was watching and betting on the races. He could regularly be found at the track, playing the odds and jockeys. He was good at it too.

He embodied the old adage; “Use it up, wear it out, make do or do without” in every aspect of his life. Nothing was ever to be wasted, especially not food or money.

In his kitchen, expiration dates were a suggestion, leftovers were always eaten, and you never knew what might be found inside a country crock tub.

In his mind, money was a blessing, the result of hard work, and was never to

be carelessly spent. This meant, you always drove local, never bought new, and if chicken breasts were cheaper at the Bravo across town...you were going across town. When asked why, he said, "You never know when or who in the family would need it."

He never resisted a generous impulse. If you needed a ride, he would take you. If you needed a place to stay, he would house you. If you were hungry, he fed you (and if you weren't hungry, he fed you anyway).

He loved traveling, a good story, a good joke, movies, novellas, music, and singing. He loved avena, coquito, beer, and red wine.

He was the kind of man who believed that the devil knew more from being old than from being the devil; that the key to patience could be found in an elephant and an ant; and that a sleeping shrimp would get carried away by the current.

He was the kind of man, who would go to the memorial service of someone he barely knew, because he believed a life lived, was worthy of remembrance.

He was the kind of man, you hope to live up to. He was our Superman, our Waymaker.

Jose is survived by his wife Luz M. (Serrano) Arroyo, daughter Alicia Arroyo, sons Jose A. (Maritza) Arroyo, Jr, Ricardo A. (Lourdes) Arroyo, and Xavier A. (Claudia) Arroyo; loving grandchildren: Justin, Liam, Kaleb, Jose, Joshua, Alexandria, Jovanni, and Xander; great grandson, Adonis, and his loving dog Kukito.

Previous Events

Viewing

APR 3. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Facebook Live Streaming

APR 3. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Facebook Live Stream
<https://www.facebook.com/DeGusipeFH/>

Funeral Service

APR 3. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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Reception

APR 3. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

SL

“ *My Deepest Condolences to you and your family.
He was great man, great father, and great chef.
So, he will be sorely missed.
I never forgot your warm and delicious food at your house party.
He is a person who turns food into happiness and makes life extra
tasty.*

*Have good time in Heaven!
Sophie Lim*



Soyoun Lim - April 07, 2022 at 11:29 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Jose A. Arroyo.*



April 07, 2022 at 11:15 PM

NC

“ *Cheo was a good man with a wonderful family. He will be missed.
Thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones during this difficult
time.*

Norman Cofer - April 07, 2022 at 11:02 PM

SL

“ *When I heard about this from Arroyo's family, my heart immediately went out to you.
He was a great person, and will be sorely missed you and your food at the home party.
My condolences to you and your whole family. Thinking of you in this difficult time,*

Have a good time in the Heaven.

Sophie Lim



Sophie Lim - April 07, 2022 at 11:01 PM



“ *My uncle Cheito was a teddy bear—his bark much bigger than his bite. He would give the shirt off his back and was one of the best chefs ever! I loved him so much and will miss his big personality.
Say hi to Mami and Papa. Sleep in Peace my awesome uncle—until we reunite in Heaven XOXO 🙏📱❤*

Sandra Narvaez - April 05, 2022 at 06:14 PM

CS

“ I will always remember his smiling face every time I saw Mr Arroyo (Tito) as the family called him. Such a gentle and kind soul in the times we got the privilege to interact. 2 Timothy 4:7 is very fitting for him as a horse race lover as it states “ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” blessings to the family knowing his has Won the Race!!!

Swanson Family.

Chad Swanson - April 03, 2022 at 10:49 AM

JO

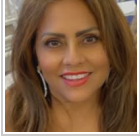
“ Tio Che', I will always remember my childhood years with you when you took us on vacation. Those were some wonderful times. Thank you for all you did for me and for being my chef for my wedding. You will truly be missed. Until we see you again in heaven!!

Joanne Otero - April 03, 2022 at 09:51 AM

DA

“ I will always hold dear to my heart the memories of sitting at the kitchen table sipping wine and laughing with my father in law. He always welcomed my children as his own grandchildren and welcomed them as they proudly called him Lelo. His advice was always wise yet gentle and without judgement. If you cried he would offer solace with a joke and a gentle smile to let you know everything would be ok. The years may have passed but you never stopped being the best father in law any girl could ask for. We loved you then, we love you now and we will love you forever. Diane Arroyo & Kids

Diane Arroyo - April 03, 2022 at 12:39 AM



“ *Tio, we looked up to you with admiration, as a father to you awesome children, a husband to Lucy and our uncle. We loved your sense of humor, your jokes & laughter, and also your directness and honesty. We will miss you always and will forever be grateful for having you be our uncle Cheo! You were an inspiration to us all! RIP tio!*

Gloria Narvaez - April 02, 2022 at 10:05 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Jose A. Arroyo.

April 02, 2022 at 08:24 PM

IS

“ There are so many stories that I could share about my loving uncle Cheo. I considered him an exemplary leader. His love was unconditional and his voice and advice will echo in my heart for all times. They have been inculcated into my very foundation

I will share this moment in time, around 22/23 years of age I relocated to New York from Puerto Rico. Uncle Cheo, Lucy, Alice, Tito, and Ricky (Xavier was not yet born) gave me a room to live with them in their lovely home in Brooklyn.

Uncle Cheo worked at Cornell University and suggested that I seek employment there. He showed me how to commute. He supported me as I had no income. I was fortunate enough to get hired at Cornell.

He worked as a chef for the medical faculty club at Cornell. Since I knew no one during this time, I would show up unannounced to his kitchen. Uncle Cheo would invite me to come in. He sat me in a corner and would whip up a quick and delicious lunch for me. I will never forget this.

This was a challenging and transitional time of my life. Uncle Cheo and loving family opened their door to me and made this a smooth opportunity for me. Things could have been different.

Being around the family was wonderful. It was such a loving environment. We had so much fun and laughter sharing.

Thank you always for the love and support.

Your niece Ivonne

Ivonne Stiver - April 02, 2022 at 02:19 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jose A. Arroyo.



April 02, 2022 at 01:44 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Justin Arroyo - April 02, 2022 at 12:27 PM



“ Love, The CORE Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Jose A. Arroyo.



Love, The CORE Family - April 01, 2022 at 02:15 PM