



Manuel San Miguel Griffo

September 29, 1930 - June 29, 2019

Manuel San Miguel Griffo “Manolo” passed away quietly into the loving arms of the Lord at his Winter Springs home on Saturday, June 29, 2019. He was 88 years old.

He was born in Guayama, Puerto Rico on September 29, 1930 to parents (Manuel San Miguel Nazario and Luisa Griffo Monserrat) who were distinguished in the arts. In addition to being known as an internationally renowned painter, Mr. San Miguel Griffo has also been recognized as a historian, a composer of popular Latino and classical music, as well as a poet.

After graduating from the University of Puerto Rico, as an ROTC officer, he was drafted in 1951 and saw Korean War action with the 65th Infantry Combat Regiment, Third Army Division (the “Borinqueneers”) who were awarded the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal in 2016 for their outstanding and dedicated military service. He received an Honorable Discharge with decorations from the US Army.

He pursued graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania and at the reknown New York Art Student League. Mr San Miguel Griffo was close colleague of the modern painting masters in the resurgence of the plastic arts in Puerto Rico and was a principal leader in the establishment of the cultural art movement that still influences daily life on the Island. Mr. San Miguel Griffo

exhibited his works in numerous art galleries and venues in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, the United States, South America, and Europe. He was a member of the prestigious International Academy of Arts and Sciences and served as Executive Secretary of its chapter in Puerto Rico. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Island's main cultural center, Ateneo de Puerto Rico, and was a consultant to the Puerto Rican Institute of Culture. He co-established the Caribbean Art Gallery as the first art gallery opened in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Mr. San Miguel Griffo was also instrumental in co-founding the Museo de Arte Oller-Campeche in New York City.

During his career as a historian for the U.S. National Park Service, he designed and initiated the museums at the national historic site fortifications of El Morro de San Felipe and San Cristobal also located in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. He also was instrumental in the restoration of the colonial fortification in Cartagena, Colombia, SA and the St Augustine, Florida fort. Upon his early NPS retirement in 1964 due to a military related physical disability, he was recognized by the NPS for his outstanding historical interpretive work with the Commendable Service Medal and Citation.

Although less recognized as a poet, his poetic style has been appreciated by many and published in magazines and newspapers, as well as applied to his own music that were highly popular songs of their day. Mr. San Miguel Griffo's poetry received recognition when it was selected in 1987 for Volume III of the *Antología de Poetas Latinoamericanos*.

Manuel San Miguel Griffo has received many honors during his long and distinguished life. Among these are biographical references in *La Gran Enciclopedia de Puerto Rico*, *The Encyclopedia of Living American Artists*, *Artists USA*, *Personalities of America*, *International Book of Honor*, *Marquis Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*, as well as a medal from Cambridge, England signifying his inclusion in 2000 *Outstanding Artists &*

Designers of the 20th Century.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Sandra Bonilla-San Miguel, his son Manuel San Miguel Hernandez (Sarai Morales); his daughter Ana Victoria Newsome (Joseph); three grandchildren (Felix Manuel, Anna and Sara).

"We rejoice in the extraordinary life he was privileged to live, and we feel grateful and blessed to have been loved by such an amazing human being."

In lieu of flowers please consider making donations in Manuel name to any of the following organizations:

Vitas Community Connection

<http://vitascommunityconnection.org/community-connection/donate>

Doctors Without Borders

https://donate.doctorswithoutborders.org/onetime.cfm?source=ADD190U0U00&utm_source=Adwords&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=GooglePaid&utm_content=branded&gclid=EAlaIQobChMln7KB_vWY4wIVgorICh2cDg3PEAAYASAAEgJpdfD_BwE

St. Jude Children's Hospital

https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_dcm=236375153&sc_cid=kwp70587&source_code=IIQ181010008&ef_id=EAlaIQobChMlpKHF6_eY4wIVILrACh2xIA-IEAAYASADEgKv6fD_BwE:G:s&s_kwcid=AL!4519!3!336377235242!e!!s!!saint%20jude%20charity&gclid=EAlaIQobChMlpKHF6_eY4wIVILrACh2xIA-IEAAYASADEgKv6fD_BwE

Operation Smile

https://secure.operationssmile.org/site/Donation2?df_id=35770&mfc_pref=T&35770.donation=form1&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=ope

ration%20smile&utm_campaign=Paid&gclid=EAlalQobChMI47zjnfY4wIVrfbj
Bx1p2ASGEAAYASAAEgKEPPD_BwE

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Wake

JUL 7. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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Reception

JUL 7. 8:00 PM (ET)

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Funeral Mass

JUL 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Augustine Catholic Church
375 Sunset Drvie
Casselberry, FL 32707

Tribute Wall

AP

“ *Queridas Sandra y Anita,
Buscando a Manolo y a ti en El Internet, me enteré de su ida al Cielo. Tanto Jorge, Miguel, Gustavo y yo sentimos muchísimo su pérdida. Era El mejor amigo de papi y atesoramos muchos buenos recuerdos tanto en Puerto Rico como en la Florida. Que Dios nos bendiga a todos para powder encontrarnos juntos con Jesus en El Paraíso. Besos y abrazos Angela Lotti de Lopez, PhD*

Angela Lotti de Lopez, PhD - August 11, 2020 at 05:39 PM

JS

“ *In 1961, when I was 13 years old, I attended a collective painters' exhibition with my parents, at the University of Puerto Rico Museum in Rio Piedras. I fell in love with a Manuel San Miguel semi-abstract painting (of two tug boats on the Hudson River at the lower tip of Manhattan), and begged my parents to buy it. They bought it, and kept it for 50 years. Shortly before passing, my mother bequeathed the painting to me. It now hangs in my Washington, DC apartment, with a great-looking new frame! Belated CHEERS to painter Manuel San Miguel!! -- Jose Luis Sanchez*

Jose Luis Sanchez - June 06, 2020 at 08:49 PM

LT

“ *Dearest Sandy,
Please accept my deepest condolences to you and your family on the passing of your beloved husband and father. May the precious memories you have, sustain you during this difficult time. Many prayers for you all.
Fondly,
Laurel E. Thompson*

Laurel Thompson - July 13, 2019 at 10:23 PM

LT

“ *Laurel Thompson lit a candle in memory of Manuel San Miguel Griffo*



Laurel Thompson - July 13, 2019 at 10:19 PM

RT

“ *Manolo was so special. Although we did not see him for so long, he made a huge impact on me and my son, Daniel. We will keep him in our prayers and remember him with a smile and warm hearts.*



Rhonda Terpak - July 08, 2019 at 10:06 AM

KB

“ *Kathi Boyle lit a candle in memory of Manuel San Miguel Griffo*



Kathi Boyle - July 04, 2019 at 08:59 PM

PF

“ *I have great memories of this great man. He had such a kind and sharing spirit. I will miss him terribly.*



Patsi Franklin - July 04, 2019 at 11:24 AM

LM

“ *Lucinda Morris lit a candle in memory of Manuel San Miguel Griffo*



Lucinda Morris - July 03, 2019 at 03:16 PM

DS

“ *Dr. Pablo Martinez and Orlando Oral & Facial Sx. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Manuel San Miguel Griffo.*



Dr. Pablo Martinez and Orlando Oral & Facial Sx. - July 02, 2019 at 04:51 PM