



Melissa D. Rivera

September 17, 1968 - August 20, 2017

Mother Gloria Cerny, father Gilbert Cerny Sr., brother Gilbert Cerny Jr., brother Todd Cerny, and sister Holly Dipaolo, are deeply saddened to announce the loss of our dear daughter and sister Melissa Dawn Cerny Rivera. Melissa passed unexpectedly after a short illness. Melissa was a kind, beautiful person and is, and will always be a part of all our hearts. She was a wonderful friend, a proud and excellent educator over the years in Naples and Seminole County Florida, and loved her family, friends, and students with all her heart. Her loss is unimaginable to us. Melissa lived a life of purpose as a teacher and her lessons and influence will be felt for generations.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **26**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 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>

Tribute Wall

DP

“ I use to be her student back at green wood lakes and now I'm graduated, I remember the times I failed and let me retake it after marking the ones I got wrong which she did to everybody I wouldn't of passed her class if it wasn't for her help and encouragement, I've always wondered what happened to her and never found or heard anything, but Mrs. Rivera will never be forgotten, I'll always miss her Sense of humor and how funny she was in class just as much as her. Rest Easy Mrs. Rivera We All Love And Miss You ¹⁰⁰💕💕

Maybe Soon I Can Visit Your Grave And Give You Some Flowers

Da'von Pitts - June 29, 2022 at 01:29 PM

SS

“ Ms. Cerny was my absolute favorite teacher growing up. She was one of my biggest influences in my entire life and helped me through a really hard year in 8th grade. My friends and I used to visit her frequently throughout high school and college. I have been a teacher now for three years and I think about her almost every day. I pray for her often and still love her very very much.

-Shawn Sterling

Shawn Sterling - March 03, 2020 at 12:43 PM

 Gil
Cerny

“ *it's been a tough year for myself and our family, it took me a year to grieve and try to think out why we lost this good and kind person who was loved and respected by all, I stop and think of her everyday, I hear her laughter and smile thinking how I could say off the wall things that made her face turn red and crack up, so may great memories that pass through my mind, I just want to say I love and miss you my sister Melissa and feel proud of the impact you made on so many lives.*



Gil Cerny - August 28, 2018 at 08:12 PM

HD

“ *I was thinking about my bright, and beautiful sister today, and decided to write a message to her here. I miss you, and think about you everyday, sweetheart! I hope wherever you are now that you're in the company of our family, friends, and of course with Sammy & Gabby. I love you!*



Holly DiPaolo - June 03, 2018 at 11:56 PM

HD

It's 2026 now, nine years later, and I still think of you each day. I tell my daughter how excited you were when she was born, and how you put whipped cream on her pacifier. It made my baby so happy! You will always be missed, and I hope you continue to rest in peace.

Holly DiPaolo - March 04 at 01:44 AM

MP

“ I was very sad to hear of Melissa's passing. I have been looking for her for a very long time. She was very special to me in my high school years. She was a very sweet to me and I thought of her often.

mike porchiazzo - November 09, 2017 at 09:52 PM



“ Miss Cerny was one of the best teachers at Greenwood Lakes Middle School. She made learning fun, having weekly contests where the winner would win a pizza on her! I'll never forget her holiday display - she represented all religions, including a Christmas tree and menorah that I donated to her. She was truly a blessing and her legacy will live on in the memory of her students. I will never forget her positive light and compassion.



-Derek Siegel

Derek Siegel - September 17, 2017 at 03:56 PM

AA

“ She is the best woman ever. She cared so much for all her students and wanted everyone to succeed. I wasn't having a good day at all and she talked to me and I felt way happier and better. I'm truly going to miss her. =(



Aairyn - August 30, 2017 at 07:55 PM

MR

I am deeply saddened to hear of Melissa's passing. I haven't seen her in a long time. I wish I could have. She gave me her shoes at my wedding and also gave me her dress that I wore to a high school dance, in which she had loaned me. I pray for her family and hope all is well for them! I am so sorry for their loss!

Michelle Marie Roberts - December 10, 2017 at 02:49 AM

NW

*“ I knew you when you were a little girl, your Uncle Fred and I were just dating. You had the most beautiful Blue eyes and gorgeous curly hair, you looked just like your Mom, Gloria, so Beautiful and always smiling. Cute as a little bug. You are now with Uncle Fred and he will hold you and take care of you and so will Grama Leona. My Heart is so heavy with sadness, you left us to young. May God Bless You and hold you forever.
Aunt Nancy Winter*

Nancy Winter - August 27, 2017 at 11:12 AM



“ I had Ms. Cerny (later in the year she became Mrs. Rivera) as an eight grade American History teacher back when I was a student at Greenwood Lakes Middle School. I never forgot her and how amazing and so very effective she was. She was a wonderful teacher and very much respected. She really had her students' best interest at heart. Although she may have seemed tough at first, I quickly realized that she was just pushing us to do our best. I looked forward to her class every day and strived to meet her expectations. Her discipline, support, and guidance shaped so many students into the respectful hard-working people they are today, myself included. I was just thinking about her and a few other teachers the other day. While sitting in my own fifth grade classroom I remembered her organization, effective classroom management, and the impact she left on me which was to take ownership of my own learning. Those are some things I will never forget. She helped me become a more responsible student and inspired me to achieve all that I could. As a first year teacher I hope the wonderful qualities that I've learned from her will help me leave a significant impact on my own present and future students. It's hard to imagine that she's gone, but her memory will live on in those whose lives she's touched. My deepest condolences to her family, friends, colleagues, and students. Thank you for everything you have taught me Ms. Cerny-Rivera. I will make you proud! Rest in peace. <3



Love your student,

~ Megan (Meg) Koury

Meg Koury - August 26, 2017 at 06:46 PM

DL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I am so sorry for your loss. RIP Melissa*
Denise LeBlanc

Denise LeBlanc - August 26, 2017 at 03:20 PM

JE

“ *Melissa was a great friend to have in your corner! She inspired me with her ability to advocate for others and her passion for students to make such a difference in their education and push them to be their best was truly inspiring!! You will be missed my friend!*

jennetta - August 26, 2017 at 11:35 AM

CA

“ *Thank you for all the positive you did daily, making a difference in our children's education. You will be missed, Heaven certainly gained an angel!* 🙏

Love from the Blake Family



Carolyn - August 26, 2017 at 09:53 AM

DO

“ *Sweet Melissa...you are loved and will be missed! You are a part of the fabric of my good memories.*
Donna Bradley

Donna - August 25, 2017 at 07:39 PM

WH

“ I've worked with Melissa for the past 10 years. There are no words that can express how much she will be missed by her GLMS family!! She was an incredible colleague who knew her subject area! She had a wealth of knowledge. She was wonderful with our students! They loved her, as did her co-workers! She could connect with any kid in a way that some of us could not! She was straight forward with them and they appreciated that about her. I raise service dogs and she was such an encouragement to me when she fully understood what I was doing. She even took one of the pups home for the weekend and she would often have whatever dog I had at the time in her class during pre and post plan. Melissa will be greatly missed! My condolences to the family!



wendy hartman - August 25, 2017 at 05:53 PM

JR

“ 1 file added to the album Melissa Rivera



John Rivera - August 25, 2017 at 02:30 PM

JA

“ So sorry to hear of Melissa's passing. She was a bright and confident teacher, with a great sense of humor. She will surely be missed.

Jan Anderson

Janice Anderson - August 25, 2017 at 01:00 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Melissa D. Rivera.*



August 25, 2017 at 12:50 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melissa D. Rivera.*



August 25, 2017 at 05:15 AM



“ *Education came first, and foremost to my sister Melissa. She had the gift of seeing the true potential in each of her students, and whole-heartedly believed in their success. It was an honor to watch her in action with her students. She was exactly where fate intended her to be; educating, and bettering the lives of young people.*

Holly Ann - August 24, 2017 at 09:42 PM

GR

Melissa was a brilliant educator. She had an infectious laugh, and used humor to reach every child that had the privilege to sit in her history class.

Gayle Ruffing - August 25, 2017 at 05:04 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Melissa D. Rivera.*



August 24, 2017 at 09:11 PM



“ *Mrs. Rivera was an amazing teacher and woman without her I would not be where I am academically. She taught me many things, she pushed me to be independent to believe I can do anything if I put my mind to it. Without a doubt she was my best educator not only in civics but in life. I have lost many people in my life, all though it hurts, certain people are meant to be in our lives for a certain amount of time. The last time I spoke to Mrs. Rivera she told me to "make her proud" even though she said that to most of her students, I believe it was more than just a catch phrase. I will work very hard everyday to honor her because all she wanted was to see her students be successful and that is what she deserves. All of my heart goes out to her family members and friends. I'm glad I get to say she was my teacher and friend. I love you Mrs. Rivera , you forever have a place in my heart and mind.*



*Love your student,
Kyla Frederick.*

Kyla - August 24, 2017 at 07:24 PM



*Kyla, I love this!!!
Mrs. Hartman*

wendy hartman - August 25, 2017 at 04:32 PM



When Ms. Rivera asked you to make her proud, I can guarantee you that she already was. 😊

Holly Ann - August 25, 2017 at 06:33 PM

DF

“ Dzurino Family lit a candle in memory of Melissa D. Rivera



Dzurino Family - August 24, 2017 at 05:52 PM



“ Dear Gil, Gloria and family, I am so sorry for the loss you all are enduring, You are all in my prayers and am sending love and hugs. Mary Lou

Mary Lou Greenwood - August 24, 2017 at 05:49 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Melissa D. Rivera.



August 24, 2017 at 05:32 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of
Melissa D. Rivera.*



August 24, 2017 at 03:46 PM