



Manuel Vega

June 14, 1929 - May 27, 2021

Manuel “Manny” Vega passed away on May 27th, 2021, in Sarasota, just 18 days shy of his 92nd birthday. Manny was born in 1929 in Ybor City to hard working Spanish immigrants who worked in the iconic cigar factories of Tampa in the first half of the century. As a result, he spoke both English and Spanish his whole life.

Manny graduated from Hillsborough High School, then served in the Army, stationed in the Panama Canal zone just after the Korean War before coming home to Florida to study geology at Florida State University. It was there that he met the love of his life, Allene Champlain, and they soon married, on D-day in 1959.

Manny went on to get a PhD in psychology and returned to Tampa, joining the faculty of the fledgling University of South Florida in 1965. There he remained a professor in the criminal justice department for 30 years. In 1979 he and Allene moved to Bradenton and he began teaching at the Sarasota-Manatee campus; he remained there until his retirement in 1995.

Manny specialized in corrections, authoring a highly regarded textbook in that area, and was a student favorite winning numerous teaching awards during his time as a USF professor – his field trips to prisons around the state were legendary and highly sought. His students over the years included many in the local criminal justice community, including numerous law enforcement officers, attorneys, and judges, among others. In addition to his passion for teaching, Manny also loved jazz, especially big band jazz, a love he infused to his wife and kids. He played tenor saxophone in various bands for many years, from his college years until his time with the Tampa Police Band in the 70s. He loved to travel and made it to most of his bucket list destinations except one – sailing to Antarctica around Cape Horn in South America. He was an extremely intelligent man and could discuss just about anything with anyone, but he was also kind and compassionate - many times he and Allene opened their home to those in need.

He was a great son, husband, father and friend, and he will be greatly missed by all

whose lives he touched.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years Allene (Champlain) Vega; sons Marcus, Russell, and Richard Vega; daughters-in-law Dana (Kent) Vega and Trina (Trotter) Vega; grandchildren Ashley (Vega) Nullet, and Michael, Christopher, Jackson, Joshua, Donovan and Jillian Vega; and his faithful dog Lucky.

A graveside service will be held at 12:30pm, Monday, November 29, 2021, at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72, Sarasota, FL 34241.

A celebration of life will be held at 6pm, Monday, November 29, 2021, at 6pm, Russ and Dana Vega, 1762 North Drive, Sarasota, FL 34239.

In his memory, donations may be made to Tidewell Hospice or the Alzheimer's Association.

Events

NOV 29 **Graveside Service** 12:30PM
Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Rd 72, Sarasota, FL, US, 34241

NOV 29 **Celebration of Life** 06:00PM
Russ and Dana Vega
1762 North Dirve, Sarasota, FL, US, 34239

Comments



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Manuel Vega.



November 28, 2021 at 09:06 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Lori Isaacson - November 23, 2021 at 08:52 PM



“ Allene, Mark, Russell and Richard, my family and I were very saddened when we heard about my cousin Manny's passing. My condolences to you and and the Vega family from the Llauget family, Dennis, Michael, Alex, Rose and me.

During this time of year, all that comes to mind is the many family gatherings we had at Marinas, Manny's mom, for La Noche Buena (Christmas eve), in celebration of Christmas.

These were the best of times, enjoying the Christmas seasons of fond and funny memories. Your Dad was a fine man and we always enjoyed his sense of humor.

Many blessings and love,
The Llauget Family

Ron Llauget - November 23, 2021 at 06:58 PM



“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Terri Gleydura - November 21, 2021 at 06:52 PM



“ We are so sorry we are not able to make it to celebrate Manny today. Please know you all have been in our thoughts & prayers. Andy & I both always enjoyed being with Manny and listening to his perspective on things. He is and will continue to be dearly missed. Love to all the family, Terri & Andy Gleydura

Terri Gleydura - November 29, 2021 at 10:34 AM