



Erik Thomas Garcia

January 22, 1953 - October 28, 2020

With his beloved wife at his side, Erik Thomas Garcia, D.D.S., of Richmond passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, after battling cancer for almost 5 years. He was born on January 22, 1953, in Poza Rica, Mexico. He grew up in Westford, Massachusetts, before moving to Texas.

From the time he was in high school, he knew his calling was dentistry and he fulfilled his dream when he graduated from the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston in 1980. He later earned a Master's degree from the College of Sedation in Dentistry in 2015. Alongside his wife, Rosalia (Rosie) Garcia, he established the Fort Bend Family Dental Center in Rosenberg in 1983. Shortly after establishing his practice, Erik discovered a vocation to provide dental care for the children of the Fort Bend County community and surrounding areas, where he joyously and lovingly served them until 2019. He felt so honored to have served multiple generations of families throughout the years and he loved to attend, alongside his wife, his patients' many family milestones of weddings, baptisms, quinceañeras, and birthdays. He also served on the board of directors for Pregnancy Resource Center in Rosenberg, served on the board for the Medical Missionaries of Divine Mercy of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, as well as helping other various charitable organizations throughout the community.

Erik was preceded in death by his father Thomas Garcia-Borras of Barcelona,

Spain, in 2015 and his younger brother Clifford (Cliff) Garcia in 2001.

Erik is survived by his wife and soulmate Rosie of Richmond, daughter Nyssa Gonsalves (and husband Matthew), daughter Tahsia O'Keefe (and husband Sean), daughter Jonelle Williams (and husband Cory), and seven grandchildren: Thomas O'Keefe, Erik O'Keefe, Maria Estela O'Keefe, Cecilia O'Keefe, Nora Williams, Camila Gonsalves, and Sebastian O'Keefe. He is also survived by his mother, Alia Castellanos Garcia, and sisters Angelica Garcia Flagg and Laureen Garcia.

Erik was most devoted to his faith and his family. He always enjoyed traveling and dining out with his wife and taking his grandchildren on exciting adventures such as treasure hunting and boating. He will always be remembered for his love of boxing, running, shooting, and fishing.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. with a Rosary at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 4, 2020 in the Chapel of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home in Rosenberg.

The funeral mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Sugar Land. Burial to follow at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Rosenberg.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Erik's name may be made to the following organizations:

Pregnancy Resource Center
4411 Avenue N
Rosenberg, TX 77471

Medical Missionaries of Divine Mercy
3100 Sweetwater Blvd.

Sugar Land, TX 77479

Tributes and words of condolence may be left for the family at www.davisgreenlawnfh.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home, 3900 B.F. Terry Blvd., Rosenberg, Texas 77471, Phone: 281-341-8800.

Con su amada esposa a su lado, Erik Thomas García, D.D.S., de Richmond, falleció pacíficamente el miércoles 28 de octubre de 2020, después de luchar contra el cáncer durante casi 5 años. Nació el 22 de enero de 1953 en Poza Rica, México. Creció en Westford, Massachusetts, antes de mudarse a Texas.

Desde que estaba en la escuela secundaria, supo que su vocación era la odontología y cumplió su sueño cuando se graduó de la Facultad de Odontología de la Universidad de Texas en Houston en 1980. Más tarde obtuvo una maestría de la Facultad de Sedación en Odontología en 2015. Junto a su esposa, Rosalía (Rosie) García, estableció el Centro Dental Familiar Fort Bend en Rosenberg en 1983. Poco después de establecer su práctica, Erik descubrió la vocación de brindar atención dental a los niños de la comunidad del condado de Fort Bend y sus alrededores, donde los sirvió con alegría y amor hasta 2019. Se sintió muy honrado de haber servido a varias generaciones de familias a lo largo de los años y le encantaba asistir, junto con su esposa, a los muchos hitos familiares de sus pacientes de bodas, bautizos, quinceañeras y cumpleaños. También sirvió en la junta directiva del Centro de Recursos para el Embarazo en Rosenberg, sirvió en la junta de los Misioneros Médicos de la Divina Misericordia de la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston, además de ayudar a otras organizaciones benéficas en toda la comunidad.

Erik fue precedido en la muerte por su padre Thomas García-Borras de Barcelona, España, en 2015 y su hermano menor Clifford (Cliff) García en 2001.

A Erik le sobreviven su esposa y alma gemela Rosie de Richmond, su hija Nyssa Gonsalves (y su esposo Matthew), su hija Tahsia O'Keefe (y su esposo Sean), su hija Jonelle Williams (y su esposo Cory) y siete nietos: Thomas O'Keefe, Erik O'Keefe, Maria Estela O'Keefe, Cecilia O'Keefe, Nora Williams, Camila Gonsalves y Sebastian O'Keefe. También le sobreviven su madre, Alia Castellanos García, y sus hermanas Angélica García Flagg y Laureen García.

Erik era el más devoto de su fe y su familia. Siempre disfrutó viajar y salir a cenar con su esposa y llevar a sus nietos a emocionantes aventuras como la búsqueda de tesoros y paseos en bote. Siempre será recordado por su amor por el boxeo, correr, disparar y pescar.

La vista se llevará a cabo en la capilla de la funeraria Davis-Greenlawn en 3900 B.F. Terry Blvd en Rosenberg el miércoles 4 de noviembre de 2020, a partir de las 5 p.m. a las 8 p.m., con el rosario a partir de las 7 p.m. Los servicios funerarios se llevarán a cabo a las 11 a.m. el jueves 5 de noviembre de 2020 en la Iglesia Católica St. Theresa, 705 St. Theresa Blvd., Sugar Land. El internamiento seguirá en Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home en 3900 B.F. Terry Blvd. en Rosenberg.

En lugar de flores, se pueden hacer contribuciones conmemorativas en nombre de Erik a las siguientes organizaciones:

Pregnancy Resource Center
4411 Avenue N
Rosenberg, TX 77471

Medical Missionaries of Divine Mercy
3100 Sweetwater Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Tribute Wall

TD

“ Rosie, we were very saddened to hear of Eric's passing. He was truly devoted to God, you & your family, his Church, community, & his charities We always enjoyed visiting with Eric & you. We will never forget you two coming over during our "family crisis" years ago offering us prayers & much needed support & comfort. "Y'all" helped us through a difficult time & we continue to thank you through our prayers.

Our deepest sympathies .May Eric rest in peace,.
The Dean Family
Tim, Terry & Laura

Terry Dean - November 17, 2020 at 12:44 PM

DA

“ Erik, thank you for all the charitable work you did and most especially with Medical Missionaries of Divine Mercy. I warmly cherish the memories of working along your side in Laredo and learning from you. I will forever cherish our friendship.
Daniel Alvarez

Daniel Alvarez - November 07, 2020 at 10:58 AM



“ Erik was my best friend growing up in Westford Ma. He lived across the street for many years and we spent most of it in the New England countryside doing all those things that young boys do growing up. So many memories of our adventures during those years. Its very moving to read how he conducted the rest of his life, but it doesn't surprise me at all. He was very special. My sincerest sympathy to his wonderful family in this difficult time. Bruce Lyons

Bruce Lyons - November 05, 2020 at 06:55 PM

RS

Rosie, I don't know if you remember us but we lived in the same apartment complex back in the early 1980's & you kept our son Landon while Bart was in dental school. We were driving through the Richmond/Rosenberg area & googled Erik's name and saddened to hear of his passing! Late condolences to your family! God Bless you & your family.

Rachel Smith

Rachel Smith - April 10, 2024 at 06:11 PM

KR

“*Sometimes you know a person for a lifetime and never really know them. Sometimes you meet someone and in an instant you know who they are. Erik and Rosie were those people to us. We met at a time that was filled with sadness and fear but in our Dattoli circle that changed to hope and love thanks to Erik and Rosie. Erik was the ultimate champion of hope and faith. He endured more than any but in such a strong, positive, uncomplaining manner. Rosie's gift of faith and love was a true inspiration. Erik and Rosie were a true Blessing in our lives, as we know they are in so many others. Rest in Peace Erik. Rosie, we love you. There is now a missing link in our Dattoli circle but Erik will be forever in our hearts.*

Pete and Kathy Ross

kathy ross - November 05, 2020 at 11:20 AM

LJ

“*What a fine man. He will be missed.*

Lamar Meadows, Jr. - November 05, 2020 at 09:39 AM

“ Erik and I were members of the Medical Missionaries of Divine Mercy, Each year during the first week of November a group of 30-40 missionaries would travel to Laredo and the colonias along the Rio Grande to provide dental, medical, and vision services, as well as physical therapy, chiropractic care, spiritual counseling, medications, and eyeglasses to the poor.

Erik was not only a missionary but served on our board of directors and held numerous leadership positions, including chairman of the board. He was a prolific recruiter for the mission and brought in several new dentists to the team. He worked constantly to improve the patient experience, making sure we were providing the best possible and most compassionate care for each patient.

Erik provided free dental care to hundreds of patients over the past 11 years. He relived chronic pain and restored function to people who often suffered for years before they were able to see a dentist. Every fall I would look forward to working as Erik's dental assistant on these trips. Although I had absolutely no training in dentistry or as a dental assistant, Erik was very patient with me, teaching me what I needed to know to help him.

He was invariably kind to all his patients, no matter their circumstance. He cared for them like patients in his own private practice. He was never rushed but always seemed to be on time. It amazed me that he could remember someone from the year before, having only met them that one time. His manner was always kind, gentle, and reassuring, even to the most anxious. Other dentists on the trip would sometimes refer their anxious patients to Erik because they knew he would be able to treat them successfully. He was one of the most humble professionals I've ever met.

On our outreach missions to the smaller colonias along the river sometimes the local people in the community would prepare lunch for us. He would have a few bites, make a satisfying sound, and turn to me and say, "this is really good" or "this is authentic!" He

loved the Lord, and he cherished his Catholic faith. Erik loved his family, his wife Rosie, his daughters Nyssa, Tashia, and Jonelle, and his grandchildren. He loved being close to them--physically when possible and emotionally always.

Erik had an interesting ritual near the end of mission week: he would wash all his clothes before he went home. I was always physically exhausted by the end of mission week and would never even think about doing this. But Erik would always find a (working) washer and dryer where we were staying and do his laundry. One time I finally asked him, why do you wash your clothes right before you go home? Why not wait and wash them after you get home? (After all you must have the right change, bring or buy some laundry detergent, etc.) Erik told me he did it because if he took his dirty clothes home, Rosie would take them from him and wash them—and he just wanted to save her the trouble. That is love.

Looking back on the adjectives I have used to describe Erik—kind, humble, gentle, patient, loving, helping the less fortunate—I am describing Jesus, our savior. Erik really did "put on Christ" in his daily life for all to see. This past Sunday was the feast of All Saints--when the church celebrates all the unnamed and anonymous saints in heaven. The Gospel reading was from Matthew's sermon on the Mount. In this discourse, Jesus is telling us who is in heaven: the humble of heart, the merciful, the suffering, those who seek righteousness. Erik lived a life reflecting the beatitudes--I am sure that is why we miss him so much.

At the end of that Gospel reading Jesus said, "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." Erik is now part of that vast communion of saints, ready to intercede for each one of us. I thank God for his friendship and for all the good work he accomplished in his life.

Richard Byrd - November 05, 2020 at 06:54 AM

NV

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. With our deepest sympathy.
Nellie Villagomez and family.

NELLIE VILLAGOMEZ - November 04, 2020 at 08:24 PM

BK

“ Erik was a true friend and a fellow missionary who shared the passion of helping those most in need. He will be missed especially his humor and wit, as he was able to joke with the best. To his family, know that Erik always had a kind word to say and never said no to anything requested of him.

Bob Kempker

Bob Kempker - November 04, 2020 at 11:38 AM

CC

“ Our Deepest Sympathies to Rosie Garcías and Family. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Erik was a wonderful husband and father, God fearing man and was very faithful and loved his family very much. His compassion for his friends, patients and the mission trips he made to help those less fortunate came from his heart and the need to help his human-kind. May God Bless him and Grant him Eternal Rest. ...The Charles Cantu Family

charles W. Cantu - November 04, 2020 at 10:56 AM

KM

“ Erik was an example of a life of service. I first met him soon after coming to Richmond Rosenberg in 1994. He was dedicated to helping those in need. Both through his practice and through his community service. He donated annually of his time and skills to the Medical Missionaries of Devine Mercy. He tried to coax me into participating for years telling me about the experience. Finally three years ago I agreed to go and because of Erik I have now been three times. The second year we wound up rooming together. His commitment to helping, and caring for others was tremendous. Erik was a role model for giving in how he communicated with the participants and the patients, calm and introspective. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to get to know him. Erik will be remembered. You will be in our prayers.

Kyle & Beth McCrea - November 04, 2020 at 09:31 AM

MG

“ I first met Erick on a mission trip to Laredo. He was kind and patient to teach me to do dental xrays. He will be missed as part of the St Laurence missionary family. My condolences and prayers to his family during this difficult time for comfort and peace.

Mary Gomez - November 03, 2020 at 09:20 PM

BG

“ From time to time, in our separate journeys though life, our paths cross those who not only have a special life mission but whose daily lives reflect that mission. So was our fortune, in a less than fortunate health-challenge moment, that Erik and Rosie presented in our lives. We were blessed to have been included in what evolved into our Dattoli Cancer family, where Erik and Rosie and our support circle were our inspiration.

Erik and Rosie’s professional commitment to the community they served cannot be described as anything less than divinely inspired. We cannot think of a better way of spending life’s time than the way Erik and Rosie chose. Though we we were new to their lives we feel blessed to call them friends and Erik’s gentle and giving soul will forever be a part of our most valued memory.

May Erik find the blessings of eternal peace cradled in the arms of a loving Christ whose message of caring and love Erik spread to the community he served.

Bonnie & Gerry Shields

Bonnie & Gerry - November 03, 2020 at 07:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Erik Thomas Garcia.*



November 03, 2020 at 06:06 PM

JC

“ Janet M Caolo-Tanski purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Erik Thomas Garcia.



Janet M Caolo-Tanski - November 03, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Erik Thomas Garcia.



November 03, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Erik Thomas Garcia.



November 03, 2020 at 12:59 PM

JB

“ In Memory of my Friend Erik

I honestly don't recall how Erik and I first met, after all it was almost 50 years ago in high school, but we became good friends. Shortly after graduating high school through a series of circumstances, details not important, we became roommates. Specifically, Erik and I were roommates for about 2 years in our college days (circa 1973-1974) and we pooled our resources with 2 other mutual friends so the rent would be affordable. I recall the rent split 4 ways came to \$30 each for a 2-bedroom 2 bath apartment. Erik and I were fulltime students with part time jobs while the other 2 guys had fulltime jobs with a proclivity for partying at all other times. The apartment was often times "Party Central", with visitors coming and going almost constantly. This created an environment that was not exactly conducive to scholarly pursuits. However, us 2 students found ways to persevere and managed to fit in study time amongst the party atmosphere. Spending a lot of time at the library helped. We had a lot of good times at the apartment and I have many fond memories of that time period.

Perhaps the most memorable was an adventure to Mexico with Erik.

Erik made arrangements for me to accompany him and his uncle on a trip to Mexico. His uncle was a pilot and had his own plane. There was just one little problem. At that time, I had shoulder length hair and it was questionable if I would make it through customs because I looked like a hippy drug dealer. Erik knew I had purchased a short hair wig to hide my long hair under and suggested I wear it to avoid problems with customs. It worked!

We hung out with many of his relatives and friends. I learned that when they told us "mi casa es tu casa" they really meant it. I felt welcomed and at home with everyone I meet. We were driven around by one of Erik's relatives and experienced a lot of the countryside as well as an excursion to Mexico City. At one point while driving in the countryside we stopped at an open-air eatery for lunch. The only thing they served was boiled pigs blood. We both

skipped lunch that day. In order to get back home we were faced with a long bus ride which in and of itself was an adventure. Overall, I had a blast even though I don't speak Spanish.

Eventually girlfriends entered the picture and our roommate days with each other ended.

I got married my senior year in college to my one and only wife Valerie and we will celebrate our 46th anniversary next year.

When Rosie came into Erik's life Valerie and I both knew they were meant for each other and we immediately liked her.

We have kept in touch through the years and I remember well my last conversation with Erik where we spoke about the health issues we both were dealing with. Then he told me his grandkids were begging him to take them swimming and he had to go. His priorities were in the right place.

Rosie and your kids and grandkids were truly blessed to have Erik as a husband, father and grandfather and I know you are thankful for the time you had together.

As for me...good friends are hard to find and impossible to forget.



JIM & VALERIE BIETENDORF - November 02, 2020 at 02:18 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Erik Thomas Garcia.*



November 02, 2020 at 12:16 PM

HC

“ Haydee and Cameron purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Erik Thomas Garcia.



Haydee and Cameron - November 01, 2020 at 09:49 PM

HA

“ We will always remember Erik as the most loving man. He was a true friend to our family and like a brother to Frank. We are praying for him and his family in this difficult time. We love you forever - the Aznars

Haydee Aznar - November 01, 2020 at 09:32 PM

JM

“ Rosie, my condolences to you and your family. May the LORD bring you peace and comfort.
Janie & Steve McNeil

Janie Mcneil - November 01, 2020 at 07:32 PM

WE

“ I’m so sorry for your family’s loss. Erik was a great roommate and friend for me all through dental school at UTDB. All the years we were together, a cross word was never uttered~~we really hit it off and had each other’s back through thick and thin during those lean years in school. And despite being as poor as church mice, we had the greatest times and adventures together! A great friend, father, husband, leader and compassionate health care provider is how I’ll remember Erik.

God’s Speed Mi Amigo!

With much love,

Wendell and Kathy Edgin

Wendell Edgin - October 31, 2020 at 05:23 PM

WE

“ Wendell & Kathy Edgin purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Erik Thomas Garcia.



Wendell & Kathy Edgin - October 31, 2020 at 04:59 PM

JT

“ Erik lived across from me when we went to high school. He was a great friend and I know he loved his wife and family very very much. He was always a thoughtful, kind and generous person. He always looked for ways to help others. He is now peacefully with the Lord. Lien and I express our dearest condolences to Rosie and the family.

Joe Thirolf

Joseph Thirolf - October 31, 2020 at 12:04 PM

BS

“ I met Erik at the Dattoli clinic. I remember him as a very kind man & thoughtful of others even though he was dealing with his own pain. I have never met anyone more devoted to his family, his wonderful wife Rosie, his daughters and his grandchildren. I feel blessed that I met him and he will always remain in our hearts as a very special person. Rest In Peace, Erik

BJ Sparks - October 31, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Erik Thomas Garcia.



October 30, 2020 at 09:29 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss of Erik. He was always pleasant and worked hard at the medical mission. He taught me well to take dental X-rays and was patient when I made mistakes. He was also a great help to the pregnancy center with his board service and classes for the moms.

I am sorry I will not be able to come Wednesday evening, since my husband will be having cataract surgery that afternoon and I will need to stay with him through the night. I should be able to come to the funeral on Thursday.

May the Lord bring you peace and comfort. I will be praying for Erik and for your family.

Marie McCoy

Marie McCoy - October 30, 2020 at 05:37 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Erik Thomas Garcia.* ”



October 30, 2020 at 04:38 PM