



Herminio Cleto Orizondo

July 20, 1929 - September 20, 2021

Dr. Herminio Orizondo, age 92, of Orlando, Florida passed away on Monday, September 20, 2021. Herminio was born on July 20, 1929 in Sancti Spiritus, Cuba. The sixth of seven children, he lived his early years on a farm, "La Rinconada," without electricity or access to traditional schooling, but surrounded by the love and support of his family and the natural beauty of the Cuban countryside.

Dr. Orizondo was a life-long learner--first in a single-room schoolhouse his father built on the farm, then as a teenager leaving his home to continue his studies in the cities of Santi Spiritus and Cienfuegos. Repeatedly defying his humble upbringing, he ultimately studied medicine at the Universidad de la Habana and became a successful General Surgeon. After a decades-long career in private practice in Orlando, he spent the last years of his career at the Winter Garden Clinic, where he treated vulnerable and low-income populations. Throughout his life, he emphasized the importance of education with his children and grandchildren and surrounded himself with books about philosophy, history, and politics.

For Dr. Orizondo, these topics were not just theoretical--they acutely shaped his life. A champion of liberty and democracy, he lived through the tyranny and oppression of not one but two dictatorial regimes. After leaving Cuba in 1964 and arriving in the United States in 1965, he never faltered in his dream of a

democratic Cuba and was repeatedly recognized for his exhaustive efforts to see his dream become a reality.

The only thing more important to Dr. Orizondo than education and his beloved Patria was his family. He married Maria del Carmen Botana on December 22, 1957. Together they raised three children: Antonio (Marilyn), Carmen Maria (Michael), and Peter (Ana) in their new home in Orlando, Florida. He was a dedicated husband, father, and a devoted grandfather to Melissa, Jennifer, Victor, Daniel, Nicolas, Alex, and Sarah. He was a quietly brilliant man and will be missed by his children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, sister and the countless people he encountered through his medical practice, his advocacy, and among the Cuban exile community.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

1603 Greenwood Street
Orlando, FL 32801

Previous Events

A Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 8. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

St. James Catholic Cathedral
215 N. Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

Committal Service

OCT 8. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Greenwood Cemetery
1603 Greenwood Street
Orlando, FL 32801

Tribute Wall

RB

“ *We lost a great friend.
Our condolences to the whole family and our prayers are with you.
We will see you at the mass.
Chuchi and Raúl Barreneche*

Raul Barreneche - October 01, 2021 at 08:03 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Herminio Cleto Orizondo.*



October 01, 2021 at 07:37 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the
family of Herminio Cleto Orizondo.*



October 01, 2021 at 07:36 PM

CG

“ My profound sympathy to the family of Dr Herminio Orizondo, our friend , who belonged to that great generation of Cubans who left everything behind seeking freedom for their families. Like my parents and so many of our very dear friends their loss is great because it was their faith, courage and efforts that built our lives , allowed us to study, work and have a good future in a free country. I know his wife Carmen will await him with great joy in a better place. I pray for all our dear friends who like Herminio, Manolo C , Teresita H, Clemencia, Patricio Q, and so many others whom I do not mention but know and keep in my heart gave love and example to all of us. They are missed and we hope they watch over us. The many memories remain part of who we are.

Carmen Ana Boudet Gomez - October 01, 2021 at 10:47 AM

NC

“ I have enjoyed the friendship of the Orizondo family through the years in Orlando. In the last few years I used to visit Dr Orizondo and we remember our beloved homeland: family, customs, celebrations, and of course politics... we called them “The Cuba Stories”.
I will certainly miss those times! Antonio, Carmen Ma , Peter and family, I will keep you in my prayers. Many Blessings! Love Norma Coto and Family.

Norma Coto - September 30, 2021 at 04:42 PM