

On September 15, 2021, the patriarch of our family and friend to all looked up to the sky one last time and moved on to the next life after a fight with Alzheimer's. He was fortunate to be at home and surrounded by family.

Emerito was born in 1931 in the small town of Quemado De Guines, Cuba. He, his 3 sisters and 6 brothers helped manage a large family sugarcane plantation and cattle farm which was created by his grandparents Jose and Francisca and then greatly expanded by his father Maximo. His mother Pilar died when he was a child, and he was raised by his grandmother and father. He talked often of his love for the farm, riding horses, playing baseball, boxing, diving from tall palms into shallow creeks and eating all the delicious fruits and vegetables that Cuba had to offer. He went to school just long enough to learn to read and write then spent his time working hard to provide for the large family. He read the newspaper daily to his father keeping them apprised of current events, the unfolding of WWII, and piquing his interest in politics. He gained a lifelong love and appreciation for the United States and the American dream. In his early 20's he left the farm, moved to Havana and joined the Cuban Air Force. When Fidel Castro began a revolution, he was eager to fight and defend the Cuba he knew and loved. He often told stories of pursuing Che Guevara and the guerrilla fighters in the jungles of the Sierra Maestra. After the revolution he stayed in Havana, working in his brother's medical clinic. In 1965 the United States began Freedom Flights to bring Cuban refugees to Miami. Emerito was one of the first to sign up and was told the waiting period would only be a few months. Ultimately, he spent 5 years in the terrible conditions of a forced labor camp before his number was finally called up.

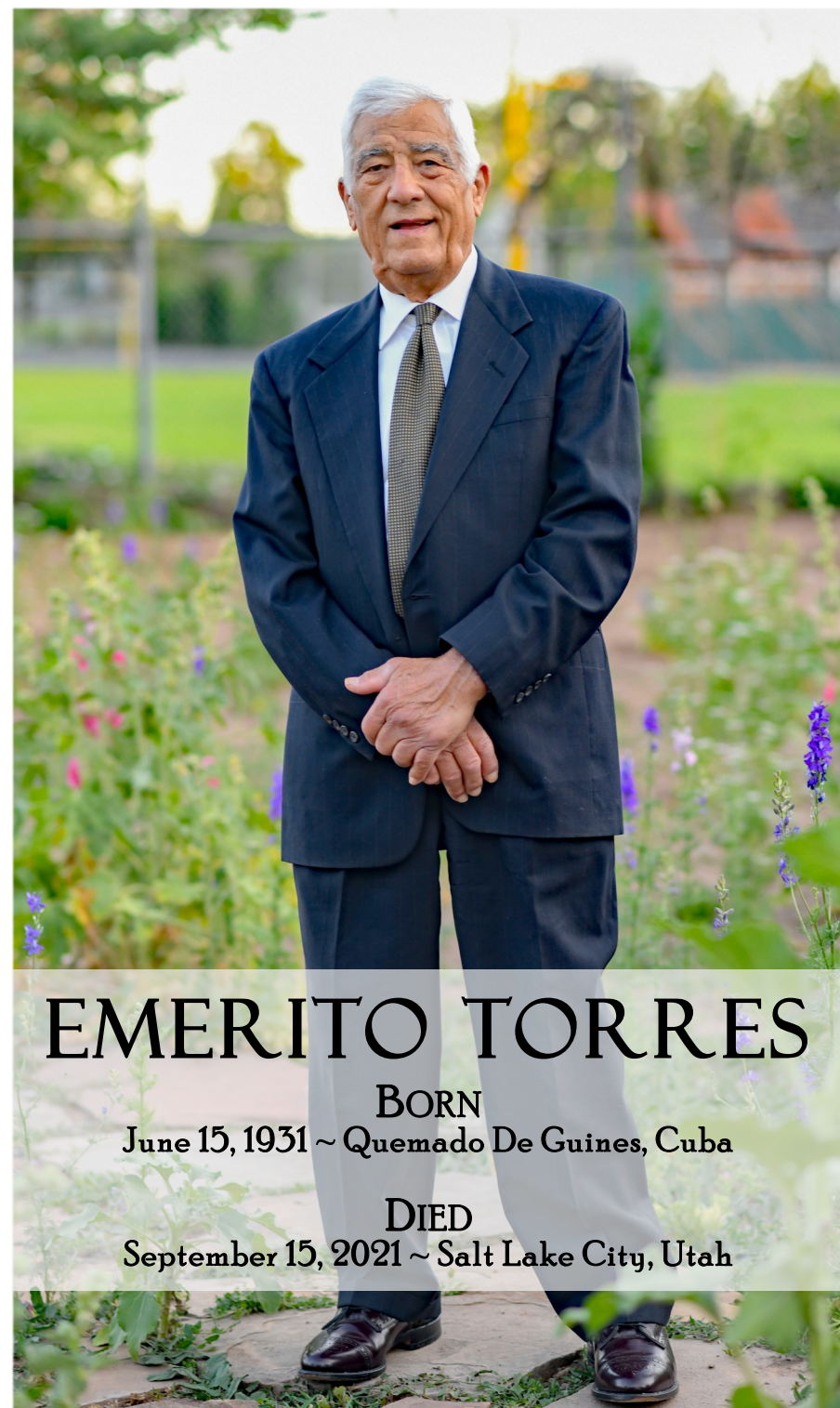
He arrived in Miami on January 1, 1970, with only "the clothes on my back," kneeled down and planted a kiss on tarmac, grateful for his freedom. Without speaking a word of English, he quickly found three jobs working day and night and one month later moved to Greenwich, Connecticut. It was there that he found a new job in the hospital and met a nice nurse from Utah. He and Annette were married and had their first two children in Greenwich, later moving to Salt Lake City in 1974. Before leaving Connecticut, he was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and they were later sealed April 25, 1975, in the Salt Lake Temple.

Emerito found their dream home in Sugarhouse on a large lot where he renewed his love for farming by creating beautiful vegetable and flower gardens. He and Annette added four more children to their family. He took a job with Salt Lake City Parks Dept where he worked for 25 years as a florist. He loved working at Liberty Park and the Jordan Park International Peace Gardens. He grew, designed, and immaculately maintained flower beds at all city properties.

Emerito left Cuba in despair for his homeland, but he was fortunate to have found freedom and a new community in the Salt Lake Parley's Stake. He never lacked friends and was respected by all who knew his story. He was the hardest worker anyone knew and served all in need freely giving of his labor and skills. He took great pride in hard work, always making sure the job was done right. He lived his life with a hoe, rake, or machete in his hands until two weeks before he died. His politics were conservative, and he despised communism. He enjoyed discussing politics and always had great concern for anyone he felt took their American citizenship and freedoms for granted.

He loved over-ripe bananas, buttercup squash, black beans and rice, pork roast, yucca, astrophysics, a perfectly manicured hedge, and a well-tailored suit. He had great faith, loved going to church and knew his Heavenly Father loved him.

More than anything he loved his family in Salt Lake, Miami, and Cuba. He never stopped working to provide for his wife, children and 26 grandchildren. Heavenly gardens will now thrive. Emerito has arrived.



EMERITO TORRES

BORN

June 15, 1931 ~ Quemado De Guines, Cuba

DIED

September 15, 2021 ~ Salt Lake City, Utah

FAMILY OF ANNETTE & EMERITO TORRES



Emily & Matthew Torres

Chandler, Gabriel, Lucas, Theo, Vivian, Lucia

Jennifer & Tim Smart

Samuel, Olivia, Eliza, Lucy

Sarah & Peter Torres

Maximo, Sophia, Grace, Emma

Hillary & Aaron Torres

Abram, Isabelle, Hazel, Mack

Maria & Alain Mendivil

Thomas, Vincent, Ada, Elaine

Tricia & Paul Torres

Maile, Lydia, Rachel, Paul

PALLBEARERS

Paul Torres

Chandler Torres

Samuel Smart

Thomas Mendivil

Maximo Torres (Honorary Pallbearer)

Alain Mendivil

Sophia Torres

Abram Torres

Maile Torres

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Friday, October 1, 2021 ~ 11:00 AM

Bishop Peter Torres, Conducting

Family Prayer Aaron Torres

Organist & Chorister Janice and Vince Rampton

Opening Hymn..... #338

"America The Beautiful"

Invocation..... Tim Smart

Speaker Matthew Torres

Speaker Jennifer Smart

Musical Number Grace Torres

"Abide With Me"

Arranged by Marshall McDonald

Speaker Aaron Torres

Speaker Maria Mendivil

Musical Number Grandchildren

"Give Said The Little Stream"

Speaker Ray Olson

Speaker Bishop Peter Torres

Closing Hymn..... #219

"Because I Have Been Given Much"

Benediction Tricia Torres

INTERMENT

Logan City Cemetery

1000 N 1200 East

Logan, Utah

Dedication of Grave..... Peter Torres

Bagpipes Vera Hamilton