



Juan Carlos Cordero

JUL 13, 2025



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5
Media	Page 14



Juan Carlos Cordero

JUL 13, 2025

JUAN CARLOS CORDERO, 62 of Princeton, New Jersey passed away of natural causes on Sunday, July 13, 2025, surrounded by his family. His life was defined by two great callings: his unwavering love for family and his passion for education.

Born in Alajuela, Costa Rica, to Rodrigo Cordero González and Mercedes Campos Solano, Juan Carlos built a meaningful life in the United States with his beloved wife, Jessica Madrigal. Together they raised two children, Carlos and Nina, to whom he gave his whole heart. A humble and principled man, he lived with quiet strength and deep integrity, touching the lives of many with his steady presence and kind spirit. He spent his final months with a heart full of joy and anticipation, eagerly awaiting the birth of his first granddaughter. He was deeply moved to witness the marriage of his daughter, Nina, to Alexander—an event filled with love, laughter, and the presence of many dear to him.

Education entered Juan Carlos's life unexpectedly—like many of life's most meaningful paths—and quickly became his great calling. He was a passionate Spanish educator, dedicated to sharing his native language, culture, and literature. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Education from The Catholic University of America and began his teaching journey as a Spanish Lecturer at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Juan Carlos later served as Head of the World Languages Department at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney, Maryland and, most recently, at Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in Princeton, New Jersey, where he inspired Middle and Upper School students until his final days.

Juan Carlos is survived by his loving family including his wife Jessica Madrigal, Son Carlos Cordero, Daughter Nina Cordero, Son-in-law Alexander Wagner, Siblings Ana Mercedes, Rodrigo, Jose Antonio and Luis Diego Cordero, Hazel, Lourdes, Jose Antonio, Andrea and Gabriela Madrigal, along with many other family and friends.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at 2:00PM at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Chapel in Olney, Maryland.



Obituary

Juan Carlos Cordero

Jessica, Carlos, Nina, and Alexander extend their deepest gratitude for the overwhelming outpouring of love and support during this time of grief and transformation. They pray Juan Carlos' example, his spirit, and his legacy will continue to guide all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Esperanza Education Fund in his memory.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.loudounfuneralchapel.com



Tribute Wall

Juan Carlos Cordero

NO

Nora posted:

My teacher Señor Juan Carlos Cordero was amazing, witty, kind, caring, and so much more! I remember one day in class he had told us when his anniversary was, so I got the idea to give him a suggestion on what to get his wife, Jessica, I had decided on a beautiful, blue, china teacup. When I told him he had laughed, then he smiled and thanked me for my help. I know he might've been humoring me, but it had made me feel so special! At the last day of school he had signed my year book. Looking back on those memories make me feel a bitter sweetness. My class won't be the same without him, he was truly the most beloved teacher. Jessica, if you are reading this I want you to know that he loved you so much, he would talk about his entire family with such a happiness that I cannot describe it, you probably know how much he loved you already but he was so proud to call you his wife. I will miss you señor Love Honora (or Nora) Sánchez

August 5 at 11:44 AM

EL

Emma Lin posted:

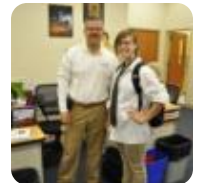
I'm Emma Lin. Mr. Cordero was my Spanish teacher last year when I was in the 9th grade. I am writing to extend my sympathy for your recent loss. Mr. Cordero was a wonderful Spanish teacher and always made class very fun and educational. We learned a lot in his class. I'm so sad to not be able to see him when school starts, but I'm sure he is living happily in Heaven!

July 21 at 5:55 PM

JM

Julia Mitchell shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Señor Cordero was an amazing teacher. I was lucky enough to be his student for all four of my years at Good Counsel. He was so kind, knowledgeable and funny. The attached photo is from student-teacher swap day during spirit week in 2010, where I dressed like Señor Cordero, including crocs with a snoopy jibbit. I have so many fond memories from his classes. He made a lasting impact on his students and will be deeply missed.-Julia, Good Counsel class of 2011



July 20 at 6:50 AM



Tribute Wall

Juan Carlos Cordero

NI

Nina posted:

Señor Cordero was more than just a teacher. He was a guiding light for so many of us. He became my absolute favorite teacher starting in 5th grade, during a time in my life when I felt lonely, anxious, and scared. He made school feel like a safe place. From that moment on, and all the way until the day he passed, his kindness, warmth, and gentle presence left an unforgettable mark on my life. School will never be the same without our beloved Señor Cordero. His absence leaves a void that can never truly be filled. While he will be deeply missed by our school community, I find comfort in remembering one of the things that made him unique: his love for the Spanish verb "descansar," which means "to rest." That word meant something special in his classroom. And now, as we say goodbye, it carries even more meaning. Even though all of us who knew him will feel the pain of his loss, we can also hold on to the peace in knowing that Señor is finally able to rest. Gracias, Señor. Usted fue amable, cariñoso, cuidadoso y atento. Lo extrañaremos profundamente. Descanse en paz. - Nina Marie Teti

July 19 at 2:25 PM

LI

Lisa posted:

what a blessing it was to be able to call Juan Carlos, a.k.a., JC, esteemed colleague, and beloved friend. While I didn't have the privilege of knowing him as well as some, the encounters I had with this extraordinary, humble, gifted, kind, decent, virtuous gentleman we're always blessed, and I was always better for having encountered him. A man of integrity, a man of caring, a man of talent, a man of authenticity, a servant leader. Please be assured of my prayers for JC's soul, for his family and friends, former students, former colleagues, and all who mourn his loss. Que Dios te bendiga, amigo. Lisa.

July 19 at 6:06 AM

RC

Renetta Herndon-Cintron posted:

I remember when JC came to Good Counsel with his beautiful Jessica and little kids, Nina and Carlos. One could tell that this little family had an unbreakable bond. One of my favorite memories is of how JC shared the story of how he first saw Jessica and how he was wowed! When Carlos finally came to Good Counsel, he and his father were almost like twins with their quiet and kind spirits: the hot sauce, the music knowledge-, fútbol, el español, and those dang guave candies that -I told him - taste like armpits will be moments that were memorable. How he loved his Jessica, his Carlos, and his Nina is what we all embrace and admire. I also remember that every day, m JC and Carlos left together, and we could always depend on the fact that Carlos would return to the office for something that that JC forgot. We laughed during JC's tenure, and we shared precious moments. How truly blessed we are to have known him.

July 18 at 7:35 PM



Tribute Wall

Juan Carlos Cordero

EK

Elizabeth Kelly posted:

Señor was one of my teachers for the past two years, and he made a huge impact on me — especially during my 6th-grade year. That year was full of change, but his class always felt calm and welcoming. He was kind, understanding, and made accommodations when I struggled, even switching me to pass/fail to take off the pressure. In 7th grade, it was comforting to know he was still there. I used to go into his classroom and trace funny drawings of him on the board with my friends — and he always laughed with us. It doesn't feel real that he won't be there next year — or in the years to come. He welcomed every student with open arms and found ways to make learning fun, whether it was with Kahoots or Blookets on days we all needed a break. I'll never forget him — sitting at his desk with his cup of coffee, cheering us on from the sidelines. I'll miss you, Señor, more than I can say. Elizabeth Kelly-Class of 2030

July 18 at 7:20 PM

BO

Brenden Owen posted:

My prayers and thoughts a la familia Cordero - I am so saddened to hear of your loss. Juan Carlos me ayudo con las palabras a pedir a la madre de mis hijas que se casa conmigo. Las noches en Georgetown estudiando castellano son recuerdos hermosos, y cambiaron mi vida por el mejor. Tanto cariño que tengo por mi profesor, y 30 años después todavía pienso en el frecuentemente. Espero que el sabe, y quiero que su familia sabe, que tenia un impacto enorme en mi vida - his warmth, kindness and cariño will always be remembered. I will never forget sitting in a bar in Georgetown with him writing the words to propose, and the smile in his eyes. Un abrazo fuerte y enorme a la familia en este momento tan difícil. Con mucho afecto -Brenden Owen

July 18 at 6:10 PM

MC

Maricelle Chan posted:

A la familia Cordero, mi mas sentido pesame por la perdida de nuestro amigo Juan Carlos, gratos recuerdos de infancia y juventud en Alajuela, CR. Que Dios lo reciba en sus brazos, un abrazo a toda la familia en este momento tan difícil. Maricelle Chan Aguilar

July 18 at 11:12 AM

MA

Mayra Aguilar posted:

Queridos José y familia, mi mas sentido pesame, lastima que no puedo acompañarlos en estos momentos, pero mis pensamientos y oraciones les acompañan. Un abrazo. Mayra Aguilar Benavides

July 18 at 11:08 AM



Tribute Wall

Juan Carlos Cordero

BC

Bridget C posted:

Señor Cordero was my very favorite teacher. First meeting him my freshman year, he made the class fun and welcoming. By senior year, he created an independent study program for me and one other student so we could continue Spanish at a higher level. I'll always remember his kindness, humor, and dedication to his students.

July 18 at 7:17 AM

LC

Liz Cassidy posted:

Mr. Cordero was one of the kindest teachers at Good Counsel I had the pleasure of being a student for. Not only did he care for his students, but he also had jokes and took the time to get to know all of us on a personal level in so many ways. I will always be grateful for Mr. Cordero, as my husband and I actually met during his class our sophomore year. Mr. Cordero meant to much to his students and we knew he was always someone we could go to and trust, which is not always easy as a high schooler. Thank you, Mr. Cordero.

July 18 at 7:17 AM

AN

Anne posted:

What a beautiful testimonial to Juan Carlos's kindness, intelligence, and dedication. It is wonderful to hear that he dedicated himself to such a wonderful vocation, teaching Spanish and literature, one that is near and dear to my heart. And from the testimonials below, he did it the best way possible, with caring, a lot of culture, and fun. The same way he treated his beautiful family. I remember meeting Juan Carlos, for the first time, many, many years ago in Costa Rica. The memories are vague, a dinner out with the family and a soccer game in Alajuela, if I'm not mistaken, rooting for his team. Back then he was engaged in the politics of the time and very dedicated to his girlfriend, Jessica. I'm so happy they were able to continue this relationship across continents and build a wonderful life together. I will always remember them together and fondly.

July 18 at 5:07 AM

AS

Alexa Sanchez posted:

Señor Cordero was my freshman year spanish teacher at Dakota Ridge High School in Littleton, Colorado! He was my most favorite teacher I ever had! I am so so sad to hear about his passing he was such a great man, always listening to all my drama and joking around with my best friend and !! He was the definition of making the world a better place! I'm sending all my love and condolences to his family! God Bless you Guys ☐☐

July 18 at 4:59 AM



Tribute Wall

Juan Carlos Cordero

MG

Michelle Guerra posted:

Juan Carlos enseñó solo un poco tiempo en Dakota Ridge High School en Colorado con nosotros, pero nunca se nos olvidará su bondad. Fue el mensaje más poderoso que nos comunicó y también a los estudiantes. No cabe duda que su fe lo dirigió en todo lo que hizo. Su presencia tranquila y positiva fue un regalo que compartió con todos cada día. Hemos estado bendecidos por haberlo conocido.

July 17 at 8:55 PM

KA

Krystele Antoine posted:

Professor Cordero was one of the best teachers that I had at Good Counsel. He made Spanish IV fun and engaging. I'll never forget that he let me leave class early for my promposal. May his soul rest in peace .

July 17 at 8:26 PM

LA

Lali posted:

Juanca te amamos y te amaremos por siempre. Un huequito siempre va a quedar en la familia. Espero tío Rodri y tía Merce te estuvieran esperando con los brazos abiertos. ☐

July 17 at 8:16 PM



Tribute Wall

Juan Carlos Cordero

MD

Maya Dev posted:

I don't think I'll truly ever be able to put into words how much I and the rest of the Stuart community loved Señor. I first met him on his first day at Stuart in my fifth grade year, he was my spanish teacher. Boy, did we give him a hard time! We later joked that teaching our class was like wandering into the jungle. While it surely wasn't easy teaching a rowdy group of 11 year olds, Señor always came into class with a smile on his face, ready to teach us and help us through things even when we couldn't understand. That fifth grade year was the very beginning of my friendship with Señor, and over the past years, even though I was no longer in his class, we became so much closer. He was always there for me when I needed it. Whether it was to help me with my Spanish homework or listen to me rant, he was always kind and patient. In the crazy years of high school, he brought an immense comfort to so many, including myself. Whether it was just smiling at me in the hall or jumping up and down in excitement when I got a good grade, he was always there. Often times, I would grab an extra sugar free drink or snack when leaving the house, praying I would run into him in the hall so I could share it with him. He truly truly was an amazing person, teacher, and friend. Words cannot express the heartbreak I feel, and I will always remember the laughs we have had together and the memories we share. Until we meet again JuCaCoCa!! ❤️❤️

July 17 at 8:09 PM

CJ

Chasyn Johnson posted:

Señor Cordero was an amazing man who was a role model in life. He was the first to wish me happy birthday each year, provided countless memories in class at Dakota Ridge High School and made a mission to keep up with my life events. I know he would be proud of what I am achieving. Although my Spanish has not been kept up with, Señor Cordero made a major impact in my life. I will always be grateful.

July 17 at 7:58 PM

MI

Miguel posted:

Dios lo tiene en la gloria , condolencias a la familia y palante

July 17 at 7:23 PM



Tribute Wall

Juan Carlos Cordero



Jackie Riordan posted:

"¿Dónde están mis m&m's?" - Señor Cordero and I shared a sweet tooth during our time at GC. He used to share his guava candies with me and in exchange I would stop by one of the admin offices on my way back to Spanish class after lunch and grab a teeny cup of m&ms for him and one for me. If I ever skipped a day, he would smile and greet me with "¿Dónde están mid m&m's?" upon my return to the classroom. He was always so ready to laugh and so generous with his time; I often did not have a timely ride home from school and he would stay in the after school homework area until I got picked up, and I was very often the last to be picked up. I am grateful for his friendship; I am sure he knew, as a very nerdy student, I did not have very many friends, and his kindness and encouragement made up for a lot of high school blues I was dealing with and helped me to not give up being the best student I could be. His fun-loving spirit never detracted from his focus on being an excellent teacher. I am the only Spanish speaker in my office and a non-native speaker at that, and I owe much of that to his instruction. Thank you, Señor Cordero, and may the Lamb of God welcome you with open arms. I wish we could have seen each other more recently before your passing, but all is in God's hands. God bless you and be with your family in this difficult time.

July 17 at 7:17 PM



Emma posted:

Señor was the kind of teacher you never forget. From seeing him in the morning with his coffee to walking into Spanish class, even on test days, he made things feel okay. He made school feel lighter. He brought this positive energy that filled the room, and no matter what kind of day you were having, it got better when you walked into his class. He had a way of turning even the most boring assignments into something fun. And somehow, even when we were completely off-task, like the times we played Kahoot or Blooket and barely did any work, he let us have those moments. He understood how much little breaks like that meant to us, and he let us laugh and enjoy learning in our own way. But behind all the fun was someone who truly cared. He never made anyone feel embarrassed for not understanding something. He was always there to help, to encourage, and to make sure we knew we mattered. Losing him doesn't feel real. Spanish class won't be the same without him, and honestly, neither will we. But the way he made us feel seen, supported, and loved, will stay with us forever. We miss you, Señor. More than words can say. -Emma Bean, class of 2030

July 17 at 2:41 PM



Julia Wall And The Stuart Community sent a Joyful Memory to the Cordero family.



July 17 at 9:57 AM



Tribute Wall

Juan Carlos Cordero



Erin Sanchez posted:

Senor Cordero made a huge impression on our daughter, Nora and he was, by far, her favorite teacher. She always spoke of his humor, kindness and that Spanish was her favorite class. He will be very, very missed by the Stuart community. Erin and Herman Sanchez

July 17 at 2:48 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Juan.



July 17 at 12:38 AM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Cordero family.

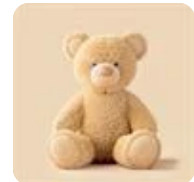


July 17 at 12:38 AM



Micah sent a virtual gift in honor of Juan.

Señor 😞😞😞 This one might've hit me the hardest of them all, honestly. Since I've found out, I have truly just been in a state of shock. My twin bro oh my god ❤️❤️ truly truly unreal. My friend and I went back and forth about things we got away with in his class, and ended up looking back on plenty of the good memories we had with him. We talked about how he would give us a face when we got something wrong that we had been learning for the past two weeks, his "missing" posters all over the school, the movies & food we had in his class, and many many more things. I am really really going to miss seeing Señor every morning in the cafeteria, in the hallways, and in his classroom. Stuart really will never be the same without him, and he will forever be missed ❤️. Please bless us with a spanish teacher that has your same spirit, we need you to guide us in Spanish every step of the way. Te Amo mucho Señor! ☐☐



July 16 at 5:14 PM



Anonymous sent a Love's Journey to the Cordero family.



July 16 at 1:16 PM



Tribute Wall

Juan Carlos Cordero

NY

Nyla lit a candle in honor of Juan.

I remember when Señor let us watch Coco in class after begging him all week because we finally finished our lesson and we had an end of the year party. I also remember his sarcasm and humor that always made me laugh. I love you Señor, thank you for being an amazing teacher and mentor. You will be missed so much.-
Nyla Stuart Country Day

July 16 at 10:14 AM



AN

Andres July 18 at 7:19 PM

My deepest condolences to Jessica, Carlos, Nina and all in the family. Juan Carlos is a wonderful example to our students and will be in our hearts forever. We started teaching at Stuart in 2017 and had wonderful years as colleagues. He loved his family, teaching and sharing ideas. We will miss him very much. Love, Andres DuqueArt Teacher

HC

Hermanos Garreta Madrigal Y Cónyuges sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Cordero family.

July 16 at 5:26 AM





Julia Mitchell shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 20 at 6:50 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Juan by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit