



Aura Matias

July 30, 1965 - April 1, 2025

KINDLY NOTE: The visitation and service will be held at the STANLEY CHAPEL. When you arrive to the ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME please let the front gate know that you are attending a service at the Stanley chapel.

Obituary

Aura Matias went to be with her Lord and Savior on April 1st, 2025. She was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, 30 July 1965, to parents Jorge Matias and Maria Ramirez, who both preceded her in death. Following shortly after her mother's arrival in the U.S., Aura became a resident of Los Angeles, California, and began her formal education in the public school system. She proudly received her Certificate of Naturalization in 1998.

Aura was employed in both the Food and became a resident of Los Angeles, Construction industries. After moving to the Washington DC, Capital area, she found working in the DC public school system was to be her niche. Aura's most recent employment was as the Registrar of the Creative Minds International Public Charter School, located on the beautiful 282-acre campus of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, where she resided with her loving husband, David Kaetzel, USN (RET). Aura's persona of having a calm, kind, caring, and sweet spirit served her well no matter the setting.

She was a loving wife to her husband and proud Mother to her three children (two sons, Cesar Matias and Daniel Matias and daughter, Ruth Verdin.)

Aura is survived by her sister Fina Arjona and husband Pablo, brother Rolando Ramirez and wife Sheny of Los Angeles, CA. A sister, Sonja Valencia preceded her in death. Other family survivors include many aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins one great nephew and one great niece. She was an active member of several churches in the DC area.

Her family would like to thank all the medical and support staff at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, for their unwavering support care.

On Saturday, 26 April there will be a viewing starting at 9:30 AM-1200 with a service from 1200-1PM followed by a Repast in the Creative Minds Intl School nearby. Viewing and Service will be held in the Stanley Chapel at the Armed Forces Retirement Home Campus. Use GPS address as follows: 140 Rock Creek Church Road, NW Washington, DC 20011.

Arrangements entrusted to Genesis Cremation and Funeral Services, 5732 , 202-291-7101.

Web: <https://www.genesiscremationandfuneral.com/m/obituaries/auramatias/memories>

Flowers should be sent to the - Armed Forces Retirement Home c/o Stanley Chapel using the GPS address above.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to an organization of your choice in the name of Aura L. Matias.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

David W. Kaetzel

3700 N Capitol St., NW, #439,
Washington, DC 20011

Burial will be a later date.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **26**. 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME
140 ROCK CREEK CHURCH ROAD NW
STANLEY CHAPEL
Washington, DC 20011

Stanley Chapel

Service

APR **26**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME
140 ROCK CREEK CHURCH ROAD NW
STANLEY CHAPEL
Washington, DC 20011

Tribute Wall

LA

“ *Las Adelitas purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Aura Matias.*



Las Adelitas - April 25, 2025 at 01:50 PM

HH

“ *Hermanas de Iglesia Hispana purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Aura Matias.*



Hermanas de Iglesia Hispana - April 25, 2025 at 08:23 AM

BK

“ *Brett K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Aura Matias.*

Brett K. - April 23, 2025 at 09:02 AM

SL

“ Hello David,
I will miss Aura in so many ways. First, Aura's genuine smile touched my heart from the beginning of our first meeting. My husband and I moved to AFRH in 2022! Our joy of being here was greatly enhanced when we learned that David and Aura was the 1st couple at AFRH. Their Love Story is beautiful too!

God Bless the Kaetzel Family
Marvin & Sabrina

Sabrina Larry - April 22, 2025 at 07:34 AM

BS

“ *In Loving Memory of Aura Matias*

I will always remember the warmth and kindness Aura Matias showed me when I first arrived at the Armed Forces Retirement Home. From the very beginning, she welcomed me with open arms. Her husband David, who was my sponsor, introduced me to the community, key staff, and even showed me places around the Home worth exploring—and Aura was right there beside him with grace and warmth.

Shortly after I moved in, their three adult children came to visit for a meal in the dining room, and Aura didn't hesitate to invite me to join them. That moment of inclusion touched me deeply. Her younger son, a witty and talented singer, sparked conversations with me about music, giving me the joy of sharing some musical ideas with him.

Aura made me feel like part of her family. I'll never forget how she and David helped me settle into my room—cluttered with all the belongings I had brought. Without hesitation, Aura rolled up her sleeves and began organizing. She brought calm and order with her steady presence and loving heart.

I loved Aura and David for the way they cared—not just for me, but for so many others here at the Home. Her passing leaves an empty place in our community and in our hearts. She will be deeply missed, but always remembered with gratitude and love.

*With heartfelt sympathy,
Bob Santero*

Bob Santero - April 19, 2025 at 04:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Aura Matias.

April 18, 2025 at 08:24 AM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Aura Matias.



April 18, 2025 at 08:24 AM