



Federico "Fred" Barrionuevo

November 14, 1935 - May 19, 2020

CEDAR FALLS – Federico “Fred” Barrionuevo, 84, of Cedar Falls died Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at the Western Home Communities Martin Center.

He was born November 14, 1935, in Arequipa, Peru, son of Romulo and Henrietta (Kennedy) Barrionuevo. He married Rebecca Graber on June 13, 1971 at St. Stephens in Cedar Falls.

He earned a BA degree in Sociology from Loras College in 1962 and furthered his education through grad studies at Catholic University and the University of Northern Iowa. He was a Social Worker with Catholic Charities and then Holt International Children Services, retiring in 2012. He helped facilitate private adoptions until 2015. He was a member of St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center on the UNI campus in Cedar Falls. On October 22, 1996, he became a US Citizen.

Survived by: his wife of Cedar Falls; a brother-in-law, Dan (Betty) Graber of Burlington; a sister-in-law, Martha Widmer of Wayland; nephew, Todd (Marcia) Widmer of Iowa City; great nieces, Sadie and Claire Widmer; cousins and other extended family.

Preceded in death by: a brother, Roberto; and a brother-in-law, Stanley Widmer.

Memorial Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center on the UNI Campus in Cedar Falls. Visitation for one hour prior to the service. Burial in Fairview Cemetery, Cedar Falls.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center.

Cemetery

Events

**Fairview
Cemetery**
12th and Division
Streets
Cedar Falls, IA,
50613

JUL Visitation 09:30AM - 10:30AM

21

St. Stephen the Witness Student Center
1019 W 23rd Street University of Northern Iowa Campus, Cedar
Falls, IA, US, 50613

JUL Mass of Christian Burial 10:30AM

21

St. Stephen the Witness Student Center
1019 W 23rd Street University of Northern Iowa Campus, Cedar
Falls, IA, US, 50613

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Richardson Funeral Service - July 17, 2020 at 10:45 AM



“ For several years I helped direct the Korean adoption family camp held in Cedar Falls. A highlight of the weekend was when Fred and Rebecca would arrive. Suddenly it was as if the pied piper, Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny all showed up simultaneously. He was the social work for many of the families at that KAMP and his pride in "his families" was evident. We'll miss you here on earth Fred. Pray for us and we'll do the same in return.
Mary Beth Wigginton

Mary Beth - July 24, 2020 at 09:31 AM



“ My good friend Frederico was a quiet fellow who was seldom outwardly expressive. At the services today the priest read a prayer that described that "there is a time to love etc. " Included in that list is "a time to dance". Now I don't know of Fred and Becky went to bars or dance clubs to "step the light fantastic", or even took a few waltz steps in the living room, but I can recall a few times when Fred was an amazing dancer!

At a picnic at Swiss Valley Park in Dubuque, or during any backyard parties, anyone tossing Fred a soccer ball would witness footwork that would challenge any Peruvian 18 year old kid. He could dance with that ball effortlessly and befuddle anyone who tried to take it away. His soccer ballet was just amazing, and even more so when we realized that he was 80 years old.

So Frederoco did find time to dance, and he was really good at it!

John Gross - July 21, 2020 at 04:41 PM



“ Though I had never met Fred, I knew of him over the years because my parents talked fondly of him. I was adopted through Catholic charities 50+ years ago and Fred was the case worker. My mom always said how wonderful and nice he was and would call to check up on them/me. My sister's nickname is Fred- named after Fred. Sorry for your loss Rebecca.



Lisa - June 11, 2020 at 12:21 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Fred's passing. We met him back in 1967 when we were approved to get our adopted daughter (Lisa)! He was assigned to us as our caseworker. We really liked him. Was so down to earth and never made us feel nervous or were we doing a good job. That 1st baby is a little scary. I remember him stopping by on Lisa's 1st birthday celebration and I had just made her birthday cake. We adopted a 2nd baby girl 2 1/2 years after Lisa. Then, 5 years later we became pregnant and had another girl! Fred was an awesome caseworker and am sure he enjoyed his work, observing couple's happiness in fulfilling their lives into families. We are so thankful to Catholic Charities for allowing us to start our family! We have been so bluest. Am glad your Fred was a part of that wonderful time. Again, so very sorry for your loss. May the Perpetual Light shine upon him! Bob & Judy Wirtz

Bob & Judy Wirtz - June 11, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ I worked with Fred when he was a social worker for Holt in the Midwest office. He always had a smile, and the families he worked with just loved him. My sympathies to Rebecca during this time of loss. When we had staff meetings in our office, Fred would bring snickerdoodle cookies that Rebecca made, and they were always a treat. Rest well, Fred - you will be missed.

Joyce A Wilks - June 04, 2020 at 10:35 AM



“ Fred was one of the most favorite social workers in Holt's Midwest branch office - kind, supportive, understanding were all words families and staff regularly used to describe Fred. We are so sorry for your loss,

Lisa Vertulfo
Holt International

Lisa Vertulfo - May 30, 2020 at 01:05 PM



“ I am so sad to hear of Fred's passing. I worked with Fred at Holt. He was such a kind man and a gentleman. He was always in good spirits and I have never met a man more in love with his wife. Rebecca, every time he spoke of you, it was evident that you were his one and only. May we all be so lucky.

Celeste Snodgrass - May 29, 2020 at 11:30 AM



“ So sad to here about Fred's death. I remember him well from the time I was Director of Holt Iowa's office back in the mid '80s. He always seemed to be in good spirits and was fun to be with. He was good hearted, had a good way with families and children, and was a good social worker. I highly respected him and his professionalism. It was a pleassure to work with him. Mike Noah (retired Holt Social Worker)

Mike Noah - May 28, 2020 at 07:20 PM



“ I was saddened to learn of the death of Fred Barrionuevo. He was our Adoption Social Worker when we added two daughters to our family through Holt International Children's Services. Our eldest daughter is now 30 years old, has a degree in Family Services from UNI. She works as a Dietary Aide at Bartels in Waverly, where she serves residents during the Coronavirus outbreak. Our younger daughter is now 24 and is a Senior at UNI with a major in Social Work. Her goal is to become an Adoption Social Worker herself (something I think Fred would certainly appreciate). She states that she wants to help children find “forever families” like she did.

Our family has been defined through our adoption experience, and Fred was certainly an integral part of that. He always seemed to have more confidence in our parenting skills than we did. I was always so pleased to see him at events in our community. He always asked about our girls and how they were doing, and showed a genuine interest in them.

Fred impacted many families through his service, and transformed the lives of countless children who needed parents. I am thankful for what he has done for us. I am sure many others are, as well. Thank you for sharing him, his skills and his service with us. We are grateful.

LB Holm - May 28, 2020 at 05:07 PM



“ The staff of Holt International purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Federico "Fred" Barrionuevo.



The staff of Holt International - May 28, 2020 at 02:38 PM



“ Fred worked with many adoptive families in Iowa to assess and support them during their adoption journey. Adoptive parents and adoptees would come up to Fred and his wife Rebecca when they were out in the community and fondly recall Fred’s role in bringing together their family. Fred had to submit a bio for Holt’s website, and Rebecca and I both remember one line that always made us smile: “Fred is good with kids, grandparents and puppies.” Fred was a warm and compassionate man that put people at ease and allowed them to quickly build a connection with him. It was a privilege to have worked with Fred and he will be deeply missed.

Susie Doig

Susie Doig - May 28, 2020 at 02:31 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Fred at Holt



Susie Doig - May 28, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Rebecca and family. May your many years of sharing memories help you through this very difficult time. I am sure this pandemic doesn't help matters either. Hope you can find comfort in family and friends too.

Mary Storch - May 28, 2020 at 12:48 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss Rebecca. You were a beautiful couple inside and out and it was a pleasure to know you both. God bless you and thanks to God for a beautiful life, well lived. Liz Soenen

Elizabeth Soenen - May 28, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ Our deepest sympathies to Fred’s family, would always love seeing Fred and Rebecca out to eat. First he was our social worker when we adopted Anna. May you Rest In Peace!

vicki - May 24, 2020 at 05:34 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Fred’s passing. My deepest sympathy to Rebecca and the rest of the family as well. Peace and prayers for you all!
Debi Schmidt

Debi - May 23, 2020 at 09:18 AM



“ I only met him at WBHS class reunions, but it was obvious he cared deeply for Rebecca. Prayers for you Rebecca.

Loretta Poindexter - May 22, 2020 at 06:24 PM



“ Barb Sandberg lit a candle in memory of Federico "Fred" Barrionuevo



Barb Sandberg - May 22, 2020 at 04:06 PM



“ I remember Fred's smile and laughter. He was always so kind, and it was obvious that he dearly loved Rebecca. It was a pleasure to have known him. Rest in peace, Fred.

Barb Sandberg - May 22, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to you, Rebecca, on the death of Fred. We shared so many conversations over the backyard fence for many years.
Michael and Linda Lewis

Linda Lewis - May 21, 2020 at 10:58 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to Rebecca and the entire family. Fred and Rebecca have been constant friends and gentle reminders of the power of community and peacefulness. Fred was one of the first people I met upon arriving at St. Stephen the Witness.

Paul Lee - May 21, 2020 at 10:13 AM