

A portrait of a man with curly grey hair, smiling, wearing a white shirt and a dark tie. The background is filled with green foliage and a red fruit hanging on the left.

A CELEBRATION
of the LIFE OF

LEO
PATRICK
LeBLANC
1951 – 2010



A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
LEO PATRICK LeBLANC

July 16, 1951 — December 25, 2010



Mary Star of The Sea Church
East Sunrise Highway
Freeport, Grand Bahama Island
The Bahamas



Saturday
January 8, 2011
11 a.m.



Officiating
Rev. Msgr. J. Ambrose MacKinnon, S.F.M.
Deacon Nixon Lindor

OBITUARY

Leo Patrick LeBlanc was born in Nassau, Bahamas on July 16, 1951, the only child of Theresa Cedric (nee Farrington) LeBlanc and Edgar LeBlanc, who fell in love and married in The Bahamas. Theresa and young Leo lived with Leo's grandmother at the Farrington family home on Shirley Street. Leo grew up side-by-side with his many cousins, sharing the longtime family home, and so close in age as to be more like brothers and sisters than cousins.

Leo attended St. Thomas Moore and Eastern Senior High school before launching out into the world as a natural and true entrepreneur. As a very young man, and on his favorite scooter, he traveled to various offices in Nassau repairing typewriters for the Armoury Company. After that, he worked at construction in Fort Lauderdale before moving to Freeport, where he first worked with Hamm Hamilton and Vernon Wells at Reef Construction. In 1983, he started his own company—Island Projects—at first focusing on installing sprinkler systems and fences before expanding into general contracting. He got his big break when Island Projects was hired as the local general labour contractor for the construction of the multi-million dollar Polymers International plant.

Leo continued expanding his company with work on the construction of The Westin and Sheraton at Our Lucaya. He built The Prop Club restaurant, The China Beach restaurant, and completed extensive renovations within the resort. He also worked with the Ginn Company at Old Bahama Bay in the West End of Grand Bahama to help launch their new development.

Leo also enjoyed investing in various real estate developments, and recently expanded his company offerings with the sale of exotic granite.

In the midst of building his businesses, he met and fell in love with Ina, who came to The Bahamas as a teacher from England. They married in 1993, and the couple was thrilled with the births of their daughters, Nicole in 1994, and Lian in 1995. Leo was a devoted husband and loving father whose adventurous spirit and open, loving heart helped create many family travel and social memories.

Leo had a lifelong love of the ocean and was an excellent deep sea diver and fisherman. He loved the water, fishing, free diving, and boating. Leo had his own unique flair that included an enthusiastic outlook on life and a natural curiosity and sense of wonder. He embraced life and his own individuality with confidence, warmth, and a rare sense of humor that made being in his company a true joy. He knew how to have a good time, was an exceptionally gracious host, and enjoyed fine wine and cigars. Leo made people around him feel comfortable because he was very comfortable with himself.

Leo's magnetic smile, genuine kindness, and upbeat nature, together with his bright laugh and compassion will be tremendously missed. He lived a full and wonderful life and made the world a happier place just by being in it.





ORDER OF SERVICE

ENTRANCE CEREMONY

Antiphon: I place all my trust in you, my God: All my hope is in your saving Word.
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.
People: O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.
Priest: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
People: But with you is found forgiveness: For this we revere you.
Priest: My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
People: My soul is longing for the Lord more than the watchman for daybreak.
Priest: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
People: Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.
Priest: To the Father Almighty give glory, give glory to His Son.
People: To the Spirit most holy, give praise, whose reign is Forever.
Antiphon: I place all my trust in you my God: All my hope is in your saving word.
Priest: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Priest: Let us pray.

OPENING HYMN *As The Deer*

*As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship You.*

*[Chorus]
You alone are my strength, my shield, to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my hearts desire and I long to worship You.*

*I want You more than gold and silver, only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy Giver and the apple of my eye.*

*You’re my friend and You are my brother, even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other, so much more than anything.*

CEREMONY OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Priest: Behold the light of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.
Priest: I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?
People: Yes, we believe that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Son of God, he who is to come into the world.
Priest: We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day,night comes when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Priest: Let us pray:
Almighty Father, you raised your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead so that he who believes him to be the light of the world may with him be brought to the fullness of life in his resurrection. rant, we ask you, that our brother, Leo, who has left this world might merit your forgiveness for the sins which he may have committed and inherit eternal life through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
People: Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READINGWisdom 3: 1 – 6
Read by Paula Farrington Fingland, Cousin

RESPONSEPsalm 120

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13
Read by Alex Proctor, Sister-in-Law

GOSPEL John 14: 1 – 6
Deacon Nixon Lindor

HOMILY *Deacon Nixon Lindor*

(Service continues on next page)

PETITION PRAYERS *Read by Greg Farrington, Cousin*

For Leo, may he enjoy peace and happiness in God’s eternal realm, We pray to the Lord
Response: Lord Hear our prayer

For All who mourn the death of Leo that God may wash away their tears and hold them in love and compassion. We pray to the Lord
Response: Lord Hear our prayer

For all in the world who will die today as a result of violence, abuse, accidents or war, We pray to the Lord
Response: Lord Hear our prayer

For all of us here today, that we never take our life and the lives of our loved ones for granted, We pray to the Lord
Response: Lord Hear our prayer

OUR FATHER

**PRAYER
FINAL BLESSING**

SOLO *Amazing Grace
Sung by Juliet Drackett*

CLOSING HYMN *To God Be The Glory*

*To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.*

Refrain

*O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.*

Refrain

*Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.*

Refrain

**Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,**

***And give Him the glory,
great things He has done.***

THE ROSE
beyond
THE WALL

Near shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed
in God’s free light,
Watered and fed by morning
Shedding its sweetness day and night.

As it grew and blossomed fair and tall,
Slowly rising to loftier height,
It came to a crevice in the wall,
Through which there shone a beam of light

Onward it crept with added strength,
With never a thought of fear or pride
it followed the light
through the crevice length
And unfolded itself on the other side.



Dear Ina, Nicole & Lian,

*We are thinking of you every day and wish
that we could come give you a hug.*

*Leo was a very special person whose love,
kindness, generosity and joy may soften
the heartache you are feeling now.*

*We hope this poem
may bring you comfort in time.*

Love always,

*Gillian, Anthony, Catherine & Thomas,
Paul & Alison*





Tribute

from Leo's Mother-in-Law, Nora Colclough

How do I put into words the shock and sadness I feel for you all with your dear husband and father leaving us so suddenly and when so young. The words I write do not seem adequate.

I first met Leo on his visit to England with Ina Christmas, 1990, and immediately liked him. Leo was a kind and loving husband and father, and I have always been proud to call him my son-in-law. He was a gentleman. Over the years with our visits to Grand Bahama, and Leo's visits to England, we became to know him much more. These visits were all too short. He would amaze and amuse us of his fun loving life in Nassau, together with his life long friend Mike. He told us of how he came to live in Grand Bahama, and it was here from humble beginnings and a lot of hard work, that he created his successful business. So many memories. After my husband died 5 years ago, I continued to visit, but alas, health reasons prevent me from so doing now. This saddens me very much. My heart is in pieces. Ina's twin sister Alex and her family are with her and I know they will be of great comfort and support.

At this moment in time Ina, Nicole, and Lian will feel that their world has come crashing down around them and you will be asking yourselves, WHY! We never know the answer. In the months ahead you will recall the wonderful memories you have of your time together, and believe me I know, they will be a great comfort to you. Memories are forever and can never be taken away from you.

Leo died doing what he liked to do so much, with his family, entertaining his friends. He was amazing. Leo was a wonderful person, and will be so sadly missed by Ina, Nicole and Lian, his English family, the many people of The Bahamas, and all who came into contact with him. We are all the better for having known him. Thank you for the 20 years we knew you.

God Bless, Leo.

Ina, Nicole and Lian, Be strong for each other. I am with you 24/7.

I love you always and forever.

MUM and NAN XXX

Tribute

from the Proctor family

Leo was The Bahamas for us. He seemed to embody everything the island was. He was fun and had a relaxed easy going way about him. When we were young Leo would take us out on the boat to one of the keys, spear a few fish, make a fire and all of a sudden there would be a gourmet meal prepared for everyone. He had everyone in awe of him, his way of doing things just seemed to be so fun and inspiring. He showed us so many new things and made us all want to be mini-adventurers just like him. He would tell us stories about shark attacks and treasure hunting, some made up for effect, some true but all had that “Leo stamp” on them that made them exciting and larger than life.

We were so happy to have Leo as our Uncle; we all shared so many happy times together with Ina and the girls. He was the most kind and generous man we have ever had the pleasure of knowing. He understood the importance of family and would always be happy for Ina and the girls to come to England in the summer so we could spend time together. He was the most amazing father the girls could ever wish for. We will always be thankful to Leo for so many things but most of all for Nicole and Lian. He and Ina created 2 of the most amazing young ladies we know and because of the generosity and grace of Leo and the energy of Ina, we have been able to have a close relationship with all of them, making the hundreds of miles which separate us seem like a few hundred meters.

When we think of the LeBlancs our hearts are so full of pride it feels like they might burst. They truly were a beautiful family. So special in so many ways. We will all miss him dearly but he will always be in our hearts. We love you guys xxx —
Megan, Sam, & Joanne



Tribute

from Ina's sister, Alex Proctor:

How do you capture a lifetime of memories, how do I explain what a lovely, generous, kind man Leo was? It is a difficult task, but an important one. Here are some of my treasured memories of Leo LeBlanc.

Leo came into our lives 20 years ago. Ina was scheduled to come home to England the summer of 1989, and I was so upset when she never arrived! She explained that she had fallen head over heels in love with Leo and he had wooed her into an adventurous boat trip to the Abacos... and that was the beginning of life with Leo.

We were so excited to meet this charming and charismatic guy Ina had told us so much about. Our opportunity came in 1990 when Leo and Ina came to England. Her description was perfect. Leo was welcomed and loved by all of us. He loved the farm, and was fascinated by the racing pigeons. He found it remarkable that they were transported to France and upon release could find their way home. He went to a traditional English pheasant shoot where he thoroughly enjoyed wading through muddy fields and sitting in a good old country pub drinking a pint with my ex husband Neville and friends. That was the start of a beautiful, fun-loving relationship we all had with Leo.

Leo loved life. Whether in England or The Bahamas, everyone he touched came away smiling.

One year Leo and Ina came to England and we all decided to go on a camping trip in Anglesey, Wales. It rained the whole week but Leo never moaned or complained the western UK he wore his wetsuit because in our bikinis.

My family and I learnt so much from Leo, especially when we visited The Bahamas. He opened our world with his adventures, his skills and his knowledge. We had lots of fun when Leo and Ina would take us on camping trips across the waters on his boat. We would stock the boat with food and booze. Leo would dive in the beautiful waters with his spear holding his breath and eventually come to the surface with huge lobsters. We were all in awe. We had everything from fine food to drunken escapades and we would all laugh until we cried. As my children grew, Leo really enjoyed their teenage years. Joanne fascinated him because of her unique sense of style and he was impressed she used to walk everywhere (she did not drive); he was so proud to walk with her. He paid compliments to Megan, always saying what a beautiful girl she was. He watched Sam grow into a fine young man. Leo was always supportive of Ina coming and going to England. He was generous with his time and love, always wanting everyone to be happy, enjoying life.

The biggest joy for Ina and Leo was the arrival of their beautiful girls. He was so very proud. I should have arrived for Nicole's birth but missed it because she decided to arrive three weeks early. Leo called me daily to ask for advice and chat about Nicole's progress until I arrived.

Leo and his mother Theresa came to England for the birth of Lian. Leo and I laughed when we saw this little scrawny blue scrap come into the world. He said to me “Alex, do you really think that is mine?” We laughed so much because she is the image of him.

Leo was a wonderful husband and father to his beautiful daughters. He took great pride in his girls. He was patient with them, teaching them everything he knew. I was always so proud to be his sister-in-law and always proud to be the Aunty to his beautiful children.

He will be sorely missed by his family and everyone else he met in his life.



Tribute

From Leo's Cousin, Chris Farrington

Leo I will never forget you and the adventures we shared. The diving, the treasure hunting, the sailing, the flying, the biking and much more. Words cannot describe how heavy my heart is at this moment. I would like Ina and the girls to know that my prayers are with them and I know that Leo is at peace. We have the wonderful memories of a great friend, husband and father to keep in our hearts forever. I will miss you Leo, you were like a brother to me. Your cousin, Chris.

From Leo's Cousin, Greg Farrington:

It's hard for me to accept that Leo has passed on.

We were cousins but we were more like brothers growing up together from early childhood.

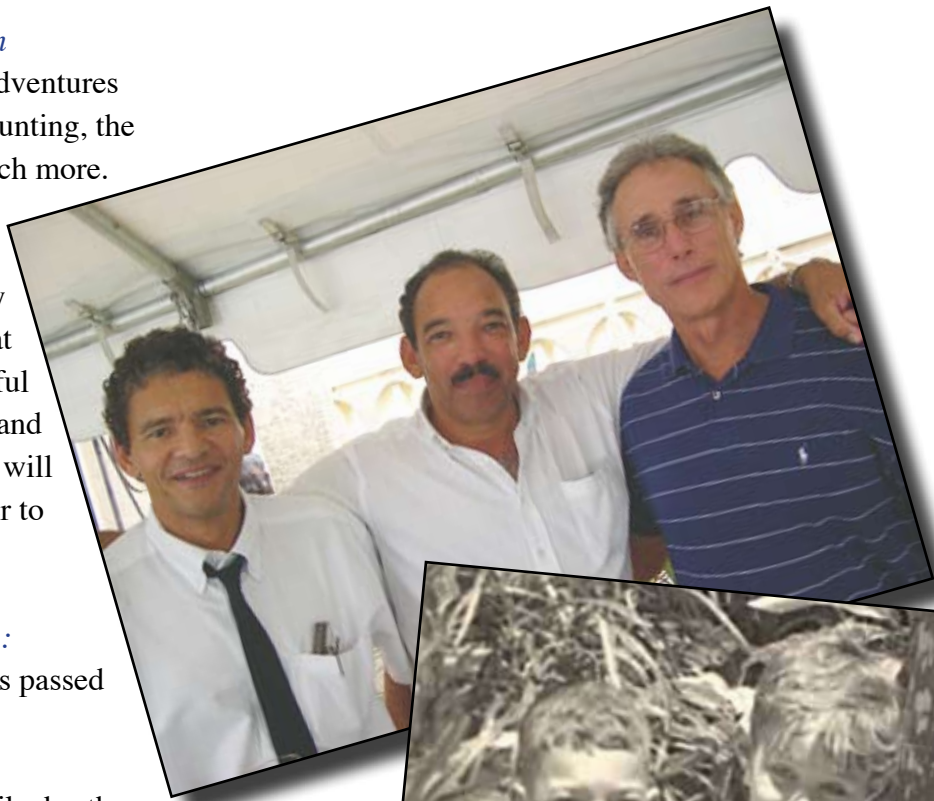
I will miss Leo. I will miss the "happy to see you" smile. I will miss the adventurous guy who always had something going on.

A part of my past has been chipped away.

Godspeed my brother, until we meet again,
Greg

From Leo's Cousin, Paula Fingland:

Leo, you were always the most gracious and free, uncomplicated and light-hearted person I've known, and I will miss watching you dance: so care-free, and full of life and energy. Wherever you are, if there is a wherever, I know you're still enjoying yourself. "Life is for living" I can almost hear you say—no complaints and no griping. My prayer for Ina and your girls, Nicole & Lian, is that they will one day be able to put together most of the pieces of their broken hearts and live joyfully as you did. You keep on going, Leo, but know that you will be truly missed.



Tribute

From Leo's cousin, Chris Farrington

Leo was an avid motor bike rider and a good rider as well. He had the knack of avoiding accidents, but sometimes he didn't. He also liked to build fish ponds which Granny "Lulie" hated as it attracted mosquitoes. While working as a business machine technician at the Armoury Co. on Bay Street, after work in his spare time, Leo built his first building—a garage alongside the old house in Centerville. A few years later Leo moved to Florida where he worked along with a developer and learned the trade of building. After Granny "Lulie" passed away, Aunt Theresa and Leo moved to Freeport where Leo started working with the Warren Reef Construction Co. The owner took a great liking to Leo and taught him all of the "ins and outs" of the business. A short time later Leo went on his own and purchased a fencing company, and did all sorts of odd jobs. He also had the "gift of the gab" and all he needed was an interview with the client and he got the job. Leo also invested in rental income properties, most of them in need of repair which he quickly dealt with. This was one of the things that gave Leo the cash flow he needed to do his other projects and invest in other areas. His company was aptly named "Island Projects".

Leo was also a lover of the water. He liked to scuba dive, spear fish, and just about anything to do with the water. Once when we were in our early teens, my Father had bought me a small dinghy with a "Seagull" outboard to "ply" up and down the Nassau Harbour. One of Daddy's rules was never to go on the outside of Paradise Island. One day I invited Leo to go out with me and he asked me to go through the canal out to the beach, the canal ran from the harbour to the beach on the North side. Eventually Leo convinced me (saying Daddy would never know) and sure as fate, soon as we got on the outside, a heavy squall hit us. The rain was ice cold and the sea was rougher than I had ever seen it before. I was fighting to keep the boat afloat by bailing with a small tin can as fast as my arm could move. There was moment when I looked up and saw Leo wringing his towel over his head from the warm sea water that he was dipping from over the side of the boat. I immediately started to cry as I thought we were surely doomed. Leo loved to tell this story and thought it was the funniest thing he had ever seen, me bailing with one hand, steering the boat with the other and crying all at the same time.

As we got older, we got involved in Treasure Hunting. We traveled all over the Bahamas seeking treasure on land and under the water. All we needed was to hear a story from a fisherman that he had spotted a wreck, and after planning the expedition down to a "T", off we went. We were able to see many of the Islands but found little treasure. Leo met Ina and brought her to Green Turtle Cay on a small runabout when they first met. Aunt Theresa was so worried that she kept calling us every hour to see if Leo had arrived. When it started to get late in the afternoon, I too got worried and asked a friend with a plane to go up and see if we could spot them. Sure enough Leo and Ina were slowly cruising along without a care in the world and enjoying the trip. I flew the plane down low over them and flashed the landing lights and cycled the gear up and down a couple of times to let them know it was me. When they arrived, Leo had no idea it was me in the plane but thought it was somebody trying to make a drug drop! Needless to say everyone was upset that he had not called on the radio, but perhaps he was not close enough. There were no cell phones in those days.

After Leo and Ina married and had the girls (Nicole and Lian), Leo would bring the family over to Green Turtle Cay just about every summer. I enjoyed these times and it was good company for Julie and me. Leo liked Green Turtle Cay and brought his brother and sister over to stay on one occasion when they were visiting him.

I did more things together with Leo than I can write about, but these are a few of the ones that stood out in my memories. We did not find treasure, but we found friendship, we found adventure, we found life, and we enjoyed it all.





ISLAND PROJECTS TEAM 2007

our *amazing* Dad we *love* you



from Nicole

Dad,

Things I will miss about you:

- Your laugh
- Your hugs and kisses
- Your funny emails you send me about VERY random things
- going jogging with you on the beach and swimming
- you nagging me about exercise
- Your random outbursts of Karate in the midst of lecturing me on exercise ("When I was your age, I had a six-pack!!, HYAH!")
- You trying to get me to eat bee pollen with my cereal (ew).
- You trying to get me to go to work with you (sorry I never did that enough)
- You playing Queen, Janis Joplin, and Santana in the car and singing so loud to the songs (and swerving the car to the music)
- Your awesome dance moves!
- You cutting off the internet at 10 o'clock to make sure I went to sleep
- Your version of waking me up for school (climbing into bed with me and falling asleep yourself)
- You sitting in the corner of the room on the computer playing poker on Facebook
- Your stories about your youth (Treasure hunting, diving, when you lived in Florida)
- The way you always pulled back the skin on your face to see what you would look like with a face lift (haha!)
- When you would take me to Florida for trips to the doctor and we would drive to places you used to live near the airport and then we would watch the planes take off
- When we would go to the Cheesecake Factory and you would make me split a piece of cake with you
- You trying to understand my English assignments
- Your generous, laid-back personality
- Your pancakes on Sunday morning
- You saving me articles to read from *Time Magazine*

Dad, If I wrote every single thing that I am going to miss about you then the list would go on forever... I love you so much and I can't believe you are gone. However, first 16 years of my life with you were amazing, you were such a brilliant father and I was so lucky to have a dad like that! I have learned so much from you, and you will be missed greatly, more than anyone could ever know. I don't want to say goodbye, I hate this so much so I will try to concentrate on the amazing memories we have, all the trips our Family went on, and all the things we used to do together. I love you so much! — Nicole



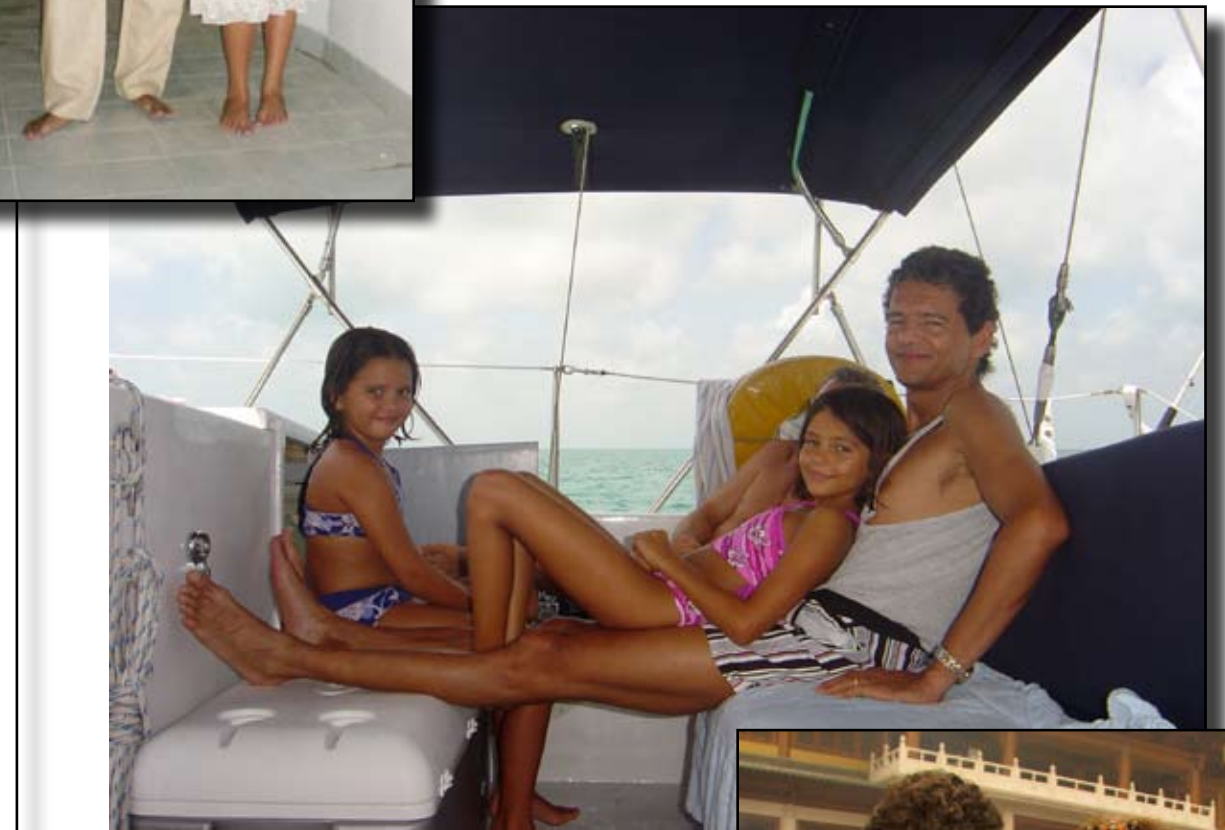
For such a beautiful, caring, amazing father, there is so much to say. No one could ask for a better dad. You taught me so much, and you always had an expression for everything. You showed me and taught me how to be strong, to never panic, and words cannot describe how much I will miss you. I will never understand why life takes the best early, but maybe I will find an answer soon. But life still is a beautiful journey, and sometimes you just have to let it be.

from Lian



thank you

The family sends heartfelt thanks to everyone in the community who have sent so many loving thoughts and prayers, generous kindnesses, care, condolences, and encouragement during this very difficult time. Your support is deeply appreciated.





Lincoln Ave

Columbia

