



# JAVIER BRAY

MAR 29, 1928 - AUG 7, 2017



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# JAVIER BRAY

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**B**ray, Javier, 89, died peacefully at home in Miami where he has been a resident for 43 years. Born in Battlecreek , Michigan, he was taken to Matanzas, Cuba to be raised in his widowed mother's loving family. He graduated from Matanzas Academia and came to the United States to join the Army in 1942, serving for four years and was honorably discharged in 1946. He used the G.I. Bill and attended the University of Michigan where her earned a B.A. in Latin American Studies and an M.A. in Political Science. Following graduation, Bray moved to New York, worked briefly for Dunn and Bradstreet in the Latin American Division and personally vowed never to work where he had to punch a time clock again. He kept that vow.

Bray became an interpreter working in Washington, D.C. for the Foreign Visitors Bureau. He went to Harvard University to join a training program to sponsor rural development projects in Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador. After feeling isolated from the political turmoil and social change occurring in the United States he moved his family from Latin America to Amherst, Massachusetts where he spent two years of post-graduate study in the University of Massachusetts School of Education

Totally committed to multicultural education, Bray settled in Miami in 1974.

He was a founding director of the Spanish American League Against Discrimination becoming the first President of SALAD in 1974, an organization then dedicated to assist communication between the exile Cuban Community and the larger Miami-Dade County community.assisting Cubans to make the difficult transition from Exile to refugee with the goal of achieving permanent residency and ultimately, citizenship.

A community organizer and educator, Bray taught Translation/Interpretation at FIU, worked for six years as the executive Assistant to Dade County



Public Schools Board Member, Paul Cejas and managed and opened three alternative schools for the Cuban National Council successfully focusing his attention on drop-out prevention.

An avid sailor and champion dominoes player, he pursued both enthusiastically. Well into his seventies, he mastered the ability to hoist his boat's mast without assistance often to the applause of younger men and women who gathered to watch him

In addition to his creation and leadership of SALAD, Bray served as a member of the Board of Directors, American Civil Liberties Union. Miami Chapter. His intellectual gifts, sparkling good humor and devotion to friends and family earned him the love and respect of a large community well-served by his efforts.

He is survived by his Wife, Brenda B. Shapiro, his two daughters, Ingrid Biancone (Michael) and Cristina Disney, (Andrew), ten grandchildren many neices, nephews and cousins, friends and followers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to SALAD, the ACLU and the community organization of your choice.

A memorial celebration of his unique life is being planned for December.

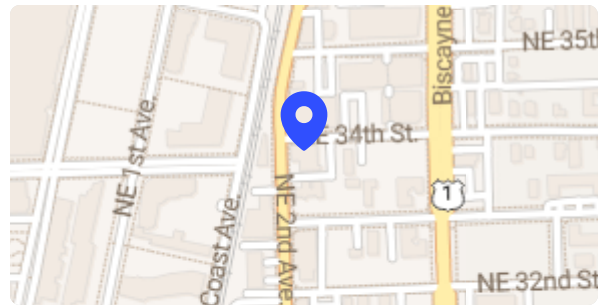


## Cemetery Details



**Van Orsdel Crematory**

3333 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami FL 33137





## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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