



Marcos "Zap" Zapata

APR 16, 1959 - AUG 25, 2025



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Marcos "Zap" Zapata

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Marcos A. "Zap" Zapata
April 16, 1959 – August 25, 2025

At 11:42 a.m. on Monday, August 25, 2025, Marcos A. Zapata—known to all simply as “Zap”—completed his mission on Earth and boldly went where no one has gone before.

Born in New York City to Sol and Adolfo Zapata, Zap spent much of his childhood in the Panama Canal Zone, where he ruled the roost as the apple of his mother’s eye. At 18, he set a course back to the United States and to Miami, where he began his journey at the University of Miami. Though books and academics were not his primary focus, Zap discovered his true calling in the vibrant orbit of campus life. He joined the bowling team, took a job at the University Center, and found his lifelong love for the U.

What began as a student adventure grew into a 41-year voyage of service. Zap dedicated his career to enhancing the college experience for generations of students, organizations, and colleagues. From the early days of the University Center to the thriving Student Center Complex of today, his fingerprints are etched into the very fabric of campus history.

Those who knew him will remember his cheerful “yello, yello” greeting, his willingness to stay until the mission was complete, and his genuine care for all crew members of our Cane family. Ever the dependable teammate, Zap exemplified the spirit of service and camaraderie, always ready with encouragement, support, and his warm smile.

With 66 orbits around the sun, Zap touched countless lives across multiple generations. His legacy is one of dedication, joy, and unwavering loyalty to the University of Miami community. Though his starship has now left this world, the light he shared continues to shine in the hearts of all who knew him.



Obituary

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May God bless him and welcome him home. Farewell, dear friend—may you rest in peace among the stars.



Events

Marcos "Zap" Zapata

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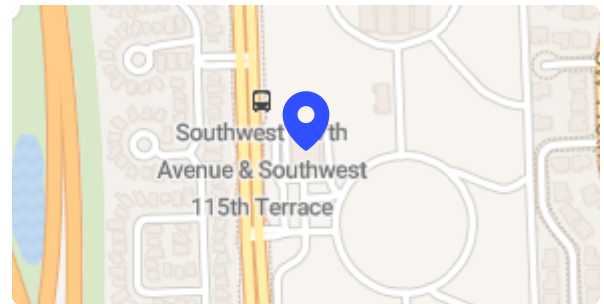
Graveside Service

 **Wednesday**, September 3, 2025

 1:00 PM ET

 **Caballero Rivero Woodlawn South & Woodlawn Park Cemetery South**

11655 SW 117th Ave, Miami FL 33186





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marcos.

September 2 at 1:19 PM



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Zapata family.

September 2 at 1:19 PM



Peter C. planted a grove of 5 Memorial Trees in honor of Marcos.

September 2 at 12:26 PM



Peter Christiaans posted:

Zap will be missed enormously. He had such a lasting impact on so many people during his 41 years at UM and was a true Miami Hurricane. Participation in student activities and student organizations was a critical part of the development and growth of so many of us during our college years, and Zap was a catalyst for that. Whether it was a small group meeting or multi-week event that involved hundreds of students, Zap was always there with his trademark "yello" greeting to help you out and to make the event a success. Godspeed and Rest in Peace, Zap.

September 2 at 12:13 PM



Everett Price posted:

Zap, always great observation, perspective and humor. Zap made the trying times bearable. Great run my friend.

September 1 at 9:41 PM



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Everett Price posted:

Always a great laugh at everything. Zap you made it bearable when it was unbearable. Kept it real with honest perspective and conversation. Great run my friend. Everett Price

September 1 at 9:39 PM



John Mastrey '10 sent an Arrive in Style to the Zapata family.



August 31 at 10:05 AM



Daniel Westbrook posted:

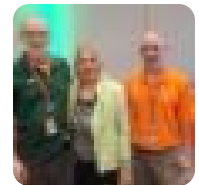
I worked with "Zap" for 30 years and we became good friends over the years. He learned to play contract bridge, and was usually my partner. Bridge is not an easy game, but Zap picked it up quickly and showed a very keen mind for the complications and the strategy involved. We sometimes played together in local games and even attended some tournaments. But maybe our most fun was when we had informal games at home, with other friends from the U. What fun to joke around and give each other a hard time – as buddies will do -- about a missed play or a bad bid! But we also got to admire each other's analysis and thoughtfulness when things went well, and none more so than Zap. He was a smart guy, fun to be with, and made so many friends over the years. All of us are better for have known him, and in bridge terms, he was a "grand slam" kind of guy. Fond memories, I'll miss him. -- Dan Westbrook

August 31 at 8:49 AM



Lazaro Rodriguez shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

A happy memory of Zap and I sharing a reunion with a former co-worker.



August 29 at 8:46 PM



Media

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Lazaro Rodriguez shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 29 at 8:46 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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