

OBITUARY/BUILDING AND SAFETY



Armando J. Flores

# Armando Flores: An Appreciation

**Armando J. Flores passes away after more than 40 years of City service.**

generous to the church and his family, selflessly giving to both without question.

As generous and loving as Armando was, he could also be just as stubborn and contentious, which his sisters can certainly attest to. He would share stories about how he and his mother would “get into it” and she would tell him, “eres Don Contra.”

Armando loved his five nephews from his two sisters Lupe and Maria Elena. Any chance he got, he would dote on them, who he treated more as sons than nephews, enjoying their typical boy antics and many outings to Huntington Beach and camping in Yosemite and Pio Pico. Armando was a relentless teaser and practical

joker, and his nephews weren't immune to his shenanigans.

He never tired of telling stories about the “good ole days” and how he was raised in a loving home. The Flores lived modestly but managed to enjoy life as a family, joining long-time family friends on vacations and weekend outings and the numerous parties held throughout the years.

Armando started his education at Custer Elementary School and Virgil Jr. High School. He was in the band and played the violin. He attended Belmont High School, was on the swim team and graduated with the class of 1960. His dream was some day to get out of “the old neighborhood.”

In 1963 he began working as an Assistant Draftsman for Building and Safety, but was side tracked for two years serving in the Army from 1964 - 66. During his stint in the Army, he was stationed mainly in Germany.

Upon his discharge, Armando returned to live in Los Angeles and went back to work for the City. He rejoined its employ as a Cartographer in May 1966.

He soon realized that getting out of the old neighborhood was going to take more than a full-time job and decided to return to school. Using the funds from his GI Bill, he enrolled at Cal State L.A. and took evening classes while continuing to work for the City during the day.

Armando finally realized his dream of being a college graduate in December 1970 earning a Bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. He and his mother celebrated with champagne.

One of his dreams was realized when he bought his Big Bear cabin. He loved spending time there and was always inviting his family and friends to spend time with him, which they did and the party was on.

He continued his career with the City, finally retiring in 2002 with more than 40 years of service. He was commended on several occasions during his career for accumulating 800 hours of unused sick time. He also received many other commendations and accolades for his exemplary work and work ethic. Many of his associates and contacts were saddened by his retirement and said that things wouldn't be the same without him.

Armando married late in life at the age of 50. On Aug. 8, 1992 he left his bachelor life behind and became a husband and father

to a teenage girl. There were a few chaotic moments while everyone was settling into their new roles as husband, wife and step-daughter. It was possibly more traumatic for Armando, considering he was once again surrounded by women, especially women who had plans to make his long-time bachelor pad a comfortable home. Gone went the Raider room, shag carpeting and avocado green and liver metallic wallpaper.

With much prodding and planning by his wife, Armando enjoyed traveling with his new family. Armando and Jennie enjoyed traveling domestically and to Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the Caribbean. They had planned to travel to Spain, but due to failing healthy he wasn't able to make it.

Shortly before his health affected his ability to travel, he was able to attend the high school graduations of his two grandnieces and two grandnephews.

Some of you may have known Armando by different names such as Armand-Deedee, Tio Nino, Compadre, Mando, the perfect brother, or Flores. However you may have known him, just know the he is now at peace and can be known as the Don Contra of Heaven.

There will no longer be any bird-dogging by his wife and sisters about what he could and could not eat. Certainly there will be Heineken on tap, a football game on TV or channel surfing to his heart's content and plenty of his favorite salty foods on the menu.

For his retirement, he was given a license plate holder that read, “Finally retired but not from the wife.” Well Flores, you have finally retired from the wife. Rest in peace and go Raiders!

Story and photo courtesy the Flores family

Armando Flores, longtime Building and Safety employee, husband, father and friend, died Oct. 15. He was 70.

The following is a eulogy from his family.

Our beloved husband, stepfather, brother, uncle, friend, loyal Raider fan and expert piñata maker has passed away.

Armando was born May 10, 1942 in Los Angeles to Estela and Armando Flores. He was the youngest of three siblings and the only boy amongst his sisters Lupe and Maria Elena.

Armando was a patriotic citizen who faithfully donated to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He was always ready to help anyone who requested his assistance. He was

## SEEN Around Town



By Jennifer Shackelford  
Club Application Coordinator

### Vacation Edition, Part 2

No trip to Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco is complete, in my opinion, without a stop at the delightfully nostalgic Musee Mecanique. Considered one of the best old-school arcades, it is home to over 300 mechanical machines including coin-operated fortune tellers, video games, love testers, peep shows, photo booths, automated dioramas and music boxes. All are coin operated and some of them are very old indeed. It is one of the largest privately owned collections of its kind.

The owner, Ed Zelinsky began collecting at age 11 and his games were exhibited in the 1920s at Playland. When Playland closed, the museum moved into the basement of Cliff House and remained there until 2002 when Cliff House underwent renovations. Under the watchful eye of his son Dan Zelinsky, the museum moved to Fisherman's Wharf. This was supposed to be temporary but the museum has remained there even though renovations were completed in 2004.

This place is really a great way to spend an

afternoon. With all the different games available, it's a wonderful way to introduce your kids to the games of a by-gone era and to relive a little of it yourself. I'm happy to say that I still rock at Pong! But I couldn't look directly at Laughing Sal. She is one creepy puppet!

Musee Mecanique is located at Pier 45 Shed A at the end of Taylor Street just past the iconic Fisherman's Wharf sign. The museum is free to enter but all of the machines rely on your coins. Have fun!



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