



Mario Francisco Espino

OCT 1, 1987 - SEP 30, 2020



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HAWAIIAN
MEMORIAL PARK MORTUARY
AT VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

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Mario Francisco Espino

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Mario Francisco Espino, a Navy Air Crewman, avid waterman, and local boy of Kailua, Hawaii, passed unexpectedly on September 30, 2020 during a morning run through Kailua, one day before his 33rd birthday. He was born October 01, 1987 in El Paso Texas. Mario will be sorely missed by his wife Riana, his sister Gaby, his parents Thomas and Elizabeth Vinigas, Mario Sr and Lulu Espino, and his entire circle of life-long friends. Mario attended Kainalu Elementary, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School and Church, where he was an active parishioner for 21 years, an alter server, Eucharistic minister, and a Bible study leader. While enrolled at Kalaheo High School, Mario was active in NJROTC, competed in inter-island triathlons and endurance challenges, and played for the school's soccer team. Mario also coached Gaby's soccer teams and was a lifeguard in Waikiki. He received his Associates degree at Windward Community College while enlisted in the Navy Reserve. Most recently, Mario was full time support as an AWF2 for VR-51 Wingjammers at Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, which allowed him the opportunity to explore the world and provided him with an extended Navy family that he cherished. Mario danced hula for Kupuna Alice Pulu`elo Naipo Park, performing at the



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International

Marketplace, Waikiki Shell, Disneyland, and various ceremonies around Oahu. To say that

Mario was active would be an understatement. He was constantly pushing himself to the limit

and chose to live life to the fullest. Getting him to sit down or not do a backflip the minute his

feet touched the sand was a challenge. Throughout his life he played baseball, football,

soccer, and golf. He was a talented equestrian and martial artist, and excelled at anything

physical, including his most recent hobbies - snowboarding and spearfishing. Mario paddled

for various canoe clubs on the Windward side and was an avid surfer and body boarder at his

two favorite spots, Sandy's and Pyramid Rock.

Mario was also a talented photographer. His time in the water was split equally above and

below the waves, camera in hand, photographing barrels. He and Riana grew their love for

each other, the ocean, and photography, and shared their passion with others when they

founded "Ocean Love Photography".

Mario met the love of his life in early 2015. He married Riana on May 05, 2018, and dubbed

the day "Cinco de Espino". Mario and Riana said their vows under a stunning sunset, surrounded by loved ones. They spent their life together traveling the world, sharing their

passions, laughing, exploring the ocean, and spoiling their two French bulldogs.

It's difficult to speak about Mario without using the words kind, genuine, considerate, and



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inspirational. He exemplified the “Spirit of Aloha” through his love for the island, its people, and his devotion to his wife, family, God and friends. Mario’s love of the ocean was only surpassed by the love and aloha he spread to anyone who had the privilege of meeting him.

Mario loved bringing everyone together; he was the glue that connected us all. His main priority was always to help others; he never let angry words affect him and never held grudges. Mario brightened any room he stepped into, lifting people’s spirits with his good

humor and jokes. He was a mentor to those with dependency issues, enriching their lives and encouraging them to make better decisions for themselves and their loved ones.

The light in Mario could be seen and felt by anyone lucky enough to know him. Mario had a way of connecting with others and an ability to soften even the most guarded heart. If we could learn from his examples of kindness, compassion, and generosity, our world would be a brighter and more loving place. In his honor, we should always remember to laugh often, to not take life too seriously, to care for others, to spread aloha, and to enjoy the ocean and all life has to offer.

On the 17th of October, a private service will be held for Mario at Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, followed by a paddle out and scattering of his ashes.




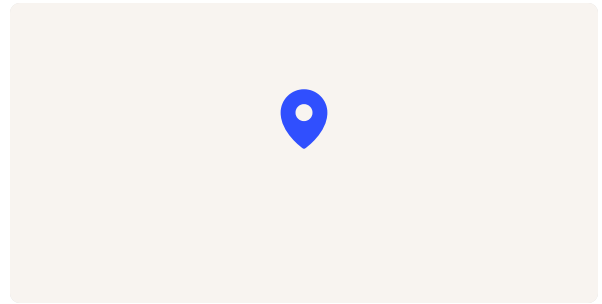
Events

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Cemetery Details

 **None**
HI





Tribute Wall

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Kathleen Rippel posted:

We are deeply saddened to hear about Mario's passing. He was such a nice, kind young man and he will missed by so many. Our hearts go out to his family, wife and friends. Ray and Kathleen Rippel

November 10 at 1:04 AM



Mike And Karen Case lit a candle in honor of Mario.

We will always remember our "Marito" when he thought he had Santa and Mrs Claus figured out and the sweetest little boy at a "tea" at neighbors in El Paso. Such a wonderful young man he grew to be! Our love and prayers go to Riana, Liz and Thomas, Mario and Lulu, and our Gaby!!! We love you! Tio Mike and Auntie Karen Case



October 18 at 11:19 PM



Barry Compagnoni posted:

Our deepest and most sincere condolences from the Compagnoni ohana.

October 16 at 7:01 AM



Fang Gao posted:

From one AW to another, you flew to heaven with your Wings of Gold. RIP Mario. The aircrew community will miss you forever.- AWF2 Gao, USN

October 16 at 5:52 AM



Gaby Espino shared an album called **Memories Album.**



October 15 at 11:41 AM



Cullen Sylvesrte'S Mother Judi Greenberg October 16 at 7:00 AM

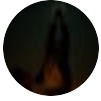
So sorry for your loss. On reading his obituary, what a remarkable man and a great person. I'm sure he will be truly missed



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Maia Lonergan posted:

So sorry for this loss, grew up with Mario, I am completely shocked. I hope to make the memorial service remotely. His spirit is so great, what a beautiful being. Please reach out for anything! FB @Maia Lonergan or email: thereoncewasagirl30@gmail.com Blessings, Peace, & so much LoveMaia Lonergan

October 15 at 10:55 AM



David C. posted:

I didn't know him. But the obituary in the newspaper was deeply moving and I felt I knew him. Thank you for sharing that wonderful story of his life.

October 15 at 9:17 AM



Charlene Hanson sent a virtual gift in honor of Mario.

Sending comfort and prayers to all of Mario's family.

October 10 at 1:41 AM





Media

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Gaby Espino shared 2 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

October 15 at 11:41 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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