

Roberto Omar Cabello- Argandoña

1942 - 2021



November 12, 1942 - October 24, 2021

Roberto Omar Cabello-Argandoña, 78, passed away at his home in Moorpark, California on October 24, 2021. He was renowned for his knowledge of history, art and current events; a gregarious nature; and a booming, infectious laugh. He is survived by his loving wife, Myriam Patricia Cabello Quiroga; daughters Drs. Giselle Cabello Namazie and Andrea Cabello Cise; and grandchildren Yasmeen Eliana Namazie, Leyla Maryam Namazie, and John Ander Cise. Born in Antofagasta, Chile to Arturo and Amanda Cabello-Argandoña, he attended Jesuit boarding schools, learning fluent Latin along with a lifelong appreciation of education and hard work. He completed law school at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago but abandoned his career in 1967 when the love of his life emigrated to Los Angeles. He married her by proxy while still residing in Chile rather than lose her and later joined her to start their own family. By washing cars, bagging groceries, and retail clerking, he paid his way through Los Angeles City College; UCLA, earning a bachelors in Political Science and later dual masters in Business Administration and Library Science; and USC, pursuing a PhD in Urban Studies. He had a decades long library career, starting at UCLA Chicano Studies Research Library, then the Los Angeles Public Library, and later at the statewide level as an administrator in the California Library System. While living in Northern California he taught public middle school for several years. Early on he recognized an unmet demand for books written for and by a growing Spanish-speaking population and he ventured solo into book publishing. As the beloved Editor Emeritus and founder of Floricanto Press and Inter-American Development, he dedicated his career to publishing and promoting bilingual and Latinex artists and literature. Publications covered a diverse selection, curated from Spain, Latin America and the USA, including children's books, histories, cookbooks, Sephardic and Crypto-Judaic novels, poetry, and more. He passed on a love of learning, reading and service to his students, children and grandchildren. His children are both physicians. His oldest grandchild Yasmeen graduated from the prestigious Swarthmore College and, following in "Wello's" footsteps, pursues a degree in Library and Information Sciences. Their sister Leyla is graduating from Cal Berkeley with a degree in Geophysics and has her sights set on academia and research. His youngest grandchild, John Ander, is one year old and is discovering the world with a curiosity that made his grandfather so proud! During his battle with metastatic cancer, his raison d'etre remained the advancement of knowledge. "Pochito", as he was fondly named by his wife "Pochita", continued publishing and volunteered for research studies at UCLA, voicing the hope that his sacrifice would help others. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial gift to advance cancer research under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Goldman at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. Donations may be directed to: UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation, Attn: Diana Howard, 8-950 Factor Bldg, Box 951780, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1780. Or by calling (310) 206-0675. Additionally, gifts can be made online at www.cancer.ucla.edu/donate. Please note in the Comments field that your gift is in memory of Roberto Cabello-Argandoña. A private funeral service will be held on November 16, 2021 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills, CA.

