

County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisorial District Two
Supervisor George Shirakawa



BOS2-040709-2

DATE: April 7, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:

Handwritten signature of George Shirakawa, with the initials "AFS" written to the right.

George Shirakawa
Supervisor, District 2

SUBJECT: A DEDICATION IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF REYNALDO FLORES

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Please dedicate the April 7, 2009 Board of Supervisor meeting in honor and memory of Reynaldo Flores.

BACKGROUND

Reynaldo James Flores passed away on March 6, 2009 after a sudden illness related to chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Rey is survived by his wife of 37 years, Allison Slater Flores. Since 2004, Rey has lovingly cared for Allison who lives with advanced dementia. His daughter Andrea Flores Shelton, son-in-law Matt Shelton, and two beloved grandsons, Mateo and Gabriel will miss his guidance, love, and devotion.

Rey was born in the Village of Tularosa, New Mexico on May 9, 1934 to Ramon and Rumalda Flores, he was the youngest of 10 children. He left his beloved 'Tulie' at the age of 13 and took a bus to Santa Barbara, California to join St. Anthony's Seminary. His studies took him throughout Europe where he became fluent in several languages including Latin, Flemish, and German. He was ordained as a Franciscan priest in the Order of Friars Minor (OFM), Province of St. Barbara in 1959. He arrived in San Jose in 1961 and became Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in the beloved Mayfair neighborhood of East San Jose and also staffed the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Spanish-speaking division. He helped to establish the Franciscan School of Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. One of his most memorable experiences was his training in the Cursillo Movement where he trained others to become effective leaders. He fondly remembers the Cursillo that he directed with Cesar Chavez in Reedley, California. Upon his request, the Pope released him from his formal duties as a priest and he married Allison Slater in 1972. He went on to work for Center for Employment Training (CET) and then Prudential Insurance Company, where

he became the first Spanish-speaking agent in San Jose.

Rey was a dedicated parishoner and lay leader of St. John Vianney Church in the Alum Rock neighborhood of San Jose. He was involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation, quinceñera preparation, choir, and ministry education for lecturers and eucharistic ministers. St. John Vianney Parish has created the Rey Flores Memorial Fund to support lay ministry leadership development.

He was known by many as Father Reynaldo, Rey, Jakie, or Coby. But, he was 'Dad' to only one, Andrea and 'Abuelito' to his grandsons. To all, he provided unconditional love and non-judgmental wisdom and compassion. He will be remembered as a giving man with a beautiful singing voice who took every opportunity as a teaching moment.