



Francisco Duarte Hernandez

March 20, 1962 - October 19, 2025

Francisco Duarte, 63, of Fresno, California, passed away peacefully on October 19, 2025, surrounded by his wife and two daughters.

Born in Mexico, Francisco's life was defined by courage, perseverance, and an unshakable belief in the American dream. He immigrated to the United States determined to build a better life, not only for himself, but for those he loved. In Fresno, he laid the foundation for a legacy of both hard work and heartfelt artistry.

Francisco began his career as a tire technician and, through resilience and relentless effort, became the proud owner of Duarte's Tire Service, serving the Greater Central Valley community of Southwest Fresno. His shop was more than a business, it was an extension of his heart. He treated every customer like family, always ready with his trademark million-dollar smile and a helping hand for anyone in need.

In 1981, Francisco met and married Maria, his lifelong partner and muse. Their bond was forged through their shared love of music and faith. Together, they found harmony both in song and in life, raising their eldest daughter, Luciana, while nurturing their passion for music through their involvement in St. Alfonso's Catholic Church. Later, they welcomed their second daughter, Crissy, completing the family that would become the center of Francisco's

world.

While he built his business by day, Francisco's nights were often filled with melody and lyric. Known affectionately as "El Compositor de Los Pobres" — The Composer of the Poor — he poured his soul into writing songs that spoke to the struggles and dreams of ordinary people. His work as a songwriter and composer included collaborations with Los Originales de San Juan, most notably contributing to the songs "La Encontré Llorando," "El Gasto," "Ratera de Mi Amor."

Francisco's story began humbly. As a young boy of nine, he crafted and sold soccer balls on the streets of Mexico to help support his family. That early spark of ingenuity and compassion would define his life. He learned the value of giving, even when he had little to give, and that spirit of generosity followed him always.

Those who knew Francisco remember him for his resilience, warmth, and generosity beyond measure. He gave freely of his time, his talent, and his heart to family, friends, and strangers alike. His life was one of quiet triumphs and unshakable faith, lived with purpose and love.

Francisco is survived by his wife Maria, his daughters Luciana and Crissy, five grandchildren Bethany, Matthew, Madison, Maximilliano, and Giannina who were the light of his later years, parents Josefinia and Crescensio, and his sisters Margarita, Graciela, and Teresa who will continue to honor his memory.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

NOV 4. 5:00 PM (PT)

Our Lady of Victory Church
2838 N West Ave
Fresno, CA 93705
(559) 226-1163

Tribute Wall

RA

“ Roberto Misty Jose esmeralda annabelle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Francisco Duarte Hernandez.

Roberto Misty Jose esmeralda annabelle - October 28, 2025 at 09:06 PM

RA

“ Roberto Misty Jose esmeralda annabelle purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Francisco Duarte Hernandez.



Roberto Misty Jose esmeralda annabelle - October 28, 2025 at 09:06 PM

CA

“ Pancho, te recuerdo con cariño. Ahora solo te deseo que estes gosando de la presencia de Dios. Descansa en paz. Un abrazo a tu familia.



Carmela - October 24, 2025 at 03:32 PM