



## Ervin "Vinny" Caraballo, DIBA

October 16, 1957 - February 15, 2017

Ervin L. "Vinny" Caraballo, PhD, 59, passed away Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at his home in Hawthorn Woods, IL. He was born October 16, 1957 in Ponce, Puerto Rico, was raised in New York and had been a graduate of the Inter American University in Puerto Rico. Following graduation, Vinny was commissioned in the US Army, becoming a helicopter pilot stationed in Germany and served for 20 years. He received his MBA and Doctorate in International Business from Nova, Southeastern University in Florida and became a professor at Capella University in Minneapolis, MN, Loyola University in Chicago and the University of Phoenix. He was a 5th degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and former chairman of the board of the Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement. Vinny also loved traveling and toured 5 continents before his passing.

Surviving are his wife of 37 years, Ada Caraballo; 2 children, Michelle (Patrick) Caraballo Shannon and Ervin (Kristina) Caraballo and by 5 brothers and sisters.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Wendy.

A visitation will be from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. (Rt. 176, one block west of Milwaukee Ave.) Libertyville. Interment will be at Noon, Thursday at Fort Sheridan Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to the Helping Hands for Freedom, [www.helpinghandsforfreedom.org](http://www.helpinghandsforfreedom.org). For info: 847-362-3009 or sign the guestbook at [www.burnettdane.com](http://www.burnettdane.com).



# Tribute Wall

CL

“*Mrs. Caraballo and Family, My wife and I were shocked and saddened to hear of Vinny's passing. He was my mentor at Capella and he and I have continued to collaborate since graduation. I valued his friendship and mentorship. We also were able to share a few war stories. Our prayers are with you and your family.*

---

**COL(R) Rusty Lingenfelter** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

JA

“*Ada and family, my love and prayers are with all of you. Vinny's departure has broken so many hearts, he was a great man, giving, patriotic, and generous. We will see you Tue.... Great hug and love... Joe Almodovar & Family*

---

**Joe Almodovar** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

E3

“*He is a good professor and teach us a lot. May you rest in peace. We will miss you.*

---

**EMBA Batch 3** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

VA

“*Ada, condolences to you and rest of familia. I knew Vinnie from our early founding of NSHMBA and used to get on train in Northbrook and he was already on from Hawthorn Woods.....always remember his dimpled smile, his passion, and his energy....wishes of peace for all of you.....*

---

**Victor Arias** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

JT

“ *Rest in peace, amigo mío. Qué Dios te bendiga y te llene de luz. Recuérdanos siempre como nuestro angelito y protégenos. Gracias por todo lo que nos enseñaste con tu vida y tu amistad. Me enseñaste a ser mejor persona y nunca te olvidaré. Sigo acá por el tiempo que tenga, y trataré de seguir tu ejemplo. Q.E.P.D. y gracias.*

---

**Jacki Torres** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

AI

“ *Vinny was a genuinely warm and caring person who was always willing to help out a colleague. He mentored me in many ways and I really enjoyed our collaborations in teaching and research. He will be deeply missed, but he also has left a lasting legacy in helping colleagues to become better, and certainly in students who have succeeded because of his mentoring and wisdom.*

---

**Adrienne Isakovic** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

LV

“ *My condolences to the Caraballo family. Dr. Vinny was a great inspiration to me at Capella.*

---

**Laura Vedenhaupt** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

EG

“ *Dr. Vinny was a wonderful instructor and mentor at Capella...I had great talks with him during Residencies and he always made sure that I was confident in all I did...you will be missed*

---

**Elaine Gregory** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

ER

“ *Descansa en Paz Vincy... Tus compañeros de la Clase 1975 de Guayanilla P.R.siempre te recordaremos...*

---

**Edna Mayelline Rodríguez** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

DF

“ *Rest in Peace!*

-----  
**Dalila Feliciano** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

JP

“ *Dr. Caraballo was a great professor. I enjoyed his online class at Tiffin University. You are in my prayers.- Jessey*

-----  
**Jessey Poissant** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

BR

“ *So sorry for the family loss. He was a great professor for the time I have known him. I will keep family in my prayers?*

-----  
**Brittany Radford-Cutts** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

N(

“ *You were a great professor and man*

-----  
**Nikki McLean (Campbell)** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

DN

“ *Vinny touched so many lives with his kindness and friendship. He loved life and lived it to the fullest. Vinny's patience and teaching abilities helped me achieve my goals in martial arts while inspiring me to live and enjoy my life. His smile, enthusiasm and integrity will never be forgotten. This world will miss you, Vinny. May you rest in peace until we meet again.*

-----  
**Donna Norman** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

LC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time of loss. Vinny was a special man. He was a friend and collaborator and I am not the only one who will miss him, his smile and his passion.

---

**Lino Carrillo** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

AS

“ Our Deepest Sympathy:Ada;Our words cannot fully express the sorrow we feel after learning about the death of your beloved husband. May you ever treasure the wonderful times you had and our prayers are with your whole family.Ashok & Mina SoniSchaumburg

---

**Ashok Soni** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

ST

“ I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Caraballo at Capella. He was inspirational, a true scholar and cared deeply about the success of his students. He helped me grow in my own career and I will always be thankful for his example. My sincerest condolences to his family.

---

**Stephanie Thorson-Olesen** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

WA

“ My dearest Ada, words can't express what my heart is feeling right now. I pray for you and your family during this callous time. Know that I am only a phone call away. Love Wanda

---

**Wanda Anderson** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

CR

“ Rest in peace my dear friend, Vinny was so special .. he can never be forgotten. Siempre estaras en nuestro corazones. Que Dios bendiga tu camino! Carmen, Stephen and Celina. Adelaide, Australia

---

**Carmen Reaiche** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

LU

“ To the Caraballo family, my sincere condolences. I have known Vinny for many years and am deeply sorry for your loss and the loss that I and many of his friends and associates feel at his passing. Vinny made a significant contribution to his community and is a high example of personal accomplishment and excellence. As Co-Founder of HACE I met Vinny in the 90's and found him to be completely committed to the Vision of this organization and consistently contributed to its growth throughout the years and to the present. He brought much needed professional and career experiences coupled with strong strategic thinking and most of all - gave much of his personal time to HACE's mission. Vinny always expressed to me and others warmth and caring coupled with sincerity and openness. He will surely be missed! Our relationship through HACE allowed me to experience his value system of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage and most of all Selfless Service - "The Army Values"

---

**Larry Uribe** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

LR

“ Vinny was everyone's friend, always willing to lend a hand or share a good time. Always smiling, he will be truly missed.

---

**Loida Rosario** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

AR

“ *Primo. I will miss you until I see you again. Thank you for your mentorship and thank you for paving the way. Angel*

---

**Angel Rodriguez** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

SY

“ *My Condolences to the family, Dr. Vinny was the most gracious professor and always willing to listen and to assist his students.*

---

**Sabrina Young** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

LH

“ *To Dr. Vinny's family and close friends, please accept my condolences. Dr. Vinny made a huge positive impact to all who was honored to have known him, such a great person! He was my reader/committee member at Capella, course room professor for 2 of my courses and always helped to put tasks and processes in the right perspective on the dissertation journey. He made great contributions in military service, the business world globally and in life; he will be sorely missed!*

---

**Letitia Haynes** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

CW

“ *Dr Vinny made learning both interesting and fun. He made us feel connected to the global community. I will miss his gentle way of guiding us through discovery. When he learned I was from Puerto Rico we shared many fond memories of the island. I will treasure these conversations forever as do these students (came across the video from another institution which shows just what class with him was like)*

*<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=fUEhI56rB6Y>*

---

**Cecilia Wandiga** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

OD

“ I would like to extend my condolences to Vinny's family. Vinny was a friend, mentor and role model. I met Vinny through my involvement in the National Society of Hispanic MBAs and eventually he invited me to join the Boricua Social Club (an informal group of senior executives and local politicians). I will miss his can-do, positive attitude.

---

**Omar Diaz** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

CY

“ Please accept my prayers and condolences. Dr. Vinny was a such a kind person and one of the best instructors I have encountered at Capella. He made the trip to Chile enjoyable. He shared many stories of his military career and world travels. He will be missed.

---

**COL(R) Wendy Yeldell** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

EE

“ Really sad. I was his student in 2 courses at Capella. He was a fair, kind and considerate man. May his family take solace in who he was, and the impact he made.

---

**Ema Eleyae** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

EF

“ A great martial artist, I remember him back in the mid 70's when I was a teen. He was amazing to watch in action. A true gentlemen. I am very sad to hear of his passing. RIP Sir, Ous!

---

**Enrique Franceschi** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

EA

“ Fr. Vinny was a compassionate instructor. He listened and understood his students and always had time for them. When I met him at my first Capella U.'s residency in January 2016, he guided me through my concept paper. His insightful feedback truly enlightened my understanding. If I'm still in the journey is because of him.

*May his family and all of us find strength from the Almighty.  
R.I.P. Dr. Vinny*

---

**Esther Archille** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

AM

“ Dr. Caraballo,  
Thanks for being a great role model and your words of encouragement as you assisted each of us through the DBA process.

---

**Angie Mumford** - June 29, 2018 at 12:01 PM

NZ

“ Dr. Caraballo was an inspirational force for me and thousands of other learners. His integrity and dedication changed my life for the better. May his family and loved ones know that his bright light touched many lives and that he will be deeply missed. My prayers and deepest condolences are with you always.

---

**Nancy Zervakos** - April 27, 2018 at 04:27 AM

KM

“ Dr. Vinny's constant smile is forever etched into memory. The support provided to myself and countless students was immeasurable. I am glad we got the chance to chat while working out in the hotel during the 3rd residency, it allowed a deeper personal level of who you were beyond school. My deepest condolence, thoughts, and prayers to friends and family.

---

**Ken Mulchahey** - April 27, 2018 at 04:27 AM

RB

“ Your smile will be missed. It was wonderful seeing you look panicking students in the face calmly at residency and tell them that it was OK, you would help them make a plan.

---

**Roxanne Bruce** - April 27, 2018 at 04:27 AM

WG

“ Dr. Vinny was a great instructor and mentor. His dedication towards making others a better professional is unmeasurable. To his family, please accept my condolences. I will continue to pray that God helps you all through this difficult time. Rest in peace Dr. Vinny

---

**Waldell Graves** - April 27, 2018 at 04:27 AM

SJ

“ I am a student from Tiffin University. Mr. Caraballo was my professor this last semester. I am sorry for you loss.

---

**Sonya Jones** - April 27, 2018 at 04:27 AM

LS

“ Our deepest condolences for your loss. From William and Lucy Soto.

---

**Lucy Soto** - April 27, 2018 at 04:27 AM

TN

“ Dr. Caraballo was my instructor in the last semester that ended in December 2016. He was a true scholar and he was very knowledgeable. "Quand un vieux s' éteint, c'est une bibliothèque qui brûle." He will be truly missed at the Track 3 colloquium this summer! Respect and Rest In Peace!

Tchito Nsougan - April 27, 2018 at 04:27 AM

KS

“ Always loved seeing Vinny's name on my schedule. We had many talks about the military and I always enjoyed listening to how proud he was of his family. Vinny touched many lives and will certainly be missed. My deepest condolences to the family. Kimberly Sykes

Kimberly Sykes - April 27, 2018 at 04:27 AM

AH

“ Ada, Michelle and Ervin . . .my deepest condolences on just now hearing of Vinny's passing. Having moved from Chicago several years ago, I have not kept as current as I should with my friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. I have nothing but wonderful memories and thoughts about Vinny and our close time together at HACE. He was a great friend and colleague and someone special to be around. Our deepest sympathies to the family.

Abe Tomas Hughes - April 27, 2018 at 04:27 AM



“ Dear Michelle,I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of your father. He was a great man and a great father. My prayers are with you, your mom and your brother and know that he is watching over you always.Megan Willard (Moss)

February 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM