



Charles Edward Cano

July 5, 2020

On Sunday, July 5, 2020, Charles Edward Cano, the kind and loving son of Eddie and Jan Cano, and brother to Aaron Louis Cano (and his wife Jessica Cano), John “Robert” Cano, and Allena La Rue Cano, and uncle to Anika LaRue Guerra, Ayla LaRue Guerra, Lucas Aaron Guerra, and nephew to David and Wanda Pierce, passed away in McAllen, Texas at the age of 42 of congenital cardiomegaly (congenitally enlarged heart). He is preceded in death by both set of grandparents, Juan and Evelyn Cano and Edmon and Wanda Pierce, uncle Bryan Pierce and aunt Betty Pierce, and uncle Gilbert Cano, and aunt Claire Dacy Cano. Charlie was an extraordinarily bright and talented young man who achieved great academic and professional success that truly impacted the technological world. In addition to his intellect, Charlie was the epitome and embodiment of “unconditional love,” “friendship,” and “empathy,” and he openly shared it with his family, friends, co-workers, and really, everyone. He loved with all his heart and soul.

Charlie attended South Texas ISD Science Academy in Mercedes for his first two years of High School, after which, at the age of 15, he was recruited to attend the selective Texas Academy of Math and Science (TAMS) program at the University of North Texas in Denton. TAMS is an accelerated program where talented high school students finish their last two years of high school and first two years of college simultaneously. Admission to TAMS is based on SAT scores, grades, references, and a capacity to succeed in college-level work in the fields of mathematics, science, and engineering. When Charlie attended TAMS, it was fully funded by the State of Texas, not tuition based. Charlie assumed numerous leadership roles while at TAMS and was selected by both his peers and staff to be the TAMS Student Commencement Speaker for his graduating class in 1996.

Charlie was offered scholarships to several top technological universities; however, he attended the best, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (“M.I.T.”) in Boston, Massachusetts. He graduated in two years with a degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 1999 at the age of 20. Charlie was a member of M.I.T.’s Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. Upon graduation from M.I.T., Charlie went straight to work and was part of several startup companies including Bang Networks in 1999 based in California, where

he was the Software Architect from 2000-2002. Thereafter, he moved to New York and was the Sr. Architect for F5 Networks from 2003 to 2014. Charlie's last corporate employment was with AVI Networks as the MTS Software Engineer from 2014-2017 in New York. Charlie was in the process of going into business for himself in Texas at the time of his death. He was highly respected as a pioneer and leader in the technology field, speaking publicly at large conferences around the world and was regularly sought for his opinions by Fortune 500 companies. Charlie once presented his company's computer security products to the federal government by hacking into their system during his presentation. Charlie leaves a large foot print in the "virtual clouds"; he had the impressive accomplishment of 7 U.S. Patents and the recipient of numerous awards, including Technology Innovator of the Year in 2010. Eddie Cano, Charlie's Dad, often joked that Charlie would do well because he was a "nerd with people skills".

Charlie had many passions including film/movies, music, art, food and often incorporated those passions with technology. His interest in technology began as a child fascinated with "how did they do that", aka, special effects, in the making of movies. Charlie taught himself to play the piano and guitar by ear. Like a horse of many colors, Charlie had many sides and faces to him, constantly changing his appearance and expressing himself with fun and happy hats. He was a soulful and thoughtful writer, blogger, and journaler before it was cool. His writings and work will truly live on.

The one thing we know he inherited from his family, was his playful sense of humor, or as we call it, the "sense of the ridiculousness" and others call it "a sick sense of humor". In addition to family, Charlie is survived by so many friends, too many to list by name, but whom were as close and meaningful to him as any family member. You all know who you are. As much of a shock as it was that Charlie passed, it almost comes as no surprise that he passed because his heart was literally and figuratively too big.

Due to the Covid crisis and the inability for family and friends to travel, the family is opting to have a family only private Celebration of Life service for Charlie Cano, which will be videoed, and uploaded (very fittingly) to "the cloud"; of course. On Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 7 p.m., in honor of Charlie, play some good music, eat a large bowl of ice cream, and tell someone you love them.

Written by: Allena Cano

Comments



“ Charlie...what more needs to be said. If there is any consolation, which there really isn't, in this human existence, it would be that Charlie fit in multiple lifetimes in his 42 years, lived life to its fullest, and beyond. Still, there should have been more. he was like a comet speeding by that those of us on earth could only catch a short glimpse of before passing out of sight. Much sympathy to his parents and friends; I think he was especially close to his father. And also for Zoey. I feel very lucky to have known Charlie.

Gregory Mair

Gregory Mair - August 26, 2020 at 01:08 AM



“ I had the good fortune of working with Charlie at F5 for many years. He was one of the smartest and most genuine people I've ever met. I loved him dearly. He gave the best, warmest hugs. I'm so very sad to hear of his passing. One story that always makes me smile and pleases me beyond measure is the evening that Charlie joined my friends and me for a trivia night at a bar in Ballard. He was visiting F5 in Seattle as he often did. I asked the team leader if it was okay if Charlie joined and said that he was "wicked smart." Our team lead jokingly asked, "what is he, MENSA?" Charlie didn't say a word, just looked at me with the smallest of grins. Charlie was never one to brag, but was often the smartest person in the room. He was always willing to help, to explain and to do it with grace and kindness. Much love to all of you.

Heidi Schreifels - August 05, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“ I am shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Charlie's death. He was a caring, creative, and generous man. In the short time that I knew him, he made an impact on my life. RIP, sweet soul.

Bruce Ward - July 31, 2020 at 04:12 PM



“ Deeply saddened to hear this news. Charlie was a passionate and very energetic person. Heartfelt condolences to the family.

-ramku@avi

Ramkumar Sankar - July 29, 2020 at 09:07 PM



“ I knew Charlie for a short time as a coworker at Avi Networks. Charlie's brilliance was an asset to all of us at Avi. Charlie gave Avi a lasting marketing asset by coining the acronym "BADaaS - Beyond Application Delivery as a Service" a memorable and viral way to describe everything that Avi did. T-shirts with BADaaS were a huge draw for tradeshow attendees and for all of us at Avi marketing it was one of the best ideas ever in the history of the company. Rest in peace Charlie. We will miss you.

Chandra Sekar.

Chandra Sekar - July 29, 2020 at 03:04 PM



“ Many of my favorite memories from college involve Charlie. I remember one night we were exploring one of the various tunnels at MIT and we found ourselves under Kendall Square. We made our way below an access grate and sat there for a few minutes sipping coffee from a thermos and listening to bits of conversations as people passed by above our heads. We talked about friendship. His insights were always so empowering. No matter how dark the world got, he wasn't afraid to shine his light on it. I will miss him.

Robert Mitchell - July 22, 2020 at 01:36 AM



“ I am one of Charlie's fraternity brothers from MIT. I will have more stories and thoughts to add, but wanted to send my condolences to the Cano family. Charlie was an amazing person and he meant a lot to a lot of people. We were lucky to share his college years with him and had a lot of fun together. He is sorely missed.

Matt Ziskin - July 21, 2020 at 08:48 PM



“ I was fortunate to know Charlie in college. He was a gracious and kind individual who supported us younger folks. My condolences. -Neal

Neal - July 21, 2020 at 07:55 PM



“ Charlie was truly one of the kindest, most loyal and amazing friends. I had the privilege of attending Sci Tech with him (until TAMS stole him away!) and then again we both lived in San Francisco after college.

Charlie has always and will always have a very special place in my heart.

-Kari

Kari Ramirez - July 21, 2020 at 01:56 PM



“ Jan and Eddie,

We saw Jennifer's posting on Facebook about your son's passing. Cling to the words of that old hymn "precious memories, how they linger, how they ever flood my soul". We will certainly keep your whole family in our prayers.

Bill and Suzie Roberts

Billy D Roberts - July 20, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ Eddie, Jan, and Family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God bless you and give you strength during this difficult time.

-Rodolfo, Bertha Villarreal and Family

Eddie, Jan, and Family,
With heartfelt condolences on your loss.
-Alifonso, Mary Arredondo and Family

Bertha A. Villarreal - July 20, 2020 at 02:47 PM



“ I was fortunate enough to work alongside Charlie when he was a student in TAMS. Such a warm heart even as a rambunctious teenager. I have nothing but fond memories of Charlie. My heart aches for your family. He is a cherished soul. Russ Stukel

Russ stukel - July 19, 2020 at 12:36 PM



“ My heart goes out to all of you. Rich and I adored Charlie as I think everyone who knew him did. I am heartbroken for you. Sending love your way. Marta

Marta L Hotz - July 19, 2020 at 09:43 AM



“ Some families just lift the world. The Cano family is one which epitomizes this trait, and the thought of having lost one of the Canos so early in life breaks my heart a little. Jan, Eddie, please know you are in my prayers; that God has wrapped His loving arms around you...what a wonderful tribute you have written, Allena, I know you all miss Charlie....

Doug - July 19, 2020 at 08:56 AM



“ I was so saddened to learn of Charlie's passing. I was fortunate enough to get to know him my freshman and sophomore years at SciTech. Even though I have not seen him in over 20 years, we did keep in contact some over social media. In the high school days, Charlie was a wonderful friend to me, and all his friends. I have so many memories of discussing books, films and music with him (I think I played the mixtape he made me until it broke!) He was so passionate about these things. He was genuinely kind, crazy intelligent, and had a fantastic sense of humor. I absolutely adored him, and loved to spend time with him in and out of school. I feel this world has lost a wonderfully unique, kind, brilliant light now that Charlie is gone. I know all that knew him can feel that loss. My deepest condolences to the Cano family, and all who loved him.

Elizabeth Fatherree Klimek - July 19, 2020 at 02:27 AM



“ I was so shocked and saddened to hear that Charlie had passed. Charlie was my student at the Science Academy and a good friend of my daughter. Even though he left after his sophomore year, he was a student I never forgot. He was brilliant, unique, kind and creative. The world is darker without him. My deepest condolences to his beloved family and many, many dear friends.

Carol Mantei-Fatherree

Carol Mantei-Fatherree - July 18, 2020 at 09:44 PM



“ We are so saddened to hear this tragic news. Charlie was such a good friend of our son, Keil, during their elementary and middle school years in McAllen. Charlie and Keil were a lot alike in so many ways. They both were very smart, witty, entertaining and talented. They loved to listen to music, read books and watch movies. They would then go on to critique them all. These young boys challenged each other and inspired each other's creativity. Keil spent a lot of time at Charlie's house with his family and has so many great memories. Charlie was a bright light that will be dearly missed.

Sincerely,

Katie & Ted Shults

Louise Shults - July 18, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“ Jan, Eddie and family,
We are so sorry to hear that Charlie has passed. Our deepest heartfelt condolences to both of you and the family.
Through the years he has often come to my mind as did the rest of the family. I remember the times that he would come to play and go swimming with the girls. I think he was between 5 and 7? I also think he had a crush on Linda though she was older than he.

Our prayers go out to you.

Hugs,

Bill and Margie Duck

Margie Duck - July 18, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ I’m so sad to hear about Charlie ‘s passing! What a very kind and beautiful obituary from his sister! I fondly remember Charlie from the times he would hang at the tennis centers watching his sister play competitive tennis! Allena adored “her Charlie”! Yes, his life was taken too early but his legacy will live on in the hearts of his beautiful family and friends! Our prayers for all the family The Morelos’s

cheryl morelos - July 18, 2020 at 03:27 PM



“ I literally just heard this terrible news about Charlie from my mother, and I am truly heartbroken. While I didn't get to keep up with him much beyond the occasional check-in on social media over the years, I was very close to him in late elementary school and middle school. I loved going over to his house and watching movies, listening to music, shooting our own videos, playing Lazer Tag, playing on the trampoline, going roller skating, etc. He was so incredibly intelligent and fun to be around, and he was always introducing me to interesting movies, cutting-edge technology, video games, and a variety of cool bands. To this day, I still wear Doc Martens and it all began with him wearing them first. Although he went into computers, he probably could have done just about anything he wanted. I would see him one day, and then within a mere week or two he would have taught himself to make music videos, complete with awesome special FX. Aside from a unique talent for math and science, he was also an amazing saxophone player. To be honest, he probably could have done anything he set his mind to -- he was a truly gifted person. Life and academics took him in a different direction from me, but I always missed those times, and I was happy to hear in later years that he had seemed to find both professional success and personal contentment. I just wish I had been able to spend more time with him and talk more with him in recent years -- never once thinking that something this tragic could happen to someone so young and full of life. His entire family is in my thoughts, and I will never forget him.

- Keil Shults

Keil Shults - July 18, 2020 at 03:15 PM