



Francisco "Fran" Silva

February 11, 1971 - May 5, 2025

In Loving Memory of Francisco "Fran" Silva

Francisco Silva, lovingly known as Fran to his colleagues and "Pioneer" to his Brazilian friends, passed away on May 5, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of quiet strength, service, and cultural impact. Born on February 11, 1971, in Brazil, Francisco made a courageous move to Kearney, Nebraska, in the summer of 1994, becoming the very first Brazilian international student to attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) as a foreign exchange student, a true pioneer in every sense.

During his time at UNK, Francisco earned not only his bachelor's degree but also two master's degrees and numerous certifications in translation. One of his proudest accomplishments was being selected for the Disney University College Program, where he worked at Magic Kingdom in the summer of 1999, a dream come true for someone who cherished storytelling, culture, and joy.

Francisco was a man of deep faith and humble spirit. He lived simply and quietly, never seeking the spotlight, but always ready to lend a hand. He loved to cook, especially for friends, and had a passion for movies, soap operas, and 1980s music. Those who stopped to talk with him were often treated to delightful stories about television, recipes, and life.

Above all, Francisco will be remembered for the guidance he offered to others. He welcomed and supported many Brazilian students at UNK, helping them with translations, documents, and personal advice. His presence made others feel at home, and his example paved the way for future generations of international students.

Francisco was loved and will be deeply missed by all who had the honor of knowing him.

“A true pioneer whose kindness and courage lit the way for others.”

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Events

Details are pending.