

Ricardo Alvarez del Rio: A True Wabash Gentleman

Ricardo Alvarez del Rio, from Camagüey, Cuba, was born December 7th, 1923 to Pino (Del Rio) and Ricardo Alvarez Sr. He lived in Cuba until 1940, when he was 18 years old, when he moved to the United States to study at Wabash College. Ricardo traveled by boat to New Orleans, where his father had arranged for a friend to receive him before traveling northward to Crawfordsville, Indiana to attend Wabash.

Ricardo was at Wabash from 1942-1943¹. During his time at Wabash, he was the president of the Spanish Club, and organized many of their events. One memorable event that he organized was a Latin music and dancing night in November of 1942. The event was a special experience for Ricardo, who was unaware that among the artists were friends from Cuba: “Ricky was probably the most surprised fellow in school when he saw the entertainers for the first time and found that they were Carmen de Barros and Maria Carballeiro, both from Havana, Cuba” (*The Bachelor*²). Another event that Ricardo planned in 1942 was a dinner with the Spanish Club and Dr. Leavenworth, where the club sang Spanish songs at the Phi Delta Theta house³, where he was a brother during his lone year at the college. Ricardo also participated in the Drama Club, including performing in the play *The Man Who Came to Dinner*⁴. Finally, he was a part of *The Caveman* Editorial Staff and the Business Staff⁵.

¹ There is no record of his graduation, probably because he left his studies to serve in the armed forces during WWII.

² *The Bachelor* (November 13, 1942)

³ *The Bachelor* (October 30, 1942)

⁴ *The Bachelor* (November 6, 1942)

⁵ This information is from the 1943 yearbook.

After his brief time at Wabash, Ricardo enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and participated in WWII. He concluded his military service in 1947, and later worked as a driver that visited soldiers in the Veterans Hospital in Miami⁶. He was heavily involved in the military, and his service did not go unnoticed. Ricardo later worked in the aviation industry in Miami for 40 years.

Ricardo passed away on November 25, 2010, at 86 years old. He had 4 children: Ricky III, Daniel, Linda, and Cathy. He was also married to his wife, Dorothy⁷. Ricardo was a true Wabash man. He liked to see other people happy, was selfless, and was a family man.

–Will Boas '26



Yearbook photo from 1943
(*Wabash Yearbook*, 1943)

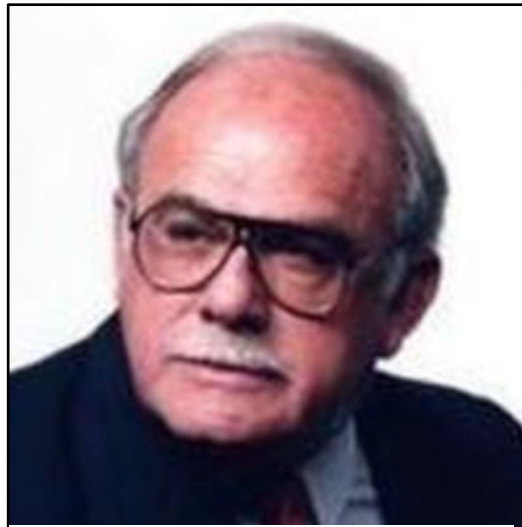


Photo from his obituary

⁶ The Veterans Hospital in Miami is now the Miami Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida.

⁷ More information about his life on [Ricardo Alvarez del Rio \(Obituary\)](#).