

Ulpiano Malachias Neto

July 28, 1979 - May 10, 2026

Ulpiano Malachias Neto passed away on May 10th. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sophia, his cherished daughter, Lydia, his sister, Michelle, his brother, Jean Jacques, his in-laws, Giovanni and Adair Gaudio, and his sister-in-law, Monica Gaudio. He is predeceased by his parents, Marlene and Jean Jacques.

Ulpiano was born on the 28th of July in 1979 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil and began training jiu jitsu at the age of seventeen. As he rose in the ranks of the sport, he had many opportunities to travel around the world as he achieved a long list of titles earned during his competition days.

When he finally settled in the United States, he was presented with the opportunity to open his own school in Santa Ana, California, which he ran until 2010 when he moved his family (Sophia and newborn Lydia) to Houston, Texas and opened Gracie Barra Westchase. In 2023 he and Sophia opened a second school, Gracie Barra River Oaks, partnering with long time friend and student Peter Wheatley to bring another state-of-the-art facility to Houston. In addition to teaching, he has been a valuable coach to several competitors in international competitions and the UFC.

In April 2026 he was awarded a 5th degree black belt, marking twenty years as a black belt, in a ceremony in Brazil. Capping off a long list of successes,

his greatest joy was bringing the discipline of jiu jitsu to his many students (men, women, and children as young as three) and introducing them to a dynamic environment and lifestyle of camaraderie and competition. His dedication was always on display as he instilled a strong sense of self-confidence in his students, to whom he will always represent the highest ideals embodied in the sport.

He was a hard worker and loved his trade which was also his hobby, but always found time to travel the world with his family, enjoyed drinking a few mimosas and champagne and taking pristine care of his home and family, whom he would go to the ends of the earth for. He was one hundred men in one with many talents, a jack of all trades. He lived his life to the fullest and took everyone he loved along for the ride. God only knows how he found the strength and energy for it all. He never missed a workout, and enjoyed living a healthy lifestyle. He always made time to lend a helping hand and words of advise or encouragement.

Our hearts are heavy with his passing. He loved hard and was well loved by his many friends and family around the world, but especially his wife and daughter, who will miss his pure love, generosity and to be made to feel like princesses for the rest of their days.

May he rest peacefully. Keep him in your hearts and live in his example to remember him always.

To honor Ulpiano's memory, we ask that donations be made to the Movember Foundation (us.movember.com) in lieu of flowers and other gestures. <https://us.movember.com/>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 15. 10:00 AM (CT)

Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
12955 Memorial Dr
Houston, TX 77079
(713) 468-8356

Reception to Follow Service

MAY 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

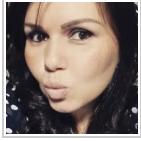
Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
12955 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX
<http://www.mdumc.org>

Graveside Service

MAY 15. 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Oaks Cemetery
13001 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

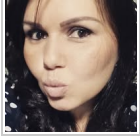
Tribute Wall



“ 21 dias sem você e ainda um vazio que parece mentira. Busco respostas em todas as religiões , em várias leituras, na Bíblia e nada consegue ainda acalmar meu coração. Sinto-me flutuar como se me faltasse aonde pisar. Vai passar, é o que mais escuto e digo, mas não faço ideia de quando tudo será lembrança e saudade. Obrigado por me permitir sempre fazer parte da sua vida e você da minha!



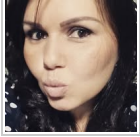
Mi Malachias - May 31 at 05:55 PM



“ *Minha vela vermelha que representa meu amor e gratidão. HOJE ESTOU MAIS PENSATIVA, MAIS TRISTE MAS SEI QUE VC VAI ME AJUDAR A SUPERAR. TE AMO INFINITAMENTE E TUDO QUE FEZ POR PRINCIPALMENTE EM NOSSA INFÂNCIA, JAMAIS SERA ESQUECIDO. TE AMO MEU IRMAO, MEU AMIGO E PARCEIRO. Não me importa mais o que pouco maldosos podem dizer, só nos sabemos o que confidenciamos e trocamos e isso ninguém jamais irá tirar de nós. Te amo muito e DESCANSE EM PAZ E ENCONTRE O COMINHO DA LUZ DE NOSSO SENHOR JESUS PARA CONTINUAR A NOS FORTALECER. SEMPRE TE AMAREMOS BE E MI*



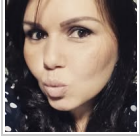
Mi Malachias - May 24 at 03:45 AM



“ *Pi, ainda confusa e triste mas tentando entender que Deus tem um lugar muito especial para você. Escolhi a bíblia que tanto falamos a respeito em seus últimos dias. Queria que pudesse sentir minhas orações e o meu desejo da sua cura interior. Te amo muito meu irmão só você sabe pq era meu anjo protetor. Dói saber que não terei suas mgs, áudios, vídeos, ligações e as viagens que sempre arrumava um jeito de nos encontrar ou nos levar. O que está tentando confortar meu coração são as inúmeras homenagens que tem recebido de uma multidao de pessoas tão gratas por sua vida e ensinamentos. CONTINUE A NOS PROTEGER EM NOME DE JESUS. Nós, Sophia, Lydia, Bernardo e eu precisamos de sua luz e direcionamentos. Foi voce partir que as maldades adormecidas resolveram resurgir mas eu sou muita mais forte, inteligente, hinesta e integra e vou passar mais isso pq sei que me ajudaria a suportar essas loucuras. Voce sempre foi meu horoi e nao habera ninguem igual. Perdi meu irmao amado e hoje tenho sua familia para chamar de minha e meu filho que tanto tem sentido sua falta mas sabe que precisamos seguir por nos e por voce. Gratidao por tanto amor, cuidado e zelo. COM AMOR MICHELE E BERNARDO.*



Mi Malachias - May 24 at 03:39 AM



“ Oi Pi, descanse em paz meu irmão e que Deus em sua infinita misericórdia possa nos ajudar a passar por tudo isso e você continue a ser lembrado pelos sorrisos e pelo amor que espelhava e de tantos que cuidava. **BERNARDO E EU TE AMAMOS MUITO!!!**Obrigado por tudo que fez por nós



Mi Malachias - May 16 at 10:20 AM

FB

“ Pi, você foi meu primeiro amigo, sempre admirei sua coragem e determinação, a distância não apagou o carinho e admiração que tenho por você. Acredito que todos nós tempo nosso tempo nesse plano. E de uma forma ou de outro Deus nos chama. Você está agora ao lado dos seus pais. Fica aqui a gratidão por ter tido você como amigo, meus sentimentos para todos familiares e a certeza que um dia nos reencontraremos. Deus esta com você e tenho certeza que já te recebeu em seus braços. 🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻
Leva em paz meu amigo!



FREDERICO INACIO BRESCIA - May 16 at 08:12 AM



Obrigado Fred por tanto carinho com ele sempre..

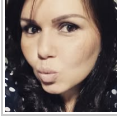
Mi Malachias - May 16 at 10:12 AM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album MARCELO MALACHIAS



MARCELO CAMPOS MALACHIAS - May 15 at 10:28 AM



Ainda bem Primo que tivemos esse aniversário para todos se verem e se abraçarem. Obrigado por tudo

Mi Malachias - May 16 at 10:12 AM

NG

“ *Nicola Gaudioso purchased the Love Everlasting Bouquet for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.*



Nicola Gaudioso - May 15 at 10:24 AM

JP

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jaime Gomez Pardo - May 15 at 12:08 AM

BC

“ *Brian and Natalie Cooley purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.*



Brian and Natalie Cooley - May 15 at 12:02 AM

FC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Fabio Costa - May 14 at 11:42 PM



Fábio, lembro de vc e do início da amizade de vocês... obrigado pela postagem... Voce faz parte de tudo que ele construiu!

Mi Malachias - May 16 at 10:14 AM

MC

“ Marcia and Fabio Costa purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



Marcia and Fabio Costa - May 14 at 11:22 PM

HH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Heitor Holdefer & Arthur Holdefer - May 14 at 09:01 PM

HH

“ Professor Ulpiano was my teacher since I was little, 6 years old, He taught me so much during the years. I remember he was teaching hip escapes, and he made a joke saying it was called shrimp because Brazilians like shrimp so much. Every time I do that move I remember that day. He will be missed.



Heitor Holdefer & Arthur Holdefer - May 14 at 09:00 PM

SG

Thank you for sharing your memories and remembering him always. He will always be with us ❤️ he was so proud of every one of his students and that brought him more happiness than you can imagine.

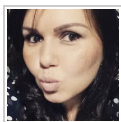
Sophia Gaudio - May 28 at 11:35 AM

RN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



R. Nadu - May 14 at 08:46 PM



Nadu, você sempre será um amigo que o Pi tinha mto orgulho, carinho e gratidão. Obrigado por tudo que fez por ele mas principalmente por manter a amizade por todos esses anos...foi linda e continuará a ser em nossas memórias e coração

Mi Malachias - May 16 at 10:15 AM

SG

Thank you Nadu. Best man forever.

Sophia Gaudio - May 28 at 11:36 AM

PF

“ Prof. Chris & Rick Mango & Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



Prof. Chris & Rick Mango & Family - May 14 at 06:34 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Annie Castellon - May 14 at 05:00 PM

SG

Thank you for sharing Annie❤️

Sophia Gaudio - May 28 at 11:36 AM

JC

“ To Sophia and Lydia and Ulpiano’s family. We are grateful for you sharing Ulpiano’s time with so many students and professors. I am sure the time he spent with us was time taken away from you.

As one of the older students in the club, from our brief discussions; it was clear you were always on his mind and a large motivation for him.

Like all men, Ulpiano was not perfect. However; Ulpiano worked every day to approach perfection in every way he could. He leaves a legacy of students and professors whose lives are better because of his caring and dedication. We all wish he could have stayed longer but we take solace in having known him.

JOHN CAAMANO - May 14 at 04:13 PM

SG

Thank you for your message. After some time I realized he loved spending his time and passion with his students and team and it’s what filled his tank. He was able to live out so many of his dreams and even things he never dreamed possible. And for that I’m grateful. I appreciate each one of you for the camaraderie you brought to his life and the schools. His life would never have been what it was without it. Thank you for sharing and keep him in your memory always.

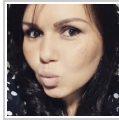
Sophia Gaudioso - May 28 at 11:39 AM

MM

“ Sua chama permanecerá viva em nossos corações. Que Deus o acolha e envolva Sophia, Lydia, Michelle e Jean com amor e serenidade neste momento. Descanse em paz. Com carinho, Tio Ulpiano, Tia Luzia e primos.



Mauricio Malachias - May 14 at 04:07 PM



Obrigado Primo

Mi Malachias - May 16 at 10:16 AM

SG

Thank you for the photo of little ulpiano and his family ❤️

Sophia Gaudioso - May 28 at 11:39 AM

UF

“ Ulpiano Bolivar Malachias & Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



Ulpiano Bolivar Malachias & Family - May 14 at 03:10 PM

JO

“ Jovie purchased the Summer's Light Bouquet for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



Jovie - May 14 at 02:42 PM

SB

“ Svitlana Bleyzer&Family purchased the Bountiful Rose Basket for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



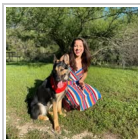
Svitlana Bleyzer&Family - May 14 at 01:34 PM

CB

“ Carlos Gracie Jr. & Global Board purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



Carlos Gracie Jr. & Global Board - May 14 at 01:24 PM



“ Thank you for being someone that helped me to grown on my business inside Gracie Barra and always being willing to give advices. You will be missed. Love, Fabiana Borges



Fabiana Borges - May 14 at 01:14 PM

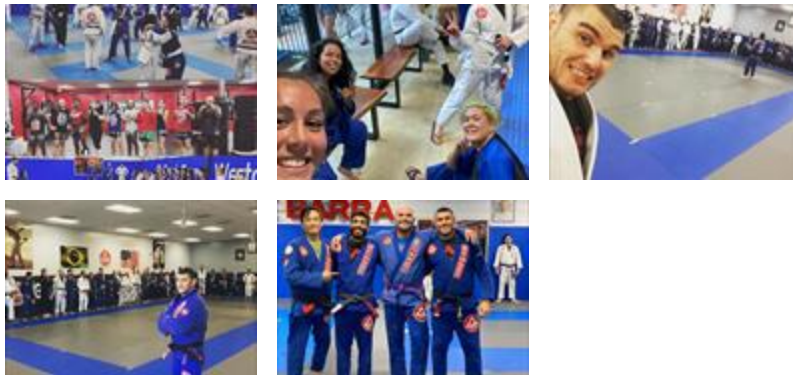
SG

thank you for your message Fabiana. He was always happy to see you and proud of your success. He was so happy to tell me about your baby❤️ I know he's with us always.

Sophia Gaudioso - May 28 at 11:43 AM



“ 22 files added to the tribute wall



Annie Castellon - May 14 at 01:11 PM

SG

Thank you Annie ❤️❤️❤️❤️

Sophia Gaudioso - May 28 at 11:51 AM

SC

“ *Você foi meu mentor, irmão e amigo de coração. Descansa em paz.*



Sergio Santos Da Costa - May 14 at 11:41 AM

SG

Thank you for your post Sergio ❤️

Sophia Gaudioso - May 28 at 11:51 AM

RM

“ *Em oração pela sua alma e em prontidão pela sua família. Memória do nosso último encontro com nossos brothers da GB BH. Irmandade que transcende o plano terrestre.* ”



Rodrigo Lima Mendanha - May 14 at 10:11 AM

AM

“ *Pipi , eterno cabuloso !!! Descanse em paz irmão. Voa alto e olhe por nós aí de cima!!! Te amo irmão!! RiP* ”



Arian de Melo - May 14 at 08:38 AM

AM

Pipi , eterno cabuloso !!! Descanse em paz irmão. Voa alto e olhe por nós aí de cima!!! Te amo irmão!! RiP

Arian de Melo - May 14 at 08:38 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.* ”



May 14 at 05:06 AM

JC

“ To the family of Professor “Piano” (Ulpiano Malachias) and to the community shaped by his hands and his heart,

I write with sorrow pressed deep against my chest. When I first stepped into the school he built, I was a fractured version of myself—lost, heavy, searching for something that could keep me from collapsing. In the sanctuary he created, I found healing. Not suddenly, but slowly, like light returning after a long night.

His academy was never just a place to train. It was a refuge for souls carrying invisible wounds. A place where breath returned, where discipline softened pain, where community held us when we could not hold ourselves.

No professional ever reached me the way that tatami did—four days a week, surrounded by teachers and teammates who became family. That space saved me in ways I still struggle to name.

Professor Ulpiano gave me my first stripe, alongside Professor Vitor P. He may never have known the weight of that moment, but it shifted the course of my life. It told me I was exactly where I needed to be, with the people meant to guide me back to myself.

I thank God and life for placing him in this world, for using him to open doors like Gracie Barra Westchase—places where we found more than healing. We found belonging. We found identity. We found a path home.

His legacy lives in every spirit he lifted, every life he steadied, every person who learned to rise again because of him.

Thank you, Professor. Your echo will outlive your earthly time.

*Respectfully,
J.C.*





JC - May 14 at 01:45 AM

SC

Brother, I am going to miss you beyond words. To his entire family, may God give you strength. Rest in peace.

Sergio Santos Da Costa - May 14 at 11:39 AM

SG

Thank you for your message. He was truly carried by his students as much as they felt they were carried by him. He loved that place and the people and camaraderie of it all. Keep him in your memories always and remember him when you need strength. He will be with you always and proud of the life you create. ❤️

Sophia Gaudio - May 28 at 11:53 AM

BF

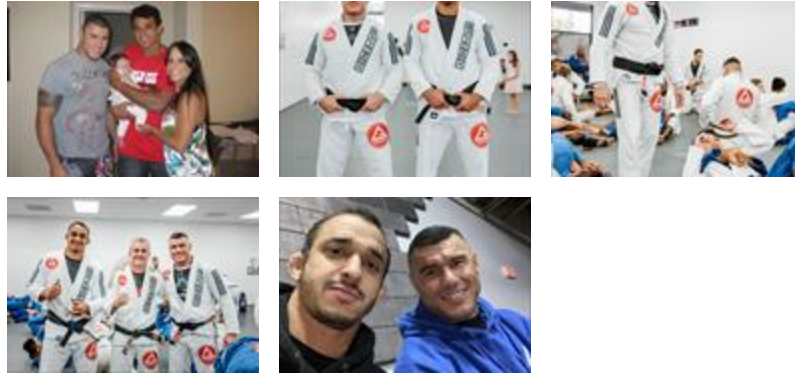
“ *Barral Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.*



Barral Family - May 14 at 01:15 AM

RB

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



romulo Barral - May 14 at 01:05 AM

SG

Thanks Romulo and Janaina. So many memories but I remember the day you came to meet Lydia So well. He was so proud and happy to be a dad to share that with his closest friends. We will remember him every and in our children he will always be with us❤️

Sophia Gaudio - May 28 at 11:55 AM

FF

“ Fabio Villela & Family purchased the Divine Light for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



Fabio Villela & Family - May 13 at 10:23 PM

FV

“ *Ulpiano is a great friend, always got my back since 2004.
I miss you brother
RIP*



Fabio Villela - May 13 at 10:20 PM



“ *In Heaven's Arms Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.*



May 13 at 09:36 PM

CL

“ *Que Deus em sua infinita misericórdia receba
Ulpiano em sua morada. Que o proteja e o
acolha para que ele possa receber nesse
mometo as orações, intenções, energias e
vibrações dos que aqui ficaram e que muito
lamentam sua partida tão precoce. Também, que Deus conforte sua
família, principalmente, sua esposa, sua filha e seus irmãos.
Ulpiano você será sempre lembrado por nós. Descanse em paz!*



Cristiano M Leal - May 13 at 09:08 PM

BL

“ Breno & Luísa purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



Breno & Luísa - May 13 at 08:57 PM



“ Bruno Gazzinelli



Bruno Maciel - May 13 at 08:21 PM

SG

Thank you for the photos ❤️ and memories.

Sophia Gaudioso - May 28 at 11:58 AM

PR

“ Professor Buddy and Coach Rachel purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



Professor Buddy and Coach Rachel - May 13 at 08:04 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Breno Mascarenhas - May 13 at 08:03 PM

SG

Thank you for your support and pictures. He loved you guys! He will be with us always ❤️

Sophia Gaudio - May 28 at 11:59 AM

GM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gugu Marmaduke - May 13 at 05:27 PM

JH

“ News segment on Jiu Jitsu featuring Ulpiano's daughter Lydia



Joel Heinen - May 13 at 05:17 PM

VM

“ *Draculino and Ulpiano*



Vinicius Magalhaes - May 13 at 04:49 PM

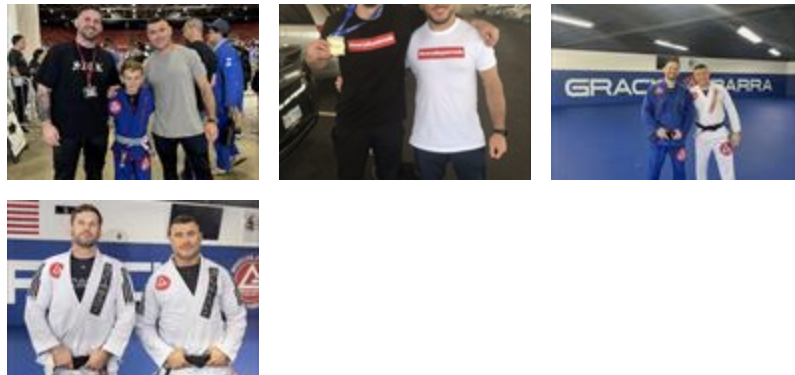
SG

Thank you for your post Draculino ❤️

Sophia Gaudioso - May 28 at 12:00 PM

JH

“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



Joel Heinen - May 13 at 04:46 PM

SG

Thank you Joel ❤️ he will be with us always. He was very proud of you and cherished your friendship.

Sophia Gaudioso - May 28 at 12:00 PM

GP

“ *Gracie Barra Pearland purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.*



Gracie Barra Pearland - May 13 at 04:35 PM

VD

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



viktor doria - May 13 at 04:25 PM

GT

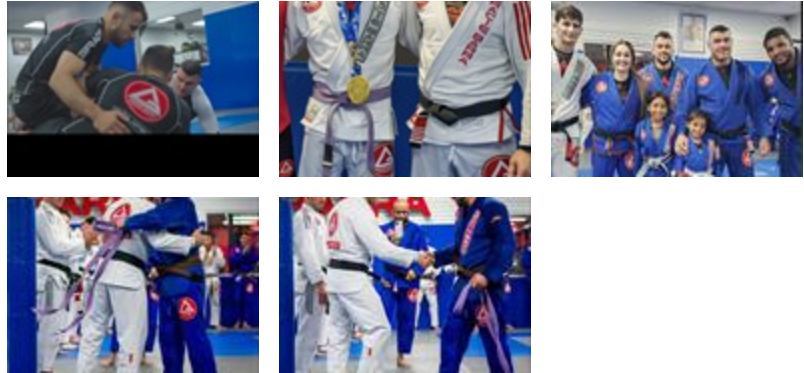
“ *Gracie Barra Texas Team purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.*



Gracie Barra Texas Team - May 13 at 04:16 PM

HC

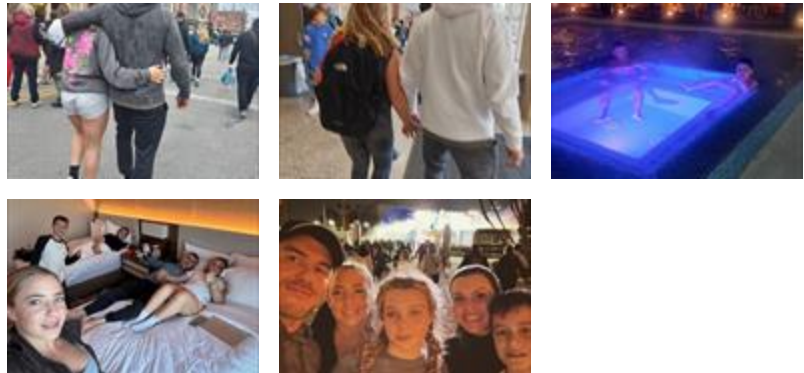
“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Henrique Camargo - May 13 at 04:09 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall

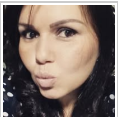


Mi Malachias - May 13 at 03:29 PM

SG

♥♥♥ I love the photos sister

Sophia Gaudio - May 28 at 12:02 PM



Eu sempre estarei aqui para você minha irmã, minha eterna cunhada e amiga. Lydia pode sempre contar comigo também para tudo!

Mi Malachias - Yesterday at 11:53 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jean Malachias - May 13 at 03:21 PM

SG



Sophia Gaudio - May 28 at 12:03 PM

JM

“ Jean Malachias sent a virtual gift in memory of
Ulpiano Malachias Neto



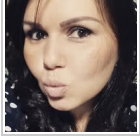
Jean Malachias - May 13 at 03:20 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for
the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



May 13 at 02:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



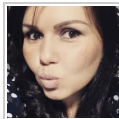
Mi Malachias - May 13 at 02:40 PM



“ ❤️❤️❤️



Lydia Malachias - May 13 at 10:34 AM



Ele te amava tanto e continuará a te amar e te guiar pode confiar que Deus está com você minha sobrinha linda e eu estarei sempre aqui

Mi Malachias - May 13 at 05:48 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Ulpiano Malachias Neto.



May 12 at 10:11 PM