



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
5655 Hollywood Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71109
www.weather.gov/shv

Remembering Mario Valverde



It is with our deepest sympathy that we must share that on July 28th, WFO Shreveport, LA Meteorologist in Charge, Mario Valverde, passed away after an extended battle with glioblastoma. He undoubtedly leaves us with his mark of positivity and kindness and his passion for helping his staff and others around him grow was always his first priority. He also was passionate about weather education in the community, even during the peak of COVID-19, he led the office Science Saturdays series on Facebook Live.

Mario got his meteorology undergraduate degree at the University of Nebraska and was an avid fan of Cornhuskers football. He also attended graduate school at Clemson University. His NWS career started in 1987 at Greer, SC. He subsequently became the Warning Preparedness Meteorologist (WPM) at the San Antonio office in February of 1991, where he led safety and outreach efforts for the area.



In February of 1994, Valverde became the Special Service Meteorologist at Southern Region Headquarters (SRH).

Here he was responsible for leading the modernization and restructuring of the marine and agriculture programs. During this time, Mario was an on-site meteorologist at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games where he provided support for sailing in Savannah, GA. He then became the Chief of the Systems Integration Branch (SIB) at SRH in 1998 where he was responsible for IT and telecommunications programs. He made a huge impact across the Southern Region and NWS, leading SR's migration to Active Directory and participating in the system recovery efforts after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma, and Ike.

Most recently, he became the Shreveport MIC in 2012. Under his leadership, the WFO Shreveport office was recently recognized with the National Weather Association's Special Achievement Award for their Outstanding Service and Decision Support During COVID-19 along with 4 regional Isaac Cline Awards. At WFO Shreveport, Mario was dedicated to Science,



Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) outreach, especially put on display during two GLOW events (Girls LOve Weather & Girls Really LOve Science) in March of 2017 and 2019. He was instrumental in planning, executing, and supporting these huge STEM outreach events for our community, which resulted in many young women pursuing STEM education and careers. Mario will be best remembered for his kindness, mentorship, and leadership to those that worked with him through the years.

“I was working at the San Antonio office when Mario walked into the office as the WCM back in 1991. Little did I know then how much of an impact he would make,” shared Melinda Bailey, Communications

and Dissemination Meteorologist. “I eventually made it to SRH and learned immeasurable leadership and interpersonal skills through his daily actions that were so valuable, I continue to pass the leadership gems on to others to do this day. As he moved on to his MIC promotion, he continued to be the epitome of a great friend, colleague, leader, and mentor. He will be missed.”

Victory Murphy, Climate Services Program Manager at SRH, recalled, “During his tenure at SRH as the Chief of the System Integration Branch overseeing IT and telecommunications programs, Mario was the absolute perfect person for this job. Think of the ever burgeoning and expanding internet and telecommunications world in the late 1990s. The internet was in its infancy. The agency was transitioning from AFOS to AWIPS. The same for cellular phones and computers. Massive towers were being replaced by PCs and tablets. Copper landlines were being replaced by T1 lines capable of handling much more information. In this world where the only constant was uncertainty and change, Mario was the consummate gentleman. Always cheerful and upbeat and never letting the chaos of change affect him. His guidance and leadership at SRH was steady, yet subtle. He applied just the right amount of touch on the steering wheel to get the most out of everyone while always maintaining dignity and composure. It has been my pleasure to know Mario for 25 years in SRH and he epitomizes the professionalism of the SRH NWS family.”

He is survived by his wife Linda and their adult daughter Clancie. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to [Habitat for Humanity](#). Please keep his family in your thoughts as they go through this difficult time.

