

# A Prayer for Those Who Have Passed

## We Pray Freedom | Chapter 3: Mourning

In April of 2023 a delegation of leaders from the NVMA traveled to meet with movement leaders in Cuba to share lessons of organizing and discuss the challenges of fighting for the right to healthcare. Erro had also spent time in Cuba during college, an experience that contributed to their lifelong commitment to justice work. Members of the delegation gathered during their time in Cuba at El Malecón to lift up Erro's life and memory and to commit themselves to carrying on Erro's values and legacy. Moses Hernandez McGavin offered a prayer. Here is just a portion of that prayer.

**The original prayer can be found here.**

Let us begin by saying the names of ancestors out loud—to bring them into the space. They are with us.

**[Lift up the names of movement leaders and loved ones who have passed on.]**

Heavenly Spirit, we ask you right now to hear our tears and to hear our pain. We ask you to hear the cry of people for a better life, for a better system, and for better care for each other.

We ask you to hear our wailing as we call the names of those who have died far too soon. We also ask that you present yourself in each and every one of us. In these times when we name those who have left, in times when we are hurting because those that we love the most have gone from this world too soon:

Remind us that you are always with us. Remind us that you are always by our side and that every single one of us is cared for and loved and valued, despite a system that might tell us otherwise. We ask you to be in each and every one of us, that we may show every other single person around us that they are cared for, loved, and valued. Part of what we do on this earth is fight for a system to know that we are all loved. Help us have faith, and help us have hope that these things are possible, and help us see through these times of legitimate pain and crisis and suffering: There is another way, and we have each other. We have each other's love and support and solidarity.

And today, especially, we ask a special prayer and a special blessing for our dear comrades. [Add some reflections about the lives and commitments of those who have died.]

Let them feel loved and cared for here. Let them know that we will carry on their legacy, and that we will fight for a revolution, and that we will fight for a just system.

And may every single person that we named—wherever they are right now—all do a big group hug, a big hug of solidarity with each other, so they can all connect through us to know that they are also loved by everyone here. Amen.