

'He Just Loved Being Here'

Custodian Remzija Curic remembered for dedication and demeanor

Picture Remzija Curic in your mind, and it's likely you see the beloved custodian grinning from ear to ear. In the halls, the cafeteria, even outside in the cold – which he hated – Curic was known for always working with a smile on his face.

Curic, employed at Arapahoe for 17 years, died from a heart attack at age 63 on Oct. 18, 2022, sending shockwaves through the community.

Brian Ceriani, assistant principal and head of student services, oversees the custodial staff and says he had a close relationship with Curic.

"He was a very happy person – one of the happiest people we probably have in the building. He never had a negative thing to say, and was never not laughing," Ceriani says. "I don't remember a time when he was even sad. He just loved being here."

Fabian Llerenas, head of custodial staff, worked with Curic since 2005.

"When I first started working with him, his English wasn't great, but he was a man that came from Bosnia," he says. "He was a man that appreciated life, in the sense of just being free."

Principal Natalie Pramenko says she'll remember how Curic was quick to respond to any request.

"I feel like I had a very positive working relationship with him," she says. "He would do anything for anyone at the drop of a hat. He was willing to support everyone here."

Curic leaves behind twin sons, both high school students in the Littleton school district. Llerenas says he hopes the community will keep them in their thoughts.

"His kids are young and to me, as a father, I would almost imagine anything to help them," he says. "Not necessarily money. But maybe just reaching out sometimes."

Llerenas stresses that Arapahoe's maintenance crew has more to offer than often meets the eye.

"They bring more than just cleaning the building," he says. "They're highly intelligent, passionate people who are as important to our school as anybody else. And if you always remember that, I think Remzija, he'd be smiling wherever he is."