

# Heart Of A Cuban: Refugee To American Hero

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In the annals of American history, there are countless stories of resilience, determination, and triumph. One such story is that of Jorge Mas Canosa, a Cuban refugee who fled his homeland in search of freedom and opportunity, eventually becoming a revered American hero. His remarkable journey is a testament to the indomitable spirit of immigrants and the transformative power of the American Dream.

## Early Life and Departure from Cuba:



### Heart of a Cuban: Refugee to American Hero by NJ Perez

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Jorge Mas Canosa was born in Santiago de Cuba on September 21, 1939. From an early age, he witnessed firsthand the oppressive regime of Fidel Castro and the suppression of human rights. In 1961, at the age of 22, he

boarded a small boat with his wife and young son, embarking on a perilous journey to the United States.

### **Arrival in America and Initial Struggles:**

After a harrowing sea voyage, Mas Canosa and his family arrived in Miami, Florida. Like many other Cuban refugees, they faced numerous hardships in their new homeland. Mas Canosa worked menial jobs to support his family while attending night school to improve his English and skills.

### **Building a Business Empire:**

Despite the challenges, Mas Canosa possessed an unwavering entrepreneurial spirit. In 1968, he co-founded the insurance company MasTec, Inc. His leadership and business acumen proved instrumental in its rapid growth. MasTec became a multi-billion dollar corporation, providing employment for thousands and making Mas Canosa one of the most successful Cuban-Americans in the world.

### **Political Activism and Advocacy for Cuban Freedom:**

Throughout his business career, Mas Canosa remained deeply involved in politics. He became a vocal advocate for Cuban freedom and democracy, spearheading various initiatives to support the Cuban Resistance. In 1981, he co-founded the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF), an organization dedicated to promoting Cuban democracy and human rights.

### **Alliance with Ronald Reagan and the Crusade for Democracy:**

Mas Canosa forged a close alliance with former US President Ronald Reagan, who shared his vision for a free and democratic Cuba. Together, they launched the Crusade for Democracy, a campaign that provided humanitarian aid to the Cuban people while putting pressure on the Castro regime.

### **Mobilizing the Cuban-American Community:**

Mas Canosa played a pivotal role in mobilizing the Cuban-American community and raising awareness about the plight of Cuba under Castro. He organized rallies, lobbied elected officials, and raised funds to support the Cuban Resistance. His efforts helped to coalesce the Cuban-American community into a powerful political force.

### **Legacy of Citizenship and Service:**

In 1990, Mas Canosa became a naturalized US citizen, a moment of great pride and gratitude. He continued to serve his adopted country with distinction, advocating for the rights of immigrants and promoting civic engagement. Mas Canosa received numerous awards and accolades for his contributions to the Cuban-American community and his unwavering commitment to freedom and democracy.

### **Death and Impact:**

Tragically, Jorge Mas Canosa passed away in 1997 at the age of 57. His untimely death sent shockwaves throughout the Cuban-American community and beyond. Mas Canosa's legacy remains an inspiration to countless others, embodying the values of perseverance, compassion, and the pursuit of a better life.

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The story of Jorge Mas Canosa is a testament to the transformative power of the American Dream. From a humble refugee, he rose to become a successful businessman, a political activist, and an American hero. His unwavering commitment to freedom, his advocacy for the Cuban people, and his entrepreneurial spirit left an enduring mark on the United States and beyond. Mas Canosa's journey reminds us of the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of fighting for the causes we believe in.



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