



Gloria and Gilbert Ortiz

The family of Gilbert (Sambo) and Gloria (Lori) Ortiz sadly announce the passing of their beloved parents. Gilbert passed away on January 1, 2021. He couldn't bear to be without his beloved wife and called her to join him in heaven on January 7, 2021. They both died peacefully at home with family by their side.

Gilbert was born in Florence on November 10, 1929 to Adela and Ramon Ortiz. He attended Florence Schools where he participated in all sports, but excelled in basketball. His team won the basketball championship in 1947 and along with his teammates was inducted into the Florence High School Hall of Fame in 2009. In 1951, he was drafted into the United States Army and served in the Korean War from 1951-1953. He was honorably discharged.

He worked at Florence Market delivering groceries and then at the Arizona State Prison as a correctional officer until his retirement. He was active in the Catholic Church and played the guitar with the Mariachi Group. He will be remembered as a kind, caring, gentle and humble man who enjoyed his family and loved spending time with his children and grandchildren and spending time outdoors.

Gloria was born in Florence on March 22, 1934 to Cuca and Pete Salazar. She attended Florence Schools and held a variety of jobs including a dental assistant and pharmacy tech until she decided to stay home to raise her family. She was devoted to the Catholic Church and sang in the mariachi and choir groups. She will be remembered as a loving, caring mother who was strong, independent and outspoken. She loved her family, going on drives and her roosters and chickens.

They are survived by their children, Gilbert Jr., Cathy (Dale), Peter (Rebecca) and David Ortiz; grandchildren, Talia, Arianna, David and Tony Ortiz and one great-grandchild, Bristol Cordova. Gilbert is also survived by his sister, Alicia Gonzales, and many family members. Gilbert was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, Joe, Edward, Raquel and Raymond Ortiz and two sisters, Hortencia Garcia and Carmela Hughes. Gloria is survived by her five sisters, Nilda Tremont, Sally Valenzuela, Eva Salazar, Eleanor Garcia and Nellie Lewis and one brother, Arnold Salazar. She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Pete, Andy and Lionel Salazar.

Theirs is a true love story. They were childhood friends and neighbors. Gloria was the love of Gilbert's life and they were married on January 24, 1954 and soon started their family, Gilbert Jr. was born on January 7, 1955, Cathy on December 15, 1957, Peter on June 26, 1965 and David on July 27, 1973. They will forever be remembered by all as the couple who couldn't be apart and were meant to be together. They will truly be missed by all who knew them.

Due to Covid-19, space will be limited to 25 immediate family only. Mass on January 22, 2021 at 10 a.m. at the Assumption Catholic Church. Burial in Florence cemetery.

Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.