

Clemente P. Salazar

9.15.1949 - 2.3.2026



Clemente Presiliano Salazar, born on September 15, 1949, in Chamita, New Mexico, passed away peacefully on February 3, 2026, in the same beloved town.

A dedicated Substance Abuse Counselor for many years, Clemente made a significant impact in the lives of individuals struggling with addiction and alcoholism, notably during his time at Rio Arriba County. His unwavering presence and guidance were remembered fondly by many long after their paths diverged.

Clemente graduated from Espanola High School in 1968 and later attended classes at Highlands University and New Mexico State, where he earned his bachelor's degree in counseling. His career was not only a vocation but also a calling, deeply fulfilling his desire to assist others in their times of need. He took immense pride in his service in the United States Marine Corps, where he was honorably discharged, a testament to his commitment and strength.

A man of few words, Clemente's quiet demeanor spoke volumes. He was known for his patience, kindness, and generosity, qualities that endeared him to friends and family alike. He cherished every moment spent with his long-time partner Drucie Herrera, who was not only his best friend for 47 years but also his companion on many outdoor adventures, including camping trips and hiking excursions. In more recent years, they would enjoy watching Hallmark movies together, and his deep affection for their dogs, particularly his best friend Shadow, was evident in his daily routine of morning walks, regardless of the weather.

Clemente's love extended to his family, as he held each of his nieces and nephews dear to his heart, taking the time to foster connections and nurture relationships. During his younger years he had the privilege of having his two nieces, Carol and Laura live with him. He thought of them as little sisters. He also had a particular fondness for all the neighborhood dogs, often feeding them and providing them comfort.

Clemente is survived by his partner Drucie Herrera; his 4-legged best friend Shadow; his siblings Andrew Salazar (Priscilla), Erminia (Sonny) Salazar (Mary Lou), Miguel Salazar (Cecelia), and Molly Salazar; and many nieces, nephews, close family members, and cherished friends. He joins his deceased relatives, including his parents Federico and Bernadita Salazar; siblings Henry Salazar, Arturo Salazar, Alex Salazar, Florence Presnell, and Tonie Salazar; and beloved nieces and nephews Janet Salazar, Bernadette Blacker, Alex Salazar, Stephanie Salazar, Casey Watson, and Joshua Martinez, as well as all his furry companions who have passed before him.

In Honor of Clemente, A Public Viewing will be held on February 18, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Rivera Family Funerals & Cremations of Espanola located at 305 Calle Salazar, Espanola, NM 87532. This will be followed by a Military Burial Service at the Santa Fe National Cemetery on February 19, 2026, commencing at 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Espanola Humane Animal Shelter in honor of Clemente on the Rivera Family Funeral Home website.

Clemente Presiliano Salazar's legacy as a compassionate counselor, devoted partner, and loving family member will continue to resonate in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

FUNERALS, CREMATIONS & MEMORIAL GARDENS