

OBITUARIES • FUNERALS • PERSONAL THANKS

Gary Steven Martinez 7.13.1967 - 3.8.2026



Gary Steven Martinez, born on July 13, 1967, in Espanola, New Mexico, left this world peacefully on March 8, 2026, in Chimayo, New Mexico. He was a beloved figure in both his professional and personal life, remembered for his unwavering dedication to family, his skill as a Journeyman Electrician, and his warm sense of humor.

Gary was one of the main Journeyman Electricians at Los Alamos National Labs, where he was often the first individual called upon for new projects and learning opportunities. Throughout his career, he diligently pursued various certifications, ultimately earning his associate's degree while exemplifying the essence of hard work and creativity.

Gary's dedication extended beyond his professional life and into his role as a father and grandfather. He cherished and took immense pride in his children – Ashley Martinez, Stephen Martinez, and Nicole Martinez – consistently supporting them and fostering strong family bonds. As a devoted father, he was enthusiastic about enrolling his children in sports, always beaming with pride as he watched them showcase their talents. This dedication to family continued with his grandchildren, Lilee Zarate and Estevan Martinez, whom he loved fiercely, passing down his passion for hunting and fishing. He enjoyed being outdoors with his father, brother, son, and nephew, no matter what they were doing they always made it a memorable experience. Gary's grandchildren were his world, his granddaughter fondly remembers the loving hugs they shared and their special moments watching "The Incredibles" together, while he made her red hot dogs. He gave the best hugs and was the best grandpa.

In addition to his accomplishments in his career and family life, Gary was also known for his warmth and humor. He found joy in the simple things, such as scaring his children and grandchildren playfully and indulging in exciting adventures like rollercoasters and scary movies during family outings. His character was defined by unconditional love, making him an irreplaceable presence in the lives of those who knew him.

An active member of his faith community, Gary was a devoted Catholic who attended Holy Family Parish in Chimayo, where he was baptized, made his first holy communion, and his confirmation. His spirituality informed his approach to life, embodying kindness, love, and compassion.

His passions included deer and elk hunting, fishing, riding his side-by-side, and enjoying football and boxing. Gary also relished spending time with his family and his Shih Tzu companion, Honey, as well as spending time with his brother Glenn. Whether outdoors or at home, they were always very close. He had a lifelong love for Harley Davidson motorcycles and frequently rode in his younger years. In recent years he really enjoyed hanging out with his nephews Terry and Jayden whether it was driving around, teaching Jayden about electrical or just being outside.

In remembering Gary, he is survived by his children, Ashley Martinez (Alejandro Romero), Stephen Martinez (Kelly Martinez), and Nicole Martinez (Melissa Martinez); the mother of his children, JoDee Martinez; his grandchildren, Lilee Zarate and Estevan Martinez; his father, Jose Filiberto Martinez; his brother, Glenn Martinez (Phyllis); nieces Celeste Salazar (Brandon), Janelle Martinez (Terry Martinez), and Michelle Montoya; cherished friend Melissa Austin; his Shih Tzu companion Honey; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, great nieces and nephews, and dear friends.

Gary is preceded in death by his mother, Marie Martinez; brother, Douglas Martinez; nephew, Julian Martinez; paternal grandparents, Refugio L. Martinez and Juan Pedro Martinez, and maternal grandparents Delfino Fernandez, and Clorinda Fernandez.

A viewing will be held on March 17, 2026, beginning at 5:00pm, followed by a Rosary at 6:00pm in the Rivera Family Funerals & Cremations of Espanola Chapel, located at 305 Calle Salazar, Espanola, NM 87532. All are welcome to attend.

Funeral Mass will take place on April 8th, 2026, beginning at 10:00am at Holy Family Parish in Chimayo, located at 1440 Private Drive NM-76 #10, Chimayo NM, 87522. All are welcome to attend

Gary Steven Martinez leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and dedication. His memory will continue to inspire and uplift all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mary Estela Vigil

Mary Estela Vigil, age 83, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, passed away peacefully on March 8, 2026, surrounded by family and loved ones. She was born in Northern New Mexico near Española and spent her life devoted to her family and her faith.

Mary graduated from the School for the Blind in Alamogordo, New Mexico. She was a woman of deep faith who loved listening to and reading the Word of God. Her home was always filled with warmth, laughter, and the comforting smells of her cooking. She was especially known for her delicious homemade pizza, tortillas and biscochitos, which became cherished favorites among her family and friends.

Mary had a special love for children and babies and brought kindness and care to everyone around her. She will be remembered for her generous spirit, her strong faith, and the love she shared so freely with those closest to her.

Mary is survived by her devoted husband, Abel Vigil; her children Sheila Arceo and her husband Cleto Arceo, Raquel Vigil, and Christina Vigil; her grandchildren Vanessa Benavidez, Danielle Evans, Elizabeth Page, Cleto Arceo, Samantha Arceo, Amber Arceo, and Amanda Arceo; her great-grandchildren Jeremy Benavidez and William Evans; and her siblings Joseph Manzanares, Peggy Vigil, and Patrick Manzanares.

She was preceded in death by her children Lazaro Vigil and Mario Vigil; her granddaughter Alexandria Arceo; her parents Alejandro and Trinidad Manzanares; and her brothers Tito, Dino, Bernie, and Dan Manzanares.

A memorial service celebrating Mary's life will be held at Word Baptist Church in Española, New Mexico, on March 28, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

Mary's life was a testament to faith, love, and devotion to family. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by those whose lives she touched.

Johnny "Dude" Espinoza



Johnny "Dude" Espinoza resident of El Llano, NM, left this Earth March 8, 2026 surrounded by his loved ones. He was born to Apolonia and Felix Espinoza on June 24, 1944. Dude was the life of the party with his endless jokes, unbeatable humor and enchanting charisma.

Johnny was preceded in death by his parents Felix and Apolonia Espinoza, his daughter Debbie Espinoza, his son Juanito Antonio Espinoza and sister Orinda Martinez.

Johnny is survived by his wife of 50 years Rosita Espinoza, sister Socorro Chavez, son Laureano Espinoza (Melony), grandchildren Dustin (Brianna), Victor, Karla, Araceli (Lane), Danielle (Elijah) and Elijah Espinoza; great grandchildren Dakota and Diego; many other beloved family members.

Special thanks to nephew Clarence Chavez and grandson Elijah Espinoza for assisting in Johnny's care and of course to Presbyterian Hospice staff who were a bsolutely wonderful with Johnny and the family, especially Liliana who always went above and beyond.

Public Viewing 3/17/2026 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
DeVargas Funeral Home

Rosary and Funeral Holy Cross Church 4/8/2026
Rosary 10:15 am

Mass: 11 am with burial to follow



Albert C. Rivera



Albert C. Rivera, 65, was born July 18, 1960, passed away on March 4, 2026. He was a blessed son, brother, father, uncle and cousin.

Albert was preceded in death by his son Albert Anthony Archuleta; brother Harold Goodnight and Tracey Gomez Archuleta; mother of his children; grandparents Albert and Filomena Rivera and other deceased family members.

Albert is survived by his daughter Jessica Archuleta, mother Ageda Goodnight; sister Irene Goodnight/Herrera and husband John; uncles Gilbert Rivera and Macario Rivera (Theresa); alongwithaunts, sisters-in-law, nieces and many cousins.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Friday, March 20, 2026, at 9:00 am at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ojo Caliente, NM, with burial to follow immediately at the Ojo Caliente Cemetery.

The family of Albert Rivera has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory of the beautiful Española Valley. 505-747-7477

Charles Peter "Charlie" Wicklund



Charles Peter "Charlie" Wicklund, 85, of Española, New Mexico, passed peacefully on February 27, 2026.

Born December 25, 1940, in Hibbing, Minnesota, to Peter and Hilma Wicklund, Charlie spent part of his childhood in Ray, Arizona, a small desert mining town that no longer exists. From an early age he loved the outdoors and adventure.

Charlie proudly served in the U.S. Army's 34th Engineer Battalion during the Vietnam War and remained closely connected with his fellow veterans throughout his life, attending annual reunions and rarely seen without his Vietnam Veteran or 34th Engineer Battalion hat.

In 1968, Charlie began his forestry career with Duke City Lumber, eventually becoming plant manager of the Española mill. It was there he met Harold Sluga and wife Kay, beginning a friendship that lasted more than five decades, and also met his future wife.

Charlie later joined New Mexico State Forestry, where he worked until retiring in 2007. He was especially proud of leading the forestry inmate work program. He continued his love of forests in his personal life as well, Charlie served the New Mexico Tree Farm Program for decades and most recently as Treasurer of the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee. The New Mexico Tree Farmer of the Year Award has been named in his honor.

Charlie and Joyce made their home on a mesa overlooking the Española Valley. During his final weeks, his sister-in-law Chris Zar and her partner Humberto Flores opened their home to him and cared for him with extraordinary kindness.

Charlie loved animals, being outdoors, geocaching, spicy food and all things trains.

He is survived by his wife Joyce Witte-Wicklund; stepdaughter Michelle Witte Ransom and her husband Noel; grandchildren Calvin and Isabel; sister-in-law Chris Zar and her partner Humberto Flores; and cousins Verner Eklund of South Africa and Lisa Heil of St. George, Utah. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Keith and Percy.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Española Humane or the New Mexico Tree Farm Foundation.

Loyda Gurule



Loyda Gurule, age 94 was born on March 2, 1932, in Vallecitos, New Mexico, to Armando Trujillo and Maria Chacon Trujillo. She was a longtime resident of Ojo Caliente, New Mexico. Loyda passed away peacefully at her home on March 7, 2026, after a short illness.

Loyda was preceded in death by her husband, Sammie Gurule; daughter, Kathy Taylor; grandson, Sammy Gurule; brothers Armando Trujillo II, Uvaldo Trujillo, and Facundo Trujillo; and her sister, Sobie Quintana. She is survived by her children: Joe Melvin Gurule (Claudia) of Standing Rock, NM; Edwina Fisher (Howard) of McDonald, TN; Edwin J. Gurule (Phyllis) of Tres Piedras, NM; and Rebecca Gurule Lovato (Nick) of Ojo Caliente NM. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Consuelo Sowers, Sarah Gkurule, Edwin Fisher, Dena Fisher, Shania Gurule, Serina Taylor, Kendra Taylor, Victoria Lovato, and Nicholas Lovato; as well as eleven great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, Erlinda DeVargas (Bobby) of Las Cruces and Elsie May of Santa Fe, along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Loyda drove school buses for more than 30 years for Ojo Caliente Schools, later known as Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools, where she later retired. She had a passion for gardening and lovingly tended to her vegetable garden until two years ago, carefully canning and freezing the produce, she worked so hard to grow.

A devoted Seventh-day Adventist for 69 years, Loyda loved cooking and sharing many of her favorite dishes at Sabbath potlucks. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Loyda passed away with the blessed hope that when Christ comes again, the faithful will be resurrected to reign with Him forever, where there will be no more tears, sickness, or death.

Public visitation will begin on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Sangre de Cristo Chapel of the DeVargas Funeral Home and Crematory, with a devotional service to follow at 6:30 PM.

Burial will take place at the Tres Piedras Community Cemetery on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at 11:30 AM.

A meal will follow the burial at the Mesa Vista High School cafeteria

Pallbearers will be her Granddaughters:

The family of Loyda Gurule has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory of the beautiful Espanola Valley 505-747-7477.



With Deepest

Sympathy



Find
Hope In
Tomorrow's
Promise

