

Johnny I. Martinez

5.21.1959 - 2.3.2026

John Ignacio Martinez, fondly known as Johnny, was born on May 21, 1959, in Ogden, Utah. He passed away peacefully into the arms of the Lord on February 3, 2026, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness, and cherished memories.



Johnny's career encompassed various roles within the hospitality industry, where he worked at different hotels and restaurants in Espanola and Los Alamos. His passion for service was evident in his interactions with others, making him a beloved figure in the community. Although health issues led him to retire in recent years, he continued to embody resilience and determination, living life to its fullest on his terms.

An accomplished man, Johnny was proud of completing high school and pursuing further education through college classes, despite facing health-related setbacks. His love for music was evident in his passion for singing and writing lyrics. He diligently memorized his favorite songs, often sharing them with friends and family, spreading joy and laughter wherever he went.

Johnny was known for his friendly and loving personality. He thrived in social settings, enjoying birthday parties, graduations, and church gatherings. A devoted member of his faith community, he attended various churches in the Espanola area, including The Rock Christian Fellowship and The Lighthouse of Chimayo. His deep spirituality was an integral part of his life.

A cherished brother to his sisters—Barbara A. Martinez (Wilbert Valdez), Helen L. Martinez, and Rita M. Godina (Norberto)—Johnny was known for his generosity, often showering them with thoughtful gifts. He also shared a special bond with his brother-in-law, Wilbert, who fondly remembers their fishing trips together, where Johnny delighted more in the scenery and picnics than in the fishing itself. His loving spirit extended to his family, including nieces Teresa, Victoria, Jenae, Lizzy, and Lexie, as well as nephews Norberto, Patrick, Betito, and Baby Johnny. He was also blessed with a supportive extended family, including his Aunt Eleanor Garcia and Uncle Richard Garcia.

Johnny's affectionate nature was also evident in his bond with his cat companion, Baby Monster, who was a source of comfort and joy in his life. He cultivated the beauty around him, tending to a vibrant flower garden filled with colorful petunias, sunflowers, and roses that mirrored his lively spirit.

Surrounded by many cherished friends and family members, Johnny's heart was large, and he touched the lives of all who knew him. He is predeceased by his beloved life partner of many years, Cindy Baca, his mother and stepfather, Mary and William Rider, and his father Jose Martinez. He is also preceded in death by his brother Joe Frank Martinez, brother-in-law Blaine Swasey Sr., nephews Daniel Godina and Little Blaine Jr., and his grandparents from both sides of the family Juan and Juanita Martinez, and Frank and Luisa Garcia. The legacy of love and warmth he leaves behind will be felt by all who had the privilege to know him.

In honor of Johnny's life, a Public Viewing will be held on February 19, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Rivera Family Funerals & Cremations of Espanola, located at 305 Calle Salazar, Espanola, NM. A Funeral Service will follow on February 20, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at The Rock Christian Fellowship, located at 919 N Riverside Drive, Espanola, NM. Johnny will then be laid to rest at Loma Vista Cemetery in Alcalde following mass.

Johnny Ignacio Martinez will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for his boundless love, laughter, and spirit that brought joy to those around him.



FUNERALS, CREMATIONS & MEMORIAL GARDENS