



Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova

August 13, 1936 - April 21, 2023

Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova, age 86, a resident of Belen, NM, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her earthly and ethereal family on April 21, 2023. A Visitation will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Romero Funeral Home Chapel followed by a Rosary at 7:00 p.m. A Final Visitation will take place on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens. Our Lady of Belen has been central to the Sanchez Cordova family for more than 100 years. She was born on August 13, 1936, in Belen, NM. Kandy is preceded in death by her husband, Ismael "Smiley" Cordova; parents, Luciano and Maria Padilla Sanchez; son, Joseph "Joey" Cordova; siblings, Leo and Tony Sanchez, Sally Datello, Mary Jane Luna, and Rosie Baca; and sister-in-law, Nila Romero. She is survived by her daughter, Pam Cordova, and son-in-law Michael Melendez, daughter, Sharon Cordova, son, Christopher J. Cordova, and daughter-in-law, Bernadine Cordova; brothers, Alex and Luciano "LA" Sanchez, and sister-in-law, Pauline Sanchez; grandchildren, Marysa and Nicolas Baca, Christopher J. Cordova Jr., Maria Tyree, and husband Wyatt, Noah Molina Cordova; great-grandchild, Joey Lynn Baca; and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and good friends. In 1956, Kandy married Smiley and started a family. She was a devoted wife and mother and had a great love for life, her family, and her friends. Kandy had a passion for community service and was a memorable and well-accomplished

public servant. Helping others came naturally to her, but it was in 1988 when Kandy found her strong leadership skills and strong desire for public service. She proudly served as the Catholic Daughters of America's State Grand Regent, and President of the Rotary Club and the Belen Chamber of Commerce as well. She served as the Valencia County Clerk, New Mexico State Representative Dist. 7, and shared her know-how by serving on boards of several nonprofit organizations. In recognition of her contributions to enhancing the quality of life for all New Mexicans, Kandy received numerous honors and awards throughout her lifetime. Her dedication as a legislator and her commitment to education and the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area have also been well acknowledged. For those of us that had the privilege of knowing and being part of her family, her friend, her acquaintance, or just an admirer, we know she is leaving us a legacy of her big-heartedness, kindness, compassion, and the responsibility to make our community a better place. Kandy is a shining example to follow. Pall Bearers will be Paul Baca, Carlos Cordova, Rance Hall, Luis Ledezma, Leo Sanchez, and Michael Sanchez. Honorary Pall Bearers will be Ita Archibeque, Miguel Garcia, Dorothy Johnston, Larry Sanchez, and Eloisa Tabet. Rosary to be recited by Josefina Dozal. Kandy's family asks that donations be considered to the New Mexico Alzheimer's Association. To donate online, please visit www.alz.org/newmexico or mail a check to: Alzheimer's Association, New Mexico Chapter 6731 Academy Rd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87109. Please sign Kandy's online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **26**. 6:00 PM (MT)

Romero Funeral Home Chapel
609 N. Main St.
Belen, NM 87002
(505) 864-8501
romerofuneralhome@comcast.net
<https://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com>

Rosary

APR **26**. 7:00 PM (MT)

Romero Funeral Home Chapel
609 N. Main St.
Belen, NM 87002
(505) 864-8501
romerofuneralhome@comcast.net
<https://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com>

Final Visitation

APR **27**. 9:00 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church
101 N. 10th Street
Belen, NM 87002

Funeral Mass

APR 27. 10:00 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church
101 N. 10th Street
Belen, NM 87002

Interment

APR 27. 11:00 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens
101 N. 10th Street
Belen, NM 87002

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ Jennifer Jaramillo lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Jennifer Jaramillo - June 20, 2023 at 05:33 PM

CP

“ When my husband and I first moved to New Mexico in 1993 it was our privilege to know her and be helped by her. She was a pleasant and caring person. Larry and I moved back to San Angelo in 2015, Belen and the people we knew stayed in our hearts. Our prayers are with her family. Cathie Pearson

Cathie Pearson - May 05, 2023 at 09:54 PM

LP

“ Lenore Pena lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Lenore Pena - May 05, 2023 at 01:11 AM

PL

“ Dear Pam and Sharon:

I am so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. I am so sorry to have missed her services, please know I would have been there had I found out in time.

Your Mom and my Dad served together in the State Legislature for many years, it was always great to visit with her, watching her serve her constituents and always fighting for what was best for Valencia County! Her work in Valencia County Government was her signature service before she served at the state level.

My family has been Blessed to have known your Mom, and your Dad, they were very special people. I have also been Blessed having been able to work with both of you, as teachers with the Los Lunas Schools, I think we all had a great career, I have so many fond memories of both of you!

Know that I am thinking of you and keeping you in my thoughts and prayers!!

Many Blessings to you and your family!

Paul T. Luna

Paul T. Luna - April 30, 2023 at 08:52 PM

AC

“ Albert & Alice Chavez lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Albert & Alice Chavez - April 30, 2023 at 04:39 PM

AC

Our condolences to Kandy Cordova's family and may her soul rest in peace. We will always remember Kandy for the great many years she worked in public service.

Albert & Alice Chavez - April 30, 2023 at 04:44 PM

AC

“ *My heartfelt condolences thoughts and prayers are with her family her cda sister Aimee Delano Chavez*



Aimee Delano Chavez - April 29, 2023 at 10:13 AM

DT

“ *Dorothy Trujillo lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova*



Dorothy Trujillo - April 28, 2023 at 09:21 PM

KG

“ *I will always remember Kandy as my mom's best friend. They really connected and inspired each other and co-conspired to do good for Belen, the Catholic Daughters, and the Belen Chamber of Commerce. I really believe Kandy inspired my mom Norma to go into real estate and establish a business on Main Street in Belen. When they were together lots of laughter could be heard all around! I trust they have reconnected in heaven and I can imagine my Mom saying "what took you so long, my friend?" Praying for peace and comfort for all her family, friends, and care-givers. Her memory will live on in the many lives she touched.*

Kimberly Gibbons - April 28, 2023 at 02:55 PM

RO

“ Robert & Maxine Olguin lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Robert & Maxine Olguin - April 27, 2023 at 08:57 PM

MT

“ Pam and Family, I am saddened to hear of your Mom's passing. I came to know your Mom through Politics and for many, many years, we would meet. Your Mom was a "Shining Star" and she still is. Your Mom was an exceptional Public Servant for Valencia County, she helped so many of her peers. She was beautiful (In Heart, Soul and Physical). She always had a smile on her face just like your Dad did. I had the upmost respect for her. God Bless. 🙏

Mary Agnes Tabet - April 27, 2023 at 08:26 PM

YG

“ Pam, Sharon, and Chris,

We hope you find comfort in the Lord as you mourn your mother, Kandy. I have such wonderful memories of taco Tuesdays at the Country Club with your mom and my mom, Eloisa. I also remember as a child going to your home, the women had some sort of program, and they rehearsed a musical number (I want to say it was "These boots were made for walkin"). Kandy was such a good friend of my Mom, thank you for sharing her.

John and Yvette Garrett

Yvette Garrett - April 27, 2023 at 12:54 PM

SD

“ Susan Duran sent a virtual gift in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Susan Duran - April 27, 2023 at 12:40 AM

GG

“ Sharon, Pam, and Chris --
My deepest condolences to you and all your family. May the memories you have in your heart give you strength during this difficult time.



Gina Gonzalez-Young - April 26, 2023 at 10:54 PM

GG

“ Gina Gonzalez-Young sent a virtual gift in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Gina Gonzalez-Young - April 26, 2023 at 10:52 PM

DD

“ Pam, Chris and Sharon...with deepest condolences! Prayers to all of you...your mom was such an inspiration too many! I will always remember her as my "auntie". God Bless You All, Diana (DeBaca Mireles) Bridget (Luna) Rodriguez, Candace (Luna) Ramirez and all The DeBaca Family

Diana DeBaca - April 26, 2023 at 09:00 PM

MJ

“ *Cordova Family,
Our condolences on your loss, may God Bless
& comfort you all.
Marty & Beatrice Jojola*



Marty & Beatrice Jojola - April 26, 2023 at 02:18 PM

TG

“ *Tony And Oralia Garcia lit a candle in memory
of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova*



Tony and Oralia Garcia - April 26, 2023 at 10:41 AM

AS

“ *Adela Sanchez lit a candle in memory of
Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova*



Adela Sanchez - April 26, 2023 at 10:27 AM

TP

“ *To the family: The goodness of Kandy continues to shine bright
through you all. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and may
God Bless You!*

Tomas Padilla - April 25, 2023 at 08:23 PM

AC

“ My prayers are with the family and friends. I'm a friend of the family and grew up with her kids.
Keep her in your heart today and always.
GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU 🙏

Alice Cordova-Robinson - April 25, 2023 at 07:42 PM

FE

“ Pam and Michael so sorry to hear about your Mom, She was such a wonderful lady a great role model ,we know she is in a better place now

Felicita - April 25, 2023 at 07:06 PM

CR

“ Cynthia Romero sent a virtual gift in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Cynthia Romero - April 25, 2023 at 07:04 PM

FE

“ Felicita lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Felicita - April 25, 2023 at 07:01 PM

SM

“ Sharon Morgan lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Sharon Morgan - April 25, 2023 at 01:19 PM

SM

*Pam, Sharon and Family, We are so very sorry for the loss of your beloved Mom. Kandy was such a bright light in the world with her boundless energy, infectious smile, commitment to the residents of Valencia County, and love for her family. She touched many lives and will be missed by all who knew her.
Love and Peace to you all,
Sharon and David Morgan*

Sharon Morgan - April 25, 2023 at 01:23 PM

DS

Pam, so very sorry for the loss of your Mother, such grace and beauty like you. Holding you in my heart with great compassion.

Dawn Stracener - April 25, 2023 at 03:50 PM

BC

“ Pam, Chris, and Sharon--My family and I offer our condolences and prayers for the passing of Kandy. I have great memories of the times our families would get together. One special moment for me is when your mom and dad lead the Marching dance at my wedding reception. Although it was a bit of a smaller place, they made it work. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.



*Sincerely,
Brian and Luzinda Chavez*

Brian Chavez - April 25, 2023 at 01:13 PM



“ Sharon, Chris, and Pam--hugs to you all at this time. What little I knew of your mom was all good! She was feisty and quick witted--just my kind of people!! I love you guys and pray that you can feel the peace of God through this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Geraldine Marquardt (Chavira)



Geri Marquardt - April 25, 2023 at 12:43 PM

DU

“ Diana Phillips Ulibarri & Ramon Ulibarri lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Diana Phillips Ulibarri & Ramon Ulibarri - April 25, 2023 at 12:24 PM

TF

“ Tony F Padilla & Family lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Tony F Padilla & Family - April 25, 2023 at 12:10 PM

GG

“Glen & Mary Gabaldon lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Glen & Mary Gabaldon - April 25, 2023 at 12:09 PM

RS

“Lit a candle In Memory of Candelaria “Kandy” Sanchez Cordova.”



*Pam & Cordova Family,
We would like to extend our most sincere condolences on your Loss of Kandy. She was a beautiful, kind woman who will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. Prayers and Blessings to all of the Cordova Family at this most difficult time.* 🌸🌸

*Sincerely,
Ruby Salas & Family* 🌹🦋🌸

Ruby Salas - April 25, 2023 at 12:01 PM

DJ

“My mom is Stephanie Carrasco Gallegos. She has severe Alzheimer’s but she has told me stories of her friend Kandy who she went to school with in Belen. Stephanie does not remember a lot but I showed her the picture and asked her if she knew this person. She said yes that is my friend Kandy from high school. I am very sorry for your loss, the loss to our state, and the loss to my mom.

diane gallegos jouppi - April 25, 2023 at 11:16 AM

JT

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. She was a blessing to all who knew her.



John and Donnita Thompson - April 25, 2023 at 11:08 AM

FR

“ Her kindness was one of her many strengths. I will always be grateful for how kind “Kandy” and Smiley were to my friend and their neighbor Mary.



Fran Rossberg - April 25, 2023 at 10:54 AM

LM

“ I can think of one word to describe Kandy Cordova: **REMARKABLE**

Laura Martinez - April 25, 2023 at 08:48 AM

PC

“ Penny And Barney Coppedge lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Penny and Barney Coppedge - April 24, 2023 at 11:53 PM

SL

“ Summer Ludwig lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Summer Ludwig - April 24, 2023 at 11:39 PM

SL

My sincere condolences, I was not lucky enough to know Kandy but I have heard so many wonderful stories and have seen how many lives she touched. Her legacy is strong and lives on in her family and in everyone she inspired through all of the years she dedicated to her community. My heart is with all of her loved ones.

Summer Ludwig - April 24, 2023 at 11:43 PM

CE

“ Charles D. Eaton lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Charles D. Eaton - April 24, 2023 at 08:40 PM

JM

A wonderful, Beautiful person. God bless the Cordova family.

Joe G. Maestas - April 25, 2023 at 04:26 AM

LG

“ Loretta Gabaldon lit a candle in memory of Candelaria "Kandy" Sanchez Cordova



Loretta Gabaldon - April 24, 2023 at 08:30 PM

LG

Condolences to my dear cousins. I am so happy that our precious Kandy is now in heaven with our Divine Mercy Jesus Christ and all the angels and saints. This journey has been hard for all of you, but because of all the love and prayers, our dear Kandy has made her journey to heaven. Be comforted knowing she is in heaven. My prayers go out to all of you. Cousin Loretta.

Loretta Gabaldon - April 24, 2023 at 08:33 PM

FG

"Kandy" Cordova - This was definitely a lady with "class". Really enjoyed serving with her during my terms as Valencia County Commissioner when she was Valencia County Clerk. She always had a great deal of respect for the residents of Valencia County and her constituents. She had excellent rapport with all of her fellow elected officials. She will be missed but not forgotten. GOD bless "Kandy" and her family. With my deepest respect and admiration. Frank A. Gurule - former Valencia County Commissioner and Village of Los Lunas Councilman.

Frank A. Gurule - April 25, 2023 at 01:27 PM