



Cecil Gabriel Soto

December 18, 1944 - August 27, 2024

1944-2024

Dr. Cecil Gabriel Soto, a resident of Los Lunas, NM, passed away on August 27, 2024. Public viewing will be held September 13, 2024 at 6pm, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Peralta, New Mexico. Rosary will be September 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Final visitation will be September 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Peralta, New Mexico. Funeral mass will follow on September 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., Interment immediately following funeral mass. Honorary pallbearers: Maxim Moya, Maisie Moya, Micaela Rowen, Isaiah Rowen, Johnathan Soto, Leia Soto, Max Moya, Jovonna Soto and Derek Rowen

In honor of a life well lived. Well done, good and faithful servant! Cecil was born the youngest of three children and raised in Albuquerque, NM. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School his entire life. In high school, he was an excellent student and loved to engage in sport. He played baseball, football, basketball and also worked as a peer counselor at Wells Park recreation center. He had a deep passion for learning that led him to the University of New Mexico, where he earned his undergraduate degree. This helped to launch his transition to dental school at the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Prior to leaving for dental school, he had met Rosalia Ortiz. The two married 4 years later and maintained a strong Christian marriage for 51 years. They

welcomed three children and established their home and his dental practice in Los Lunas, NM. He went on to serve Valencia County residents, providing dental care for 47 years. He often could be found cheering on the Los Lunas Tigers or the New Mexico Lobos at various sporting events. He also was a very active and engaged member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church where he served as a lector, eucharistic minister and member of the parish council.

Dr. Soto had very humble beginnings and always made sure to care for and advocate for those in need his entire life and career. He regularly engaged with people in the community to ensure they had their needs met. He was a very passionate, sensitive, sincere, and dedicated community member. He had a keen ability to relate to anyone he met, exchange stories, listen without judgement, and be gentle in his counsel.

Cecil is preceded in death by his parents Cecil Soto Sr. and Elizabeth (Isabel) Gonzales Soto, his sisters MaryAnn (Eloy) Sandoval, and Connie Lou Soto. Also, his loving in-laws Amadeo and Eufemia Ortiz, Jerry and Magdalena Raught, Francisco Ortiz, Kenneth Cain, Samuel Ortiz, Rebecca Ortiz and nephew Samuel Kenneth Raught.

He is survived by his loving and dedicated wife Rosalia Soto, children Marisa (Derek) Rowen, Matthew (Jovonna) Soto, Melanie (Max) Moya. Also, his beautiful grandchildren Maxim and Maisie Moya, Micaela and Isaiah Rowen, Johnathan and Leia Soto. He has numerous cousins and generations of nieces and nephews that he loved deeply. He was also fortunate to have many loving friends and neighbors that were extended family. Cecil will be deeply and greatly missed, but his memory and example will live on in all his survivors.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the trauma ICU team at UNM

Hospital who provided loving and compassionate care to our father and supported all of us during a very difficult time. They are an exceptional group of caregivers that will hold a special place in our hearts. Please sign Cecil's online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 13. 6:00 PM (MT)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
3674 Highway 47
Peralta, NM 87042

Rosary

SEP 13. 7:00 PM (MT)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
3674 Highway 47
Peralta, NM 87042

Final Visitation

SEP 14. 9:00 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
3674 Highway 47
Peralta, NM 87042

Funeral Mass

SEP 14. 10:00 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
3674 Highway 47
Peralta, NM 87042

Interment

SEP **14**. 11:00 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Cemetery
118A La Ladera Rd
Los Lunas, NM 87031

Tribute Wall

JL

“ Our sincere sympathy and condolences to Dr. Soto's wife, children and grandchildren. I know that you All will miss such an extraordinary and lovely person that helped make this life better. He was also our Family Dentist. When I was involved in an near death motorcycle accident He fixed my front teeth and helped me out in the healing that I experienced with a sincere interest and calm spirit. At that time I was 35 now I am 71 and the work He did is still intact and I was going to call him to make another appointment when I found out about the accident. UNM hospital is the best and I was there after my own accidents in motorcycle and then accident two years ago. Your memories will sustain you!



June Anne Salazar de Landavazo - October 16, 2024 at 04:37 PM

AS

“ My sincere condolences to Cecil's Family and Friends. I am devastated by this loss. Cecil and I met at St. Mary's in the first grade and almost immediately he was responsible for "pushing" me to work hard and do well in school. We developed a wonderful competition for the next 18 years studying together so many days and nights and I feel like part of me has died as well. There is so much I could say about my dear friend but the one thing I'm sure of is that he is in the presence of our Lord at this moment. Well done Cecil!

Armand Giannini Sr - September 14, 2024 at 09:45 AM

ND

My deepest condolences to Cecil's family. I just learned about his passing in the most recent issue of UMKC's Dental School Alumni publication. Cecil was my classmate and lab partner in dental school so we were seated next to each other for four years. He was the smartest, most dedicated, gentlest member of our class. He placed numerous gold-foil restorations in my mouth in 1970 that hygienists and dentists marvel at today.

I know your loss will be felt for a long time but you must be lifted up by the joy of having known a man as kind and helpful as Cecil. May he rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon him forever.

Nelson A. Smith, DDS - June 29, 2025 at 02:31 PM

TW

“ We are heartbroken to have to send our condolences to Dr. Soto's family. Although we are unable to physically accompany your family, we are with you spiritually. We pray that God will hold each one in His comforting arms during this most difficult time.

Dr. Soto's super power was his ability to make his patients calm and comfortable in the dentist chair. First, his enduring staff made us feel like family members. Then, he was sincerely interested in our family's well being. We would share food experiences, particularly what Pete's Cafe offered. We laughed at jokes. Although we are unable to physically accompany your family, we are with you spiritually he would ask a question when my mouth was numb, or a tool in my mouth, then giggle at my attempt to produce an answer. However, nothing would put that smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye when I asked about his family. All the while there were fingers, tools, and suction hose in my mouth. Then, I was done! We wished him well when he retired, but we knew we would never have another super dentist.

We were shocked at the accident. Prayed for recovery, but knew that God's will would prevail. Yet, we know that in Dr. Soto's 'Celebration of Life', the tears we shed are for our loss of his physical presence. He will be missed, but always in our memory. We will look for him in his children, and grandchildren. Rest in peace my dear friend.

Tom & Edwina Weathersby - September 13, 2024 at 02:47 PM

JR

“ I am deeply saddened by Cecil's passing. I've known Cecil since we were in Little League together. He is one of the finest men I've ever met. God bless Cecil and Rosalie and their children.

Jim Reddin

James R Reddin - September 13, 2024 at 02:30 PM

TH

Dear Rosalia

*We are so sad for you and your children to learn of Cecil's passing
He was the best of us, a model for everyone of a kind and gentle
person*

*He was a world class dentist skilled in his profession like no other
A great and loyal friend and we will all miss him terribly
Tucker and Donna Haltom*

Tucker and Donna Haltom - September 15, 2024 at 11:37 PM

AS


*Oh No! I just learned of Dr. Soto's passing. I'm so saddened to hear
this. I worked for Dr. Soto and he was the Best! It was a pleasure
working for him. I thought of him often, I loved his laugh, his gentle
nature. I will forever be grateful to have known this gentleman. He will
be sorely missed. Thanks for the wonderful memories! My deepest and
heart felt condolences to his family.*

Allie Smith

allie Smith - October 14, 2024 at 10:01 AM

BJ

“ Soto Family,
My sincere condolences on your loss, my thoughts & prayers are with you all. We only met each other at UNMH while your Husband/Dad & my sister Delma were both in the Trauma ICU & passed away the same day. In that short time I could see your family was close & loved him dearly, as I loved my sister. There are no words to make this any easier for any of us, but seeing & talking with your family helped with what we were all going through. Losing my sister broke my heart 💔 as it did my family, it's hard to believe that she is gone, but knowing she is not in pain gives me some comfort, we have lots of memories to be thankful for our time together. May God Bless & comfort your family during this difficult time & the years ahead.
Beatrice Jojola



Beatrice Jojola - September 12, 2024 at 10:40 PM

WF

“ My family and I send our heartfelt condolences to all of you. I always enjoyed all my conversations with Cecil, especially about football and basketball. He was always so kind to me and my family. He will be missed.

Wendy Ferguson - September 12, 2024 at 10:47 AM



Jacqueline Pennington

“ My mom (Carmen) would tell me the story of when they went to St. Mary's that some boys were picking on him, so her and my (Aunt Marlene) went over to the boys and took care of them. So the boys never bothered him again. It sad to lose our loved ones, but we always have the memories.

Jacqueline Pennington - September 11, 2024 at 04:04 PM



ER

“ Dear Soto Family,

I was deeply saddened to hear of Dr. Soto's passing. As a cherished member of our community, his impact reached far beyond the dental office. Dr. Soto was not just a dentist; he was a beacon of kindness, compassion, and unwavering dedication.



His warm smile eased countless patients' fears. Whether it was a child's first checkup or an elderly patient seeking relief, Dr. Soto treated each person with grace and respect. His legacy lives on in the smiles he restored, the pain he alleviated, and the friendships he forged. His legacy is etched in the hearts of those he touched, and our community mourns his loss.

Please accept my deepest condolences during this difficult time. May you find strength in the love shared and the lives forever changed by Dr. Soto's remarkable presence.

*With heartfelt sympathy,
Ermelinda Baca, RDH*

Ermelinda Baca, RDH - September 10, 2024 at 05:50 PM

CC

“ Dr Soto was our family dentist. Even after our daughter moved to Albuquerque she continued to come to him for her dental care. When he retired it was difficult switching to someone else because he was not only a good dentist but such a nice person. Our deepest condolences to all his family. May God's love and grace bring you comfort and your faith sustain you.



Charles & Lucy Chavez - September 09, 2024 at 04:52 PM

CK

*“ Dr. Soto was a great man. He was our family dentist for many years and he always made you feel right at home when he was working on our teeth. He was a good friend to all of our families and he would stop to talk and ask about everyone in our family. He was a delight! We will miss him greatly.
Corine, Jim Knecht and Fidelia Baca*

Corine & Jim Knecht - September 09, 2024 at 03:57 PM



“ Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy to his family. Not only was he the Go to Dentist but a big part of the community where he was more like family by always engaging with his patients but to also engage people of the community .As if he also felt had become part of the circle of his family

Kathy Moya - September 09, 2024 at 11:06 AM

JD

“ *Condolences to Dr. Soto's family. Saddened to hear another dentist from my era of dentistry is gone. But he made an honorable impact on NM dentistry and will be missed. We shared funny stories at dental meetings about UMKC (University of Missouri/ Kansas City School of Dentistry). Prayers for family and friends to be comforted during this time.*
Jolynn Galvin DDS

Jolynn Galvin DDS - September 09, 2024 at 10:42 AM

BP

“ *My condolences to Rosalie and family. Cecil was a kind man and excellent Dentist. My family and I went to him for many years. May God Bless you during this most difficult time.*
Barbara Padilla-Sanchez



Barbara Padilla-Sanchez - September 08, 2024 at 03:22 PM

JD

“ *I am sorry for your loss. Cecil and I would meet at our dental meetings and only got to see each other thru the years but always enjoyed being with him. He was a great person. Dr James Twohig Sorry that I will not be able to attend his services My prayers are with the family*

James Twohig DDS - September 08, 2024 at 01:46 PM

RL

“ Dear Rosalie and family, my deepest sympathy goes out to you and all your family. I think that I had shared this story with Melanie while at a dental appointment but I wanted to also share it with the rest of the family.

Many years ago on Christmas eve or Christmas day I had a terrible toothache, my face swollen , I called Dr Soto and he told me to come into the office. I had an abscess.

He never hesitated in leaving his family on Christmas to help me. I've always appreciated him and his dedication to his patients. Dr Soto was my dentist for his entire career until his retirement.

He will be dearly missed by all the community.

May you Rest in Peace Dr. Soto 🙏



Ruth Luceto - September 08, 2024 at 11:57 AM

AC

“ Melanie, so sorry to hear of your father's passing. Please know you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Annette E. Chavez

Annette Chavez - September 07, 2024 at 04:57 PM

LH

“ While playing with golf clubs, our youngest son accidentally had a tooth knocked out with a golf club. It was on a Saturday with nothing open. We called Dr. Soto. He had Roy come right over, put the tooth back in, and it is there to this day! My son is now 58. The Dr. was our dentist for at least 50 years.

We can't praise these people who go among us, quietly doing their jobs, too much. It is like they are a gift from the Lord Himself. May the Lord always bless him and his family.

*Most sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy and Lura Hacker*

Lura L and Leroy W Hacker - September 06, 2024 at 07:26 PM

PL

“ *Condolences to the Soto Family:*

Dr. Soto was a kind and gentle soul, we were all so Blessed to have him make his home in Los Lunas. Thanks to his caring nature, so many of us had the opportunity to get to know him, either through his Dental Practice or through his involvement in the community and the schools.

May all the wonderful memories each of you have of your Husband, Father and Grandfather, help sustain you through this very difficult time. We all appreciate what Dr. Soto brought to our lives, and thank you for sharing him with all of us!!!

Many Blessings to each of you!

Paul T. Luna

Paul T. Luna - September 06, 2024 at 03:40 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences to the family. Steve and Klaudia Sanchez*



Klaudia Sanchez - September 06, 2024 at 10:14 AM



“ *Vicky Ulibarri lit a candle in memory of Cecil Gabriel Soto*



Vicky Ulibarri - September 05, 2024 at 10:41 PM



“ *Michele Gutierrez (Anaya) lit a candle in memory of Cecil Gabriel Soto*



Michele Gutierrez (Anaya) - September 05, 2024 at 08:37 PM



“ *I am so sorry to learn of Dr. Soto's death. As for so many others, he was our family's dentist for many years. We lost him once when he retired and sadly now again with his death. He was so congenial that going to the dentist was like visiting a friend. I'll surely miss this good man.*

Geri Rhodes

Geri Rhodes - September 05, 2024 at 05:44 PM

GC

“ My condolences to Dr. Soto’s family. Cecil was a great man, also known as Coach. He was a mentor to me and a very good family man. God bless you Coach & your family. Gene Carabajal

Gene Carabajal - September 05, 2024 at 05:07 PM

BC

“ Our condolence to Dr Cecil’s family. He was the most caring and kindest man. My daughter Michelle worked with him . She respected and loved him ❤️ when she was killed by a drunk driver I know it was hard on him. We loved him too. May you have strength as a family to go on without him ❤️

Betty Carpenter - September 05, 2024 at 01:28 PM

BR

“ My deepest sympathy to the Soto family. He was our family’s dentist for many years and he made us always feel so comfortable and cared for. He was such a big part of our lives.



Barbara Rodriguez - September 05, 2024 at 12:23 PM

JP

“ So sorry to hear about your loss. God Bless Dr. Soto and your family. He would say, "Go Lobos!"
Jason and Cindy Pike

Jason Pike - September 05, 2024 at 11:57 AM

JP

“ Jason P. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Cecil Gabriel Soto.



Jason P. - September 05, 2024 at 11:51 AM

LF

“ We a so sorry to hear of Cecils passing. We have wonderful memories of Cecil and Family from our time in Los Lunas. May the love of your friends give you comfort and the love of God give you peace.

Leslie and Marie Fluke

Leslie Fluke - September 05, 2024 at 11:35 AM

MG

“ Margaret Garcia lit a candle in memory of Cecil Gabriel Soto



Margaret Garcia - September 05, 2024 at 12:38 AM

VS

“ Cecil was a good friend, neighbor and dentist. He always provided wisdom, and unwavering support. Cecil, Rosalie and their children have been a part of our neighborhood for over 40 years. He will be deeply missed, but never forgotten. His memory will live on in our hearts and in our “mouths” forever.

Mike and Vickie Sumner

Vickie Sumner - September 04, 2024 at 08:17 PM

SS

“ Los Lunas has lost a great man! Dr. Soto had the biggest heart. He was a kind and caring man. Dr. Soto saw 3 generations of my family. He was my first dentist I went to in the 2nd grade. I never went to anyone else until he retired. (Sad) People always asked us why we drove an hour to a dentist when there were plenty in Albuquerque. They obviously didn't know Dr. Soto like we did. He was the one who found the first sign of skin cancer on my father's nose and ordered him to get it checked out. He treated my daughter as if it was his granddaughter. He always had a soft voice with her. Dr. Soto is one of a kind. My teeth will never be the same without him!! He was an angel in disguise. His family was his life. He lived for his kids/grandkids happiness as well as Mrs. Soto's. Rest in peace Dr. Soto, a piece of my heart is missing.

Tad, Susanne and Kimberly Stephenson

Susanne Stephenson - September 04, 2024 at 04:33 PM

CB

“ So Sorry for your loss! He was an Amazing Man and Dentist very kind ! He was my Dad's Dentist Ruperto Baca , He was very special!

Celestina Baca - September 04, 2024 at 02:40 PM

MM

“ Cecil and I were good friends in high school and college, but our paths diverged when he went into dentistry and I went to graduate school. I actually thought I would go to medical school while he went to dentistry. One day I found a dead German shepherd that had been hit in front of my grandma's house. I was pre-med and Cecil was pre-dent. So I could think of nothing better to do than dissect the dead dog with Cecil. He thought it was a great idea. I took it over to Cecil's house and we worked on it from 8:30 pm until 4 in the morning! It was a lot harder job than we thought, but we learned some anatomy that night. When I finally took comparative anatomy as part of my training, the class spent more than a week dissecting a cat!

Cecil was an usher at my wedding. Though we lost track of each other over the years, I was proud of this poor Chicano becoming a beloved dentist. He was a special person and my condolences go out to his family.

Michael Mares - September 04, 2024 at 12:06 PM

MC

“ Rosalia and family, our deepest condolences and prayers in the loss of your beloved Dr Cecil Soto. He was a very kind and caring person and will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace

Max y Rosemarie Cordova - September 04, 2024 at 09:31 AM

AB

“ Dr. Soto was the best dentist. He was very kind and always made time to have a great conversation!

Anna Baca - September 04, 2024 at 08:42 AM

AC

“ *Albert & Alice Chavez lit a candle in memory of Cecil Gabriel Soto*



Albert & Alice Chavez - September 04, 2024 at 08:08 AM

TJ

“ *Tanya Jaramillo lit a candle in memory of Cecil Gabriel Soto*



Tanya Jaramillo - September 03, 2024 at 11:32 PM

LG

“ *Rosalia and family, my deepest sympathy in the loss of you beloved husband, father and grandfather. Dr. Soto was such a wonderful and soft spoken gentleman. I will miss seeing him at 9:30 Mass with his family. You could tell that this man was such a proud family man. He will definitely be missed by all. Prayers for all of you, and May God give you strength through this time of sadness.*
Lucy Gonzales

Lucy Gonzales - September 03, 2024 at 06:46 PM

TB

“ A heart felt condolence to all family and friends of Mr Soto what a beautiful and lovely man God blessed us truly with his presence for all these many years of his existence and we cannot take it for granted. Thanks be to God! I feel your heartbreak Dr Soto was such a gentle soul and he will surely be missed by all who had the honor of experiencing his presence! May the lord bless you and heal you in these difficult moments Sincerely Tammy Wood Baca

Tammy Wood Baca - September 03, 2024 at 06:23 PM

TG

“ Tony And Oralia Garcia lit a candle in memory of Cecil Gabriel Soto



Tony and Oralia Garcia - September 03, 2024 at 05:57 PM

RJ

“ Dr. Soto was one of a kind! Not only did he provide excellent dental care but he also took the time to build relationships with his patients. He treated us like family. He had a heart of gold!



Renee Jaramillo - September 03, 2024 at 05:45 PM

RA

“ Rudy & Evelyn Archuleta lit a candle in memory of Cecil Gabriel Soto



Rudy & Evelyn Archuleta - September 03, 2024 at 05:45 PM



“ *Dr. Soto was a very kind person and the best dentist. Sorry for your loss*

Loretta and Helen Aragon



Loretta Aragon - September 03, 2024 at 03:57 PM



“ *He was a very good person we love talking to him he would talk about did you try that place to eat! Rest in Peace 🙏*



Preme and Lorraine Padilla - September 03, 2024 at 02:14 PM



“ *Cecil was the kind of person who took all the time you needed to help you solve a problem. Whether it was in his dental chair or a walk down the street or a phone call to ask him a question, he was there for you. He gave you wisdom and a caring smile that stayed with you forever. His love of his family was always first and foremost. His pride in his wife, his children and especially his grandchildren just beamed with every story he told. Cecil leaves a legacy his family will cherish and remember with every story they tell! We are proud that we got to share in such a wonderful man's life. You will be missed. Love, Tom an Gloria Schatzinger*

Tom and Gloria Schatzinger - September 03, 2024 at 01:38 PM

DL

Don and Janice Leach

We had the privilege of meeting Dr. Soto and Rosalie in 1976. Cecil had been practicing dentistry about 2 years and his practice appointment wait time was already 6 months. His patients appreciated him and trusted his judgment explicitly.

He had a wonderful sense of humor. He enjoyed sharing stories with so many of us.

They raised 3 children who are now exemplary citizens. They are wonderful examples of how well Cecil and Rosalie raised them. He was a man of great integrity. He was so friendly and kind to all. Our community was fortunate to have such a fine gentleman serving us for so many years. He will be missed

With Love, Don and Janice Leach

Donald Leach - September 03, 2024 at 05:31 PM

RT

“ *Raquel Torres lit a candle in memory of Cecil Gabriel Soto*



Raquel Torres - September 03, 2024 at 01:09 PM