



## Ernesto Jose Chavez

May 29, 1935 - March 31, 2026

Ernesto Jose Chavez, age 90, of Sabinal, New Mexico, passed away on Tuesday March 31, 2026.

His faith in God was his guiding light, and he devoted his life to serving others in numerous ways. A lifelong Catholic, he was a member of Los Hermanos de la Fraternidad Piadosa De Nuestro Padre Jesús De Nazareno, from the Morada de San Juan Bautista in Veguita, NM. Ernesto also volunteered with the St. Vincent de Paul Society for Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in La Joya, NM for 32 years, receiving the Jubilarian Award in 2016 for 27 years of dedication.

He was born in 1935 in Cerro, NM as the oldest of 7 children. He spent time shepherding in the mountains of Wyoming and Colorado as a child, much preferring the outdoors to time inside. In 1965, he moved to Bernardo, where he spent most of his 36-year career with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. He was instrumental in developing the agricultural practices at the Ladd S.Gordon Waterfowl Complex, feeding millions of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese over the years. He also traveled throughout the state to support other projects.

He loved animals of all kinds, whether it was the birds he grew corn for, the neighbor's dog, or the stray cats that he fed. His commitment to the community was also evident in his over 25 years of service as a volunteer

firefighter with the Abeytas Fire Department. In his spare time, he was often tending his garden, visiting friends or taking a trip to the casino. He was often the only one who would win!

Ernesto was a quiet, steadfast and compassionate son, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, neighbor, and friend. He brought so much joy and care into the lives of everyone he touched. He was genuinely invested in everyone's wellbeing and was selfless in what he gave. He leaves behind a lifetime of memories and stories that his family will cherish forever.

His pride and joy was his family. He often went camping with his siblings and their families, and loved attending family reunions. Retirement allowed him to travel, often visiting children and grandchildren. He loved playing with his nietos and could often be found with them on the playground or sledding down a hill. He was also a jokester, and would often try to wake you with feathers. He was a kid at heart and relived his childhood through his grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his two loving wives, Emilia Adelia Segura Chavez and Maria Dulcinea Chavez, son Melvin Chavez, parents Juan and Delfinia Chavez, son-in-law Brent Hunt, and brother Francisco Chavez.

He is survived by his children: Ronnie Chavez (Stephanie) of Cerro, NM; Brenda Hunt of Alamogordo, NM; Carmella Tharnish (Tom) of Monument, CO; Michelle Chavez (Latricia) of Colorado Springs, CO; and Michael Chavez of Bernardo, NM. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great granddaughter, and loving extended family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Vincent de Paul La Joya. Checks can be made out to St Vincent de Paul - La Joya, and mailed to 1052 Highway 304, Veguita, NM 87062.

The family would like to give a special thanks to caregivers Martha Vasquez, Rose Chavez and Maria Estrada and to the caring staff with High Desert Hospice.

A sincere heartfelt thank you to Brenda for the selfless, loving and nurturing care you gave daddy these past few years. Reception will follow Burial at Eagle Park Recreation Center

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 7. 6:00 PM (MT)

San Juan Catholic Church  
1317 Highway 304  
Veguita, NM 87062

## Rosary

APR 7. 6:30 PM (MT)

San Juan Catholic Church  
1317 Highway 304  
Veguita, NM 87062

## Visitation

APR 8. 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 8. 6:30 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 9. 10:00 AM (MT)

San Antonio Abeytas  
11 Calle de San Antonio  
Bosque, NM 87006

## Funeral Mass

APR 9. 11:00 AM (MT)

San Antonio Abeytas  
11 Calle de San Antonio  
Bosque, NM 87006

## Interment

APR 9. 12:00 PM (MT)

Abeytas Cemetery  
11 Calle De San Antonio  
Abeytas, NM 87006

# Tribute Wall

LF

“ *Lorrie Francis lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez*



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**Lorrie Francis** - April 13 at 10:02 AM

BS

“ *Ernest was one of the best bosses I've ever had, and was a great friend and neighbor. He was kind and generous with me, Kathy and the kids. We had lots of enjoyable times. He was one of the kindest most unselfish individuals I've ever known and I enjoyed working with him. Best regards to the family. He will be missed by everyone. Bobby, Kathy Sands and family.*

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**Bobby Sands** - April 10 at 02:54 PM

ST

“ *Sonja And Lithany Torrez lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez*



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**Sonja and Lithany Torrez** - April 09 at 11:47 AM

MN

“ Margaret Martinez Douglas, U.Tane’s Niec lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez



Margaret Martinez Douglas, U.Tane’s niec - April 09 at 12:08 AM

MN

When I met Ernesto, I knew he was a true Christian. I sensed it, did not know anything about him. I am niece to Uncle Tane. I was the oldest of many grandchildren to Lopez grandparents. Goodbye, Ernest! You will be in heaven! I live in Evsnsville, IN Maiden name was Martinez. Grew up with Lopez grandparents & Uncle Tane.

Margaret Martinez Douglas, U.Tane’s niec - April 09 at 12:21 AM

HM

“ Thankful to have known such a great person like you! ❤️🚗



Hope Montoya - April 08 at 11:54 PM

HC

“ Henry & Mary (Chickey) Chavira lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez



Henry & Mary (Chickey) Chavira - April 08 at 11:49 PM

RG

“ *Condolences to Ernest's family. We knew him when he worked on the refuge in Bernardo with Ronnie's dad Beryl. He loved telling us about all the birds on the refuge and no matter what kind of day he was having he would always have a smile. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the family.*

*Ronnie and Doris Gustin*



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**Ronnie and Doris Gustin** - April 08 at 11:46 PM

MB

“ *Ronnie, Carmela, Brenda, Michael And Michelle*  
*We were very sorry to hear about your dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Eternal rest grant unto him oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.*

*Martin and Antoinette Baca*



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**Martin and the Antoinette Baca** - April 08 at 08:21 PM

JB

*My condolences to Brenda, Carmella, Michael, Michelle and Ronnie. Though Ernesto will be missed, remember that,*

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord  
Is the death of His saints."*

*Psalm 116:15*

*Joseph Baca*

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**J. Baca** - April 09 at 12:33 PM

YS

“ *What a lovely tribute to Uncle Ernest.  
Thinking of you. Yvette, Jared, Mari, and Isla*



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**Yvette Segura** - April 08 at 07:51 PM

RB

“ *Condolences to Ernest’s family. I will miss my  
neighbor and all the visits with him. May his  
soul rest in peace in his heavenly home. 🙏*



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**Romy Baca** - April 08 at 06:27 PM

PG

“ *Pat & Gina lit a candle in memory of Ernesto  
Jose Chavez*



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**Pat & Gina** - April 08 at 04:43 PM

LB

“ *My condolences to Ronnie, Brenda, Carmela, Michelle, Michael and  
all the Chavez family. Ernest was a man of faith. Appreciate his  
dedication to St. Vincent de Paul . Rest in Peace 🙏*

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**Lorraine Baca** - April 08 at 10:48 AM

BH

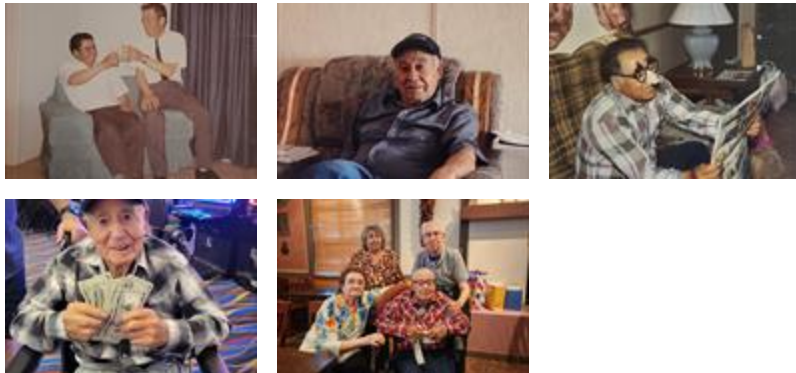
“ 16 files added to the tribute wall



Brenda Hunt - April 08 at 01:19 AM

TH

“ 17 files added to the tribute wall



Tharnish - April 08 at 01:10 AM

GP

“ Sending Our Deepest Condolences to the family of Ernesto Chavez. May he rest in peace. Prayers 🙏🙏🙏



Gilbert & Marie Pino - April 07 at 07:00 PM

AL

“ *Albert lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez*



Albert - April 07 at 06:03 PM

DT

“ *Diana Torrez lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez*



Diana Torrez - April 07 at 05:36 PM

TF

“ *May his memory be a blessing.*

Tom Formicola - April 07 at 05:07 PM

ML

“ *We send our deepest sympathies to Ernesto's family. Ernesto will be forever in our hearts. There are many special memories we have with Ernesto. One is he was the only one from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish to attend our 1st Public Rosary. Elvera de Baca was the host and the active members of the Legion of Mary OLOS-LJ were in attendance. We were expected to be there. Ernesto joined us because he knew how important it was to have a Public Square Rosary Rally.*



Mark and Crissie Leyba - April 07 at 04:27 PM



“ *Erica McCartney lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez*



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**Erica McCartney** - April 07 at 01:28 PM



“ *Dominic Chavez lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez*



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**Dominic Chavez** - April 07 at 12:13 PM



“ *Dear Ernest,  
The most precious people in your life call you Dad, Uncle, Nino, Neighbor, and Hermano. Thank you for being a Pillar of Strength for our families. For as long as we have known you, you have embodied what it means to carry us in the most challenging times of our lives by being present. We have been blessed with your love for all our occasions, especially when you place a cross on our foreheads blessing us with your prayers that has brought us tremendous comfort through the years.  
From our arms to Jesus arms, we bless you with all our love.  
Rest in Peace Uncle Ernest  
Gonzales family (Marcy & Eddie)  
Martinez family*

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**Marcy Gonzales** - April 07 at 11:48 AM

BL

“ Ben And Alice Lopez lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez



Ben and Alice Lopez - April 07 at 11:11 AM

CM

“ Christy Muncy lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez



Christy Muncy - April 07 at 11:11 AM

CG

“ Cynthia And Orlando Gonzales lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez



Cynthia and Orlando Gonzales - April 07 at 11:02 AM

ZE

“ Zeus Ernesto lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez



Zeus Ernesto - April 07 at 10:56 AM

MT

*I knew you were a true Christian whence met you. I sensed it!*

**Margaret Martinez Douglas, Uncle Tane's** - April 08 at 02:45 AM

MN

*I knew you were a true Christian when I met you. I sensed it,*

**Margaret Martinez Douglas, U.Tane's niec** - April 08 at 02:57 AM

MN

*Light a candle for Ernesto Jose Chavez.*

**Margaret Martinez Douglas, U.Tane's niec** - April 08 at 03:04 AM

MF

“Michelle Martinez & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez



**Michelle Martinez & Family** - April 07 at 10:56 AM

DM

“Doreen Martinez lit a candle in memory of Ernesto Jose Chavez



**Doreen Martinez** - April 07 at 10:33 AM