



Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya

July 1, 1931 - January 7, 2025

1931 - 2025

In the early hours of January 7, 2025, our mom went home to be with Jesus. Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya, 93, was born on July 1, 1931. She lived most of her life in Belen, New Mexico and moved to Albuquerque in August of 2020. She was best known as "Mrs. Tafoya" as she worked in the administrative offices for the Belen Schools. She was a second mom to many who walked through the doors of Belen High School. To this day she is remembered fondly by many students for her kindness and joy. She was also known as an avid bowler, earning many awards and bowling patches for her bowling prowess, often bowling over 150 and several times over 200. She continued to bowl until she was 87 years old. Mom was actively involved in Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church and volunteered in many capacities through the years. She was also a member of the Catholic Daughters of America. But to us, she was Mom and Nana. She was a strong woman whose unwavering faith saw her through many difficult times. Family was everything to her and she took great pride in her children and grandchildren. Mom and Dad (Eloy Tafoya†) were married for 47 years. Dad preceded her in death in 2004. They have five children, Denise Braun (Gene Carrejo), Martha Cesarano (Joe), Pam Chavez (John), Donna Bernal (Randy Bernal†/Britt Crooks) and Eloy Tafoya (Deborah). They were blessed with five grandchildren, Brad Cesarano, Kaylah Braun (Mike Puh), Missy Braun, Luke Tafoya and Anna Cesarano. Her

grandchildren were her pride and joy and she thrived when they came to visit her. She loved them so much. Mom's brother, Mike Barela† (Petrita), preceded her in death in 2021 at the age of 92 and her sister, Flora Trujillo (Jess†), is 97 years old. Mom's health began to decline in 2022 and she required more care. With the amazing team of Dr. Joy Lovette, Joan Molina, Maryann Quintana and Sabina Basham, she was doted on and loved and was given incredible care by this group who we lovingly named our Angel Team. Hospice de la Luz provided exceptional care and helped mom have the best quality of life until the very end. Mom loved her nurse, Roz, and Chaplain Efren and all the nurses who gently helped her through some hard days. We will be forever grateful for their love, support and dedication. Services are scheduled for Friday, January 17, 2025 at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. Visitation at 9:00 a.m., Rosary at 10:00 a.m., Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. Burial will follow at the Belen Catholic Cemetery. Please sign Vangie's online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 17. 9:00 AM (MT)

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

Rosary

JAN 17. 10:00 AM (MT)

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

Funeral Mass

JAN 17. 10:30 AM (MT)

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

Interment

JAN 17. 11:30 AM (MT)

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

Reception

JAN 17. 12:30 PM (MT)

Sheriffs Posse Hall
10 1-25 Bypass
Belen, NM 87002

Tribute Wall

AG

“ *I live in the east mountain and I found a beautiful purple balloon for Vangie high up in the mountains from Mary Ann and Felix. Beautiful - RIP - Andres*

Andres Gallegos - February 20, 2025 at 12:01 PM

ET

Hello Andres, this is so special. Thank you for the post. The Tafoya Family.. God bless.

Eloy & Deborah Tafoya - February 27, 2025 at 01:35 PM

MI

“ *My heartfelt condolences to all of Vangie's family; she will be remembered by everyone for all the qualities that made her such a wonderful person. May her daughters and grandchildren be comforted by her life and continue to make her proud as she enters her heavenly home.*

Michelle - January 17, 2025 at 12:01 PM

ES

“ *So sorry to have lost Vangie she was a great friend that I've known since I was in high school in the 1980s.I also miss her from bowling rest in peace Vangie. From: Elizabeth Stambaugh*



Elizabeth Stambaugh - January 17, 2025 at 11:07 AM

BS

“ *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*
Vangie was a lovely person.
Bernardine Baca Spiers and Family



Bernardine Baca Spiers - January 17, 2025 at 07:03 AM

BF

“ *Vangie you were the most sweetest person in the world, I will miss you so much RIP*



Bertha Flores - January 15, 2025 at 08:21 PM

SP

“ *Sandy Pruitt lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



sandy Pruitt - January 14, 2025 at 06:50 PM

FC

“ *Frederica Chavez lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Frederica Chavez - January 14, 2025 at 02:40 PM

LB

“ *My condolences to the Tafoya Family.
I have known Vangie for years. She and my worked together at the schools. I worked a summer with Vangie when I was in high school. She was a blast. She will be missed.*

*Laura Baca
(Daughter of Ruth Baca)*

Laura Baca - January 13, 2025 at 08:10 PM

YG

“ *2 files added to the album Bowling*



Yvette Garrett - January 13, 2025 at 07:14 PM

YG

To the Tafoya family, condolences to you on Vangie's passing. Vangie was such an amazing person; she was so loved by the Belen High School students. May you find comfort in the Lord while you grieve and miss Vangie. John and Yvette Garrett

Yvette Garrett - January 13, 2025 at 07:16 PM

ES

Yvette, thank you for your post. Such a great heart warming picture of some very nice ladies.

Eugene Snyder - January 14, 2025 at 12:26 PM

BT

“ *Billie Alice Sanchez Torres lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Billie Alice Sanchez Torres - January 13, 2025 at 02:27 PM

CB

“ *So sorry for your loss! May she rest in peace! Baca Family!*

Celestina Baca - January 13, 2025 at 02:15 PM

RB

“ *To the Tafoya family: I am so sorry to hear of Vangie's death. I worked with her for many years and loved her and her family dearly. My prayers go out to each of you. I am handicapped and homebound so I won't be able to attend. I am having cataract surgery on Thursday, also, but know that I will miss her dearly.*

Ruth Baca - January 13, 2025 at 01:30 PM

BJ

“ *Denise & Family,
My sincere condolences on the loss of your mother, grandmother, & sister. My thoughts & prayers are with you, God Bless you all.
Beatrice Jojola*



Beatrice Jojola - January 12, 2025 at 10:10 PM



Thank you Bernice.

Denise Braun - January 15, 2025 at 12:17 AM

DO

“ Love,
Don & Ann Sevieri

Don - January 12, 2025 at 09:25 PM

DO

“ Our deepest condolences. Your beautiful mother was full of faith and love who touched the lives of so many people. She was a very grateful and generous woman!! May her legacy of kindness and devotion bring comfort during this time of loss.
Alive,
Don & Ann Sevieri

Don - January 12, 2025 at 09:23 PM

ES

“ Eugene Snyder lit a candle in memory of
Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya



Eugene Snyder - January 12, 2025 at 09:23 PM

DS

“ Don & Ann Sevieri lit a candle in memory of
Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya



Don & Ann Sevieri - January 12, 2025 at 09:09 PM

LT

“ *Lisa Toscano lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Lisa Toscano - January 12, 2025 at 07:44 PM

EF

“ *Eugenio And Martina (Padilla Farms) lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Eugenio and Martina (Padilla Farms) - January 12, 2025 at 07:41 PM

MF

“ *Mike And Sue Smith And Family lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Mike and Sue Smith and family - January 12, 2025 at 06:28 PM

SB

“ *Sabina Basham lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Sabina Basham - January 12, 2025 at 05:34 PM

SB

*My Dearest Tafoya Family,
Your mom was such a beautiful and special woman. Her love for her family, her friends, and her Lord was so apparent. These last couple of years being part of her life has been a priceless gift. We have share love, laughter, and most important our faith. I want to thank you for sharing your mom with me and allowing us to create our special memories. Jesus welcomed her home with open arms. My love, heart, and prayers are with all of you. Sabina*

Sabina Basham - January 12, 2025 at 05:46 PM



Thank you Sabina.

Denise Braun - January 15, 2025 at 12:16 AM

DA

“ *Debbie Aragonz lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Debbie Aragonz - January 12, 2025 at 01:51 PM

DD

“ *Condolences to family & friends. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. 🙏*



Don & Peanuts Davis - January 12, 2025 at 09:17 AM



“ Was her office aide for 3 years with Mrs .Tafoya . Last saw her and Mela having lunch at Rutillios. I will miss her . My condolences to Donna and the family.



Joseph Mascarena - January 11, 2025 at 11:13 PM

BB

“ Bertha (Garcia) Barreras lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya



Bertha (Garcia) Barreras - January 11, 2025 at 09:32 PM

BB

Thank You Vangie for always being so good to me. I'll miss you. Love You!!

Bertha (Garcia) Barreras - January 11, 2025 at 09:34 PM

MB

“ Eternal rest grant unto her and may perpetual light shine upon her may she rest in peace.
Martin and Antoinette (Tafoya) Baca



Martin and Antoinette Baca - January 11, 2025 at 07:01 PM

RO

“ *Deepest condolences to all the family. She was such a nice person. Blessings on all of you.*



Ron and Debbie Ortega - January 11, 2025 at 06:30 PM

LS

“ *My condolences to Vangie's entire family. Vangie was my walking buddy for over a year. I so looked forward to meeting her for our early morning walks. We walked and talked and talked and walked, and solved most of the problems of the world. So we thought! I thought, she was one of the smartest and sweetest ladies I ever knew. She was so proud of her family and I was happy to know about how everyone had succeeded in life. God bless all of you. She was special. Lucille Sais*

Lucille Sais - January 11, 2025 at 04:01 PM

TB

“ *Trish Garcia Benavidez lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Trish Garcia Benavidez - January 11, 2025 at 03:36 PM

PF

“ Vangie, you are in our hearts. You were a blessing to all of us kids who attended Belen Schools.

You raised such sweet, wonderful, and compassionate children. They are you. You will be missed. Thank you!

Patty Farrell-Cole - January 11, 2025 at 01:55 PM

TH

So sorry to hear about your mom she was always so nice hugs and prayers to you all Theresa and Irene Romero

theresa - January 11, 2025 at 04:40 PM

DH

My sincere sympathy to your family, I will miss Vangie , I worked with her in Belen Schools for nine years..She kept me in line :)

Dean Hamilton - January 13, 2025 at 11:07 AM

BH

“ Barb Hurley lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya



Barb Hurley - January 11, 2025 at 01:13 PM

BH

What an amazing woman! A true gift from God! 💖. My condolences to the family for her passing, but she had 5 beautiful children and grandchildren who blessed her everyday. May she Rest in Peace! 🕊



Barb Hurley - January 11, 2025 at 01:16 PM



“ *Vangie was my mom's childhood friend and remained friends until my mom passed away six years ago. My sincere condolences to Vangie's. Lopez family Veguita*



Bernadette Moya - January 11, 2025 at 01:11 PM

RT

“ *My condolences to her children, Denise, Martha, Pam, Donna and Eloy. May you be blessed with peace and cherish the many memories you've had with such a wonderful Mom. May perpetual light shine upon her now and forever. Amen*

Renee Tabet - January 11, 2025 at 12:39 PM



Thank you Renee.

Denise Braun - January 15, 2025 at 12:15 AM

JC

“ *My condolences to the entire Tafoya family. Miss Vangie always had a smile and a kind word. Hugs to all!*



Josina Conner - January 11, 2025 at 12:28 PM

AS

“ *Denise and all of Mrs. Tafoya's family, my thoughts and prayers are with you all..your mother was an awesome person.*

Anna Chavez Silva - January 11, 2025 at 11:54 AM



Thank you Anna.

Denise Braun - January 15, 2025 at 12:15 AM

GG

“ *Glen & Mary Gabaldon lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Glen & Mary Gabaldon - January 11, 2025 at 11:41 AM

CC

“ *Cecilia Cordova lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Cecilia Cordova - January 11, 2025 at 11:24 AM

CL

“ *My deepest sympathy to all of Vangie's family. She was a strong, intelligent, kind, funny woman, and I always felt so welcomed and loved in her presence. I know how loved and appreciative she was for all she received from her family, especially the last few years of her care. She was blessed. ❤️*

Carolyn Lutgen - January 11, 2025 at 11:16 AM

AC

“ My prayers are with you and your family today and always. Your mom was always smiling wherever she was. She had many friends and will be missed by all. She’s now an angel watching over all of you with a smile. Keep her in your heart along with the memories. God Bless All of You 🙏🙏

Alice Cirdiva-Robinson - January 11, 2025 at 10:38 AM

AR

Pam and family,
I’m so sorry for the loss of your beautiful mom. Vangie was such a wonderful lady. How fortunate for the many high school students that were blessed to get to know her. She was so kind and ready to help. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Sending love and hugs. ❤️

Adelita Roberts - January 11, 2025 at 10:48 AM

A-

“ My heartfelt condolences thoughts and prayers for her family she was a wonderful lady full of wisdom. God's Blessings Mercy Grace and Love. Love always Aimee C Delano -Chavez



Aimee C Delano -Chavez - January 11, 2025 at 10:35 AM

EC

“ I am so sorry for the loss you feel at your Mom's passing, but take heart in the wonderful legacy she left and the memories you will have. Well done, Vangie. You were such a kind, fun lady. I still miss those special times with you and Mom (Carmen Chavez) Enter into your rest! Love to you all ❤️

Eileen Creveling - January 11, 2025 at 10:31 AM

PT

“ *Phyllis Tabet lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Phyllis Tabet - January 11, 2025 at 10:20 AM

AS

“ *Adela Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Adela Sanchez - January 11, 2025 at 09:57 AM

DU

“ *Diana Phillips Ulibarri lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Diana Phillips Ulibarri - January 11, 2025 at 09:57 AM

DF

“ *Davrie Flores lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya*



Davrie Flores - January 11, 2025 at 09:48 AM

BM

“ Denise & family,

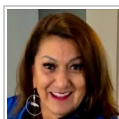
I am so sorry for the loss of your mom. May you find comfort in knowing she is no longer suffering and is in Heaven with your father and other loved ones who were without a doubt waiting at the pearly gates to welcome her Home.

May Mrs. Tafoya Rest in Peace. Eternal rest grant unto her oh Lord and may perpetual light shine upon her. God bless you all and give you much needed strength at this difficult time. 🙏



Bernice, Estevan, Brianna and Ellie 🌹

Bernice Montoya - January 11, 2025 at 04:03 AM



Thank you Bernice. I hope to see you soon.

Denise Braun - January 15, 2025 at 12:14 AM

LF

“ *Your mom was a mom to many . . . at HS, and as our next door neighbor as kids! She always asked us about us and such a great listener! Always kind and loving. You five kids were dedicated to her loving care and I know how proud she is knowing how much you all loved her as she loved you. Peace to you all. We will all miss her dearly.*
Eric & Liz

Liz Follon - January 10, 2025 at 11:39 PM



CO

“ I am so sorry Denise! Also to rest of the family. Prayers lifted up for you all 🙏



Christine Ortega - January 10, 2025 at 11:15 PM



Thank you so much Christine!

Denise Braun - January 11, 2025 at 09:24 AM

JM

“ Jennie Mascarena lit a candle in memory of Evangeline "Vangie" Tafoya



Jennie Mascarena - January 10, 2025 at 09:28 PM

JB

“ Sue and I send our deepest condolences to Vangie's family. She was a very special person to us and we will always remember her fondly.

Jim and Sue Burke - January 10, 2025 at 08:29 PM