



Fermin Chavez

October 14, 1921 - September 10, 2017

1921-2017

Fermin George Chavez, age 95, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at his home in Tomé, NM. Born in Denver, Colorado to Toribio Chavez and Adelina Aragon-Chavez, Fermin graduated from Los Lunas High School in 1940 before enlisting in the Army on October 13, 1942. He proudly served his country while stationed in Burma, India during WWII. Upon being honorably discharged on January 8, 1946, Fermin married the love of his life, Sally Silva on August 31, 1947 and they had six children. He received his B.S. in Agriculture from New Mexico State University in 1951 and worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture A.S.C.S for 36 years. Once retired, Fermin could often be found tending to his farm in Tomé or at Sugar Bowl Lanes in Belen where he could throw a beautiful curve ball and knock down strikes with the best of them. He was an active member of his community and was well known and loved by all. Fermin was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Tomé where he was also a member of the choir. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul. A storyteller by nature, Fermin also loved to sing, dance, joke around with his friends and family and be surrounded by his many grandchildren. He and Sally loved to travel and their travel took them to many beautiful places. Fermin was preceded in death by his parents; granddaughter, Deanna Chavez; brother, Robert Lee Chavez; sisters, Masie West and Corine Tafoya. He is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Sally;

his six loving children, Bernard (Mardee) Chavez, George (Theresa) Chavez, Jerome (Holly) Chavez, Clarence (Lynn) Chavez, Della (Jerry) Willis, and Jackie (Derrick) Ross; sister, Flora Tafoya. Fermin is also survived by his beloved grandchildren, Valerie Gurule, Fabian Chavez, Jennifer Willis, Bryan Willis, Joshua Chavez, Jason Chavez, Adam Willis, Amy Chavez, Sean Willis, Connor Chavez, Catie Chavez, Garrett Ross and Austin Ross as well as several great-grandchildren; Jeffrey and Jordan Lovato, Kainan and Aleaha Shetabi, Fabian Jr. and Richie Chavez and Hunter Willis. All services will be held at Immaculate Conception Church in Tomé on Saturday, September 16, 2017. A Visitation will begin at 8:30 a.m., with a Rosary to be recited at 9:30 a.m., and a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Interment will take place on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 2:15 p.m. at Santa Fe National Cemetery. Urn Bearers will be his grandchildren. Fermin will be deeply missed by all who knew him and remembered as a strong, valued member of his community who loved his family.

Please sign Fermin's online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com
Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St. Belen, NM.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 16. 8:30 AM (MT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
7 Church Loop
Tome, NM 87060

Rosary

SEP 16. 9:30 AM (MT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
7 Church Loop
Tome, NM 87060

Funeral Mass

SEP 16. 10:00 AM (MT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
7 Church Loop
Tome, NM 87060

Interment

SEP 18. 2:15 PM (MT)

Santa Fe National Cemetery
501 N. Guadalupe Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Tribute Wall



“ *Carmela Perez-Martinez lit a candle in memory of Fermin Chavez*



Carmela Perez-Martinez - October 06, 2017 at 11:48 AM



“ *Deepest heartfelt sympathies..*

Kathy moya - September 22, 2017 at 10:26 AM



“ *Sally and family, I am heartbroken and I'm having difficulty thinking of the right words to express how very sorry I am! Fermin was a simple man with simple values that actually made him amazing! I love you all for treating me with such kindness whenever I would see you. You are one of the families I miss terribly. I pray God's comforting arms embrace each of you a little tighter when the sorrow hits you out of the blue. My prayers will continue to include you.*

Love, Diane Chavez

Diane Chavez - September 20, 2017 at 04:08 PM

FT

“ *Sally and Family, It is with sorrow that I join your sorrow for grieving your loss of such a great man of God. What adds to my grief is my physical inability to share such a time as this with you. I just went through heart surgery and recovering and doing well. May the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless and keep you safe and well. Our long friendship has just started for eternity. Again, God bless you!*

Fidel Tabet

Fidel Tabet - September 16, 2017 at 04:35 PM

DE

*Thank you Fidel, will pass this on to mom.
Della*

Della - September 19, 2017 at 01:05 PM

LI

“ *Growing up in Tome, Fermin and Sally were a big part of my life, as friends of my Mom and Dad, Arturo and Sofie Jaramillo and as my God-parents. I was sad to hear of the loss of Fermin. Sally, you and all your family are in my prayers. Liz*

Liz - September 15, 2017 at 08:06 PM

DE

Thank you, Liz will pass your thoughts on to mom.

Della - September 19, 2017 at 01:05 PM

SS

“ *Sylvia And Andy Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Fermin Chavez*



Sylvia and Andy Sanchez - September 14, 2017 at 10:19 PM

DE

Thank you Sylvia and Andy.

Della - September 19, 2017 at 01:06 PM

HO

“ *There are so many beautiful memories with Daddy Chavez. I am honored to be part of his family for 31 years. He always listened to anything I had to say and never judged me for my beliefs. Sundays were the best when he and mom would go visiting. They would come down the road and stop at George and Teresa's and then here at our place to see what Jerome and I were up to. We joined a bowling league with them at Sugar Bowl on Sunday nights. It was always fun especially when we beat the other teams. He was an awesome bowler. 200 + was easy for him. We even went with them to a bowling tournament in Las Vegas and had a ball at their favorite places.*

He was an amazing man with an inner beauty that attracted all. I used to marvel watching him with the cows. Sure cows will follow a feed truck but all Daddy had to do is walk across the field and they would follow him everywhere even the little ones. The same with all the grandkids. If Dad was outside pretty soon they were all out there with him either standing on the corral fence or sitting on the step no matter the weather.

Vaya Con Dios, daddy. We will love and miss you forever.

Holly - September 14, 2017 at 04:30 PM

TG

“ Theresa Gorduyn purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Fermin Chavez.



Theresa Gorduyn - September 14, 2017 at 02:59 PM

AD

“ My thoughts prayers and condolences go out to all of the family and may god bless you all and continue to help you with your courage strength and peace
Aimee Delano



Aimee Delano - September 13, 2017 at 11:41 PM

PS

“ Pete Sedlak lit a candle in memory of Fermin Chavez



Pete Sedlak - September 13, 2017 at 07:04 PM

LC

Thanks for thinking of us, Pete. See you soon.

Lynn Chavez - September 14, 2017 at 08:02 PM



“ *Grandpa Chavez was a Hero to me and a Hero to many. I will miss you grandpa Chavez. And now you are no longer in pain. And at your funeral TAFD will ring the Valley Station Fallen Fallen Fire Bell For you as a Auxiliary Member for TAFD. And the Knights of Columbus will Horn or You as well. Rest In Peace Grandpa. We Will All Miss You.*

Connor Chavez - September 13, 2017 at 03:50 PM

“ How many horseback shadows did Fermin cast over the Rio Grande... the llano... the land grant...?

I always enjoyed listening to him tell stories of when he was a boy riding down from sheep camp in the Manzanos to get water and supplies. He had to do it because he was the youngest. The first time I heard the story I asked “well how far from the mountains was the camp?” his response was “do you know where the mountains are?... From there”. He talked about the Manzano Mountains like they were his back yard, and they were. He would talk about places he had not been in years as if he had been there the day before. He had an incredible memory. One year I had a deer tag for area 14, the Manzanos. The morning I left for the hunt he gave me specific directions on how to get to where George would be camped and where I should hunt. He said “from the camp go northeast up the mountain till you find a fence running southeast. Hunt along that fence to the south I always saw deer along that fence.” Well I figured he just didn’t want me to get lost and if I followed the fence I’d be able to find my way back. But since I didn’t have any better ideas I followed the fence right into a buck! Upon pulling into the driveway he said “looks like you followed the fence” then gave his classic two or three chuckle laugh.

So much wisdom. Often I would be working on a project at the house and he would show up, at the prompting of Sally I found out later, and after a few minutes of silence he would say “why don’t you do it like this?” If I was smart I did it “like this” but it took me a few mistakes to realize that he was usually right. Like when he tried to teach me how to castrate the calves. He said “put it between your fingers like this so you can cut it.” I said “I can’t do it like that.” After trying it my way I soon realized his way was the best way.

One year we rebuilt the corral...okay we recycled the corral, Fermin was recycling long before it was en vogue. We didn’t just recycle the lumber and crossties; no we reused wire, horse fence and even the nails. First I learned how to straighten nails then how to pull them out straight. It takes a special talent to hammer a 50 year old nail into a 70 year old oak crosstie without bending it!

He was a man of few words but the words he said made an

*impression. We had just finished trimming the hooves on a burro and he said "you see this cross on his back? This is the kind of donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem...do you know Jesus?" I said "ya", he said "good." That was it. When Jackie and I first got married we got into a habit of missing church. The only time I ever heard him raise his voice was when he told us both "You go to church!" we did and that was it. Fermin is with Jesus now I am confident of that, a better place than where we are. But we miss him greatly and will until we see him again.
I've never felt like a son-in-law in their house, always felt like I belonged there.*



Derrick - September 12, 2017 at 07:13 PM



Thank you for sharing this Uncle Derrick. This sums up grandpa perfectly.

Jennifer Willis - September 13, 2017 at 01:57 PM



Well said Derrick

Jerry Willis - September 14, 2017 at 08:05 PM

DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Fermin Chavez*



Dicky and Suzanne Romero - September 12, 2017 at 11:23 AM



“ *Fermin leaves a great legacy in his beautiful family.* ”



Bernardine Baca Spiers - September 11, 2017 at 08:31 PM