



## Fiorello Casale

April 20, 1930 - January 22, 2023

Fiorello Casale, age 92, a resident of Belen, New Mexico, passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2023. He was born in Ventosa, Italy in 1930 to Vincenzo Casale and Anna DiVello Casale. A Viewing will be held on Friday, January 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Romero Funeral Home Chapel. Services will be held on Monday, January 30, 2023 at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. A Viewing will take place at 9:00 a.m., with a Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens. Fiorello is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Arlene Vertullo Casale; son, Fiore (Rose Ann) of Los Lunas; daughter, Deborah Stoddard (Tim) of Florida; and grandsons, Garrick, Fiore Salvatore, and Brenton. Fiorello arrived in New York on June 21, 1947 where he lived as a teenager in the Borough of Queens. He was drafted during the Korean conflict and served honorably in the United States Army from August 1951-1953 at Ft. Bliss, Texas near El Paso. On weekends off, Fiorello sometimes drove up the Rio Grande Valley to Albuquerque and to the little town of Belen, New Mexico. After two years, he returned to New York where he eventually owned and operated as many as six restaurants. Fiorello met Arlene Vertullo at her grandparents' home in Manhattan, New York and were later married on January 8, 1956. They had two children, Deborah and Fiore Anthony. He became ill around 1980 and he began to search for a place to recover his health. Fiorello remembered a little town in the Rio Grande Valley from his Army Days. He liked Belen because of its friendly people and mild

climate which reminded him of his Native Village in Italy. The couple decided to settle in Rio Communities in 1981. Fiorello health improved and the family built and opened Fiorello's Restaurant on East River Road in September of 1984. Fiorello and Fiore did the cooking while Arlene greeted customers and ran the dining room. After over 30 years of running a successful restaurant his health forced him to retire at age 85. Please sign Fiorello's online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhomenm.com](http://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com) Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **27**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 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

JAN **30**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (MT)

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

## Funeral Mass

JAN **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

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

## Interment

JAN **30**. 11:00 AM (MT)

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



# Tribute Wall

RD

“ Arlene, my deepest condolences to you and your family. May Fiorello rest in peace.  
Warm regards  
Raymond Dominguez

Raymond Dominguez - February 22, 2023 at 11:29 AM

EV

“ Arlene, our prayers are with you. Fiorello made the best Veal Sarentino. We send you our love. Richard and Evelyn Brower



Evelyn - February 07, 2023 at 06:08 PM

RL

“ Dear Casale family, I have fond memories of the many times we (the Long family) dined at your wonderful restaurant. It was always a special occasion & the food superb, great hostess--making sure all were having a nice time. Of course watching young Fiore grow up at the Karate school.--kept up with him thru the years. Know you all are very proud of your Dr. May the Love of God, family and friends comfort you. Rebecca Long

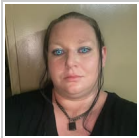
Rebecca Long - January 30, 2023 at 06:20 PM

JL

“ Arlene, we send our love and prayers to you. We cherish our memories of your dear husband's fabulous cooking at Fiorello's Restaurant which we gratefully enjoyed for so many years.! You both brought a bright light to our community. May Fiorello rest in peace with the Lord. God bless you, Arlene! With Love, Dr. Donald and Janice Leach



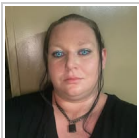
Janice F Leach - January 30, 2023 at 11:37 AM



“ Krystal Moody lit a candle in memory of Fiorello Casale



Krystal Moody - January 29, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ Mrs.C  
So very sorry to hear that MR.C has passed. Many warm thoughts and prayers for you and your family  
Jeff and Krystal

Krystal Moody - January 29, 2023 at 02:28 PM

CS

“ Arlene,  
We are very sorry to hear about Fiorello. May he rest in rest in peace. May God help you during this difficult time.  
Love, Verlanda & Crystal Baca

crystal sanchez - January 26, 2023 at 10:36 PM

MM

“ *Arlene, so very sorry for your loss. Love Marlene and Marty*

**Marlene n Marty** - January 26, 2023 at 10:09 PM

MJ

“ *Marty & Beatrice Jojola lit a candle in memory of Fiorello Casale*



**Marty & Beatrice Jojola** - January 26, 2023 at 08:51 PM

TN

“ *Tina & Joe Nunez lit a candle in memory of Fiorello Casale*



**Tina & Joe Nunez** - January 26, 2023 at 03:24 PM

RG

“ *Arlene,*

*We are soo sorry for your loss. May he RIP.*

*He made the best chicken salad sandwiches I have ever eaten.*

*God bless all of your family in this time of mourning.*

*Always,  
Richard and Patricia Garcia*



**Richard and Patricia Garcia** - January 26, 2023 at 11:00 AM

MG

“ Thank you for giving me a job and putting up with me all those years ago. I appreciate it and will always be thankful.

God bless you all. Prayers of comfort and peace being sent to his family and all who love him. 🙏

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**M Keith Gonzales** - January 25, 2023 at 08:19 PM

KG

Keith Gonzales

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**Keith Gonzales** - January 25, 2023 at 08:19 PM

MB

“ Michael Brophy lit a candle in memory of Fiorello Casale



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**Michael Brophy** - January 25, 2023 at 05:25 PM

BB

“ Rest in Paradise Mr. C. I will never forget the things we spoke about, the breakfasts you made me, the things you taught me to cook, the beers I snuck to you, the last few visits and all the great memories. I knew you were ready to go home, you will be missed by many. Prayers for your family and friends. 🙏🙏🙏

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**BRENDA BARRERAS** - January 25, 2023 at 03:09 PM

EC

“ Elizabeth Chavez lit a candle in memory of  
Fiorello Casale



Elizabeth Chavez - January 25, 2023 at 02:37 PM



“ RIP Mr.C, learned a lot from you through the  
years. Prayers To The Family!



Michele Barreras - January 25, 2023 at 02:27 PM

JO

“ Judy & Stevie Otero lit a candle in memory of  
Fiorello Casale



Judy & Stevie Otero - January 25, 2023 at 11:57 AM

AN

“ Angela lit a candle in memory of Fiorello  
Casale



Angela - January 25, 2023 at 10:45 AM

WD

“ *Arlene, my deepest condolences on Fiorello's passing. I will never forget all those wonderful Friday nights with you and so many friends gathered to talk and laugh. You were such a firecracker, and it was always such fun being with you. May you and your family get through this difficult time and find peace. Sincerely, Wendy (Tabet) Dunford.*

Wendy Tabet Dunford - January 25, 2023 at 08:35 AM

BS

“ *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*  
*Dave and Bernardine Baca Spiers*



Bernardine Baca Spiers - January 24, 2023 at 05:40 PM

CC

“ *Charlotte Campbell-Lovato lit a candle in memory of Fiorello Casale*



Charlotte Campbell-Lovato - January 24, 2023 at 04:49 PM

AC

“ *Albert & Alice Chavez lit a candle in memory of Fiorello Casale*



Albert & Alice Chavez - January 24, 2023 at 03:18 PM