



Francis Leonard Castillo

July 25, 1931 - April 21, 2022

Francis Leonard Castillo passed away peacefully in the presence of family early on April 21, 2022. He was born on July 25, 1931 in Belen, NM. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Regina T. Castillo; his father, Ricardo C. Castillo; his mother, Mary D. Castillo-Kuhn, his sister Gloria C. Kadison; and his brother Lotario "Leo" Castillo. He is survived by his brother, Dr. Robert Castillo; his children Joseph Castillo and spouse Selina, Patricia Cornez and spouse Rick, Paula Castillo and spouse Terry Mulert, Richard Castillo and spouse Emily, and Mary Bueno. Francis is also survived by thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Francis graduated from the New Mexico Military Institute in 1949, and attended the University of New Mexico for two years. He received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy from Senator Dennis Chavez in 1951. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1955 and began pilot training in the U.S. Air Force. He subsequently spent two years in Samsun, Turkey assigned to intelligence operations. He became fluent in Turkish. Francis returned to the states and married his college sweetheart, Regina DeHardit, on November 16, 1957, and was then transferred to the Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Francis resigned his commission as a Lieutenant and moved to Belen, New Mexico to start his family and his business. Francis began in business with a Standard Oil service station that he operated on Main Street for four years. He and Regina built their home in Rosedale Circle, where they raised their five children. In 1963, Francis bought an 8-yard dump truck and a small tractor

and began in the fill-dirt business. He and his father, Ricardo, also undertook building demolition work in Valencia County where Francis recycled brick and lumber. Francis began Castillo Sand & Gravel in 1965 with a 1931 screening plant that he rebuilt and erected in Vaquita. In 1975, Francis entered the cement ready-mix business alongside his sand and gravel business. He subsequently added concrete products, in particular cattle guards and concrete barriers. His son, Richard, a civil and structural engineer, joined him in business in 1991, who then took the company into large projects involving advanced concrete forms and pre-stressed concrete. Francis and Regina celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2007. They enjoyed traveling together to concrete trade shows and were rarely out of each other's sight. Not only was he a loyal husband and loving father, but he will forever be remembered as a person who helped anyone in need. Intention Masses will be celebrated on Friday April 22, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, Sunday July 17, 2022 at 12:00 p.m., and Sunday July 24, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Interment times are to be announced at a later date. Please sign Francis' online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

APR **22**. 7:00 AM (MT)

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

Funeral Mass

JUL **17**. 12:00 PM (MT)

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

Funeral Mass

JUL **24**. 10:00 AM (MT)

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

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Although I did not know Mr Castillo for long he was a wonderful man and he made my daughter's smile when the were around him. My deepest condolences to his family.

Jay Stuttler - May 29, 2022 at 05:11 AM

GG

“ In fond memory of my cousin Chico.



Ginger Lee Gallegos - April 27, 2022 at 12:35 PM

TN

“ Tina And Joe Nunez lit a candle in memory of Francis Leonard Castillo



Tina and Joe Nunez - April 27, 2022 at 11:12 AM

TW

“ Tom & Edwina Weathersby lit a candle in memory of Francis Leonard Castillo



Tom & Edwina Weathersby - April 27, 2022 at 09:10 AM

LS

“ To the Leonard Castillo Family, we send our sincere condolences. Leonard was a wonderful man that made Belen a better place. He always had time to visit and share his stories. He will be missed. Love and hugs to all of you.

Lynn & Michael Sanchez

Lynn & Michael Sanchez - April 27, 2022 at 07:59 AM

AC

“ Albert And Alice Chavez lit a candle in memory of Francis Leonard Castillo



Albert and Alice Chavez - April 25, 2022 at 11:35 AM

DS

“ Dennis And Kathy Giron Silva lit a candle in memory of Francis Leonard Castillo



Dennis and Kathy Giron Silva - April 24, 2022 at 08:09 PM

SR

“ *He was a wonderful person, always calm, outgoing and interested in others. May God bless Chico and grant solace to his wonderful family*

Steve Ruth

USNA class of 1955

14th company

Steve Ruth - April 24, 2022 at 04:04 PM



“ *Gerri Marquardt lit a candle in memory of Francis Leonard Castillo*



Gerri Marquardt - April 23, 2022 at 03:52 PM



I will never forget how your dad was the first guy to show up with his front loader to help dig us out of the 1979 Mesa road flood!! Thank you in Heaven, Mr. Castillo!!

Gerri Marquardt - April 23, 2022 at 03:56 PM

RS

“ *My condolences to the castillo family. My father and mother always talk about him with respect. He was a navy commander and my mothers cousin. He enjoyed showing my father his severl horspower saw he used to cut things it pivoted on a bearing. He delivered sand to us often. I will offer a mass to him on ewtn.*



raymond sinkew - April 23, 2022 at 01:05 PM

OR

“ *Castillo Family,*

If I may lend Leonard a deserved tribute: He saw us through and through and understood the bent in our hearts. By his own impulse, filled with compassion and affection, he praised the course of life, felt no fear and now stands proudly before God. He never lived alone as he carried everyone in his heart. He now lives by that eternal light where he stands to love as deeply as he can. He will always remain my friend!



I send sincere condolences on behalf of my wife Sue, our family and myself. May time bring solace to your hearts.

Oscar S. Ramirez

Oscar S. Ramirez - April 23, 2022 at 12:58 AM

PT

“ *Peter And Gloria Torres lit a candle in memory of Francis Leonard Castillo*



Peter and Gloria Torres - April 22, 2022 at 10:17 PM

DS

“ *Condolences to the entire family. Mr. Castillo was always so warm to chat with.*

Danny and Loretta Sachs - April 22, 2022 at 07:40 PM

MJ

“ *Marty & Beatrice Jojola lit a candle in memory of Francis Leonard Castillo*



Marty & Beatrice Jojola - April 22, 2022 at 06:35 PM

JH

“ *Chico was widely recognized for his diminutive statue and outgoing personality by his Classmates of the Class of 1955 at the US Naval Academy. We mourn his passing but hold him in our collective memories.*

*Robert Fountain,
President, Class of 1955
USNA*

Jerry Holland - April 22, 2022 at 02:18 PM

FR

“ *Condolences to the Castillo family May God comfort you during this difficult time.*
Frederica and Mark Chavez



frederica - April 22, 2022 at 01:31 PM

ML

“ *Mark And Crissie Leyba lit a candle in memory of Francis Leonard Castillo*



Mark and Crissie Leyba - April 22, 2022 at 12:35 PM

LT

“ *A very good friend. I will never forget him.*
Rest In Peace Leonard.



Luis Torres - April 22, 2022 at 11:17 AM

CE

“ *Charles Eaton lit a candle in memory of Francis Leonard Castillo*



Charles Eaton - April 21, 2022 at 11:51 PM

LG

“ Oh, my dear Leonard. I am so sorry, but I am happy that you are in the arms of our Divine Mercy Jesus Christ. Next to Jesus I know my dear Gina was there to greet you. I love you both so much. I will miss knowing you are not in Belen. My deepest condolences to your beautiful family. I am here for you all in love and prayers. Be comforted knowing Leonard is at rest in heaven. xoxo



Loretta Gabaldon - April 21, 2022 at 09:08 PM