



Hilario Mirabal Montaña

January 30, 1940 - March 27, 2026

Hilario "Lalo" Montaña, age 86, a resident of Belen, NM, passed away on March 27, 2026, surrounded by his family. Services will take place at Romero Funeral Home Chapel on Saturday, April 18, 2026, beginning with a Visitation at 11:00 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life at 11:30 a.m.

He is survived by his children; Donna Salas (Vince), their children, Diane and Frank Holloway, Brittney Kellar (Skelly), and Vincent Salas II (Carmen); Janice Montaña-Molina (Ruben), their children, Shawn Montaña (Selina) and Vanessa Lucero (Michael); Karol Vallez (Ernie), their children, Justin Romero (Megan) and Bradley Vallez (Jenna); Allison's children, James Morrison III and Hilario Herrera; Alan Montaña (Bernadette), their children, Gerome Montaña (Venesha) and Alan Montaña Jr.; Misty Montaña Torres, children Allen Torres Jr and Aaron Torres; In-Laws; Marylou Ortega, Viola Lucero, Macario (Mac) and Maryanne (Cora) Griego, and Helen Chavez; 22 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; and his longtime partner and dearest friend, Juanita Apodaca.

Lalo was preceded in death by his loving wife, Dolores Maes Montaña; parents, Candido and Lugardita (Lita) Montaña; daughters, Maryanne and Allison Montaña; siblings, Max Montaña Sr. (Mary), Monica Salazar (Benny), Teresa "Terry" Salazar (Arturo), and Ida Vallejos (Andy); In-Laws, Prudencio Maes, Richard and Bertha Lovato, Margie Tafoya, Jimmy Maes, Joe Lucero,

Celestino Ortega, and Nick T. Chavez; along with many other beloved relatives.

He was born on January 30, 1940, in San Mateo, NM, at the base of Mt. Taylor to Candido and Lugardita (Lita) Montaño. He graduated from Los Lunas High School in 1958, where he was an outstanding all-around athlete and an MVP basketball player. In 1958, Lalo married the love of his life, Dolores Maes. Together, they built a strong and loving family and were blessed with six daughters and one son. He was a jack-of-all-trades, even building his family two homes. Lalo was always ready to help family and friends with his skills and labor. He retired from Sandia National Laboratories, where he was, last, an explosives handler. Lalo loved fishing, hunting, Matanzas, sports, camping, family gatherings, but most of all, going to the Casino in his later years. We would like to give a huge Thanks to Juanita Apodaca, Pam Montiel, Amber Care Hospice, Crystal, Valene, Richard, and so many volunteers and caregivers who made an enormous difference in Lalo's journey.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Romero Funeral Home
609 North Main St.
Belen, NM 87002

Celebration of Life

APR 18. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (MT)

Romero Funeral Home
609 North Main St.
Belen, NM 87002

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Our deepest condolences to the entire family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. God bless you always.

Jerry & Mari Griego - April 17 at 11:38 PM

TS

“ Theresa Salas-Sims lit a candle in memory of Hilario Mirabal Montaña



Theresa Salas-Sims - April 17 at 07:50 PM

TH

“ My love and prayers to my second family.



Tarla Hill - April 17 at 05:02 PM

MS

“ Melinda/Arthur Salazar lit a candle in memory of Hilario Mirabal Montaña



Melinda/Arthur Salazar - April 17 at 08:55 AM

AC

“ *Annette Chavez lit a candle in memory of Hilario Mirabal Montaña*



Annette Chavez - April 16 at 06:11 PM

DR

“ *Debbie Romero lit a candle in memory of Hilario Mirabal Montaña*



Debbie Romero - April 13 at 07:00 PM

ER

“ *Lalo, mi tocallo , my namesake. I knew him through his daughter Carol and husband Ernie and family, Brad, etc. The Matanzas he would sponsor, with many friends and neighbors. He was solid as a rock and a very strong willed man. His family was taught many lessons as a humble man that he was. Jose Eduardo Rodriguez. May God guide him on his journey home to everlasting life. Our condolences and love, Eduardo and Connie Rodriguez*

Eduardo Rodriguez - April 13 at 06:58 AM

EL

“ *Donna, my sincere condolences*



Elaine - April 06 at 03:34 PM

RC

“ *Janice and Family. So sorry for your loss*



Roseann Garley Chavez - April 05 at 01:27 AM

DS

“ *Handsome in High School !*



Donna Salas - April 03 at 12:03 AM

CA

“ *This is a picture of us going to Vegas for my 21st birthday in 2012. I remember Lalo being drunk before we got on the airplane because he drank his margarita along with half of mine because it was too strong for me. He was also on a mission for me to try a 57 Chevy, which I finally got one a day or 2 later. It was such a pleasure getting to know him and being around him! He treated my boys just like his own grandkids which just shows how great of a person he was. He will be missed deeply! My condolences to his family.*

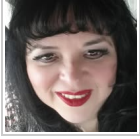


Chantel Apodaca - April 02 at 06:06 PM

DS

Sounds like fun!

Donna Salas - April 03 at 12:00 AM



“ We had so much fun on our trips to Vegas and fishing. Rest in Peace and you will be missed. Love Robert and Denise Jaramillo and Family!



Denise Maez-Jaramillo - April 02 at 05:03 PM

JC

“ Jerome Chavez lit a candle in memory of Hilario Mirabal Montaño



Jerome chavez - April 02 at 02:06 PM

MJ

“ We didn't know Lalo for very long, but in the short time he was part of the Jaramillo family, he touched many of our hearts and made us all feel like he was around forever! He holds a special place in our family's memories and we are honored to have known him. He was a very special man!! We will miss him! Raymer, Monica, Jared and Camryn Jaramillo

Monica Jaramillo - April 02 at 12:38 PM

DS

“ Condolences to the entire family. May his memory be a blessing to all.

Danny Sachs - April 02 at 10:32 AM

GG

“ *Glen & Mary Gabaldon lit a candle in memory of Hilario Mirabal Montaña*



Glen & Mary Gabaldon - April 01 at 08:10 PM

MG

“ *Margaret A Garcia lit a candle in memory of Hilario Mirabal Montaña*



Margaret A Garcia - April 01 at 06:34 PM

AR

“ *Donna, Janice and Karol, my prayers are with you and your family. Your dad is an angel watching over you from heaven. GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU 🙏*

Alice Robinson - April 01 at 03:12 PM

AS

“ *Donna, Janice, Karol and all the family, My deepest condolences to you all. Hugs and prayers to you at this most difficult time if your lives. May his soul through the mercy of God, rest in peace 🙏*



Adela Sanchez - April 01 at 01:10 PM

SM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shawn Montano - April 01 at 01:08 PM

HA

Awww, That's A Beautiful Memory Shawn. We Were All Brought Up Together, As Neighbors But As Family Also. Lalo Lived A Good And Happy Life. We're Gonna Miss You Lalo And Especially My Dad, You And My Dad Were The Best Of Friends And Like Brothers. 😭 Gonna Miss You Lots Lalo When We Go And Visit You And Juanita And Also Waving At You 🙌. Lalo My Son Always Looked Up To You And You And Him Talking Bout Sports And Football. Lalo You Loved Your Sweets, And Gonna Miss Taking You Homade Biscochitos. Sorry For Your Loss 🙏 Lalo You Will Be Greatly Missed 😭

Hortensia Alderete - April 01 at 03:26 PM

MD

He was quite the fisherman! It was awesome to see him light up when a favorite song came on, or a fish was biting on his hook. Rest in peace sir, your work here is done. God bless

Marcus Devlin - April 01 at 07:17 PM

DS

He had such a good time!

Donna Salas - April 02 at 10:48 AM

TR

I had the pleasure of meeting Sr Montano in my role as a home care physical therapist. I was warned Sr Montano didn't like therapists, nor exercising too much! Well, we turned that right around when I told him he had to exercise to stay strong enough to go to the casino!!! We hit it off from that point on!!! Not only was I blessed to have met and worked with Sr. Montano, but also grew to love Juanita, his steadfast caregiver and partner in casino crime. And as a byproduct, I also got to fall in love with daughters Janice and Karol. It takes an Army to care for a loved one and what an Army Sr. Montano had!! He knew he was lucky and very well loved, as he also knew there are so many that he made lucky by knowing and loving him!!! I consider myself blessed to have met Sr. Montano and will have very fond memories of strolling on his front porch together, working our muscles together and sharing in conversation and laughs with Juanita tambien! What a life well-lived and what a wonderful family legacy he helped start!! My love and condolences to you all!

Traci Ann Reindle - April 05 at 08:03 AM

JM

You all are making me cry with your beautiful words about our father! With tears rolling down my face, I just want to thank you all for recognizing the good things that my dad had to offer while here on this beautiful earth! He will be missed! Love you all!

Janice L Montano-Molina - April 10 at 04:15 PM