



## Ismael "Smiley" Cordova

May 17, 1935 - February 5, 2014

1935-2014

Ismael "Smiley" Cordova, age 78, a resident of Belen, NM passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Wednesday, February 5, 2014. He was born on May 17, 1935 in Los Chavez. Smiley owned and operated Belen Consumer Finance for 25 years. He was an active parishioner at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. He and Kandy served together at the church up until his illness. He was an original cast member of Los Pastores de Belen for more than 30 years. Smiley proudly served in the United States Army National Guard. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Elks Lodge, Moose Lodge, and the Valencia County Sheriff's Posse. Smiley took pleasure in talking to folks and discussing their ancestry. He enjoyed family reunions and talking about the good old days in Los Chavez. He loved his horses, classic cars, classic movies, and classic music – most notably, Gene Autry. Most of all he loved helping those in need and he loved his family and brought much love, loyalty, and generosity to their lives. He was preceded in death by his parents, Cristobal and Placida Gabaldon Cordova. Smiley is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Kandy Cordova; daughters, Pamela and Sharon Cordova; sons, Christopher and Joe Cordova; daughter-in-law, Bernadine Cordova; grandchildren, Christopher Cordova Jr., Marysa Cordova, Maria Cordova Brown, Noah Cordova; sister, Nila Romero, and beloved nieces, nephews, and good friends. All services will be held at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, beginning with a Viewing on Sunday, February 9, at

5:00 p.m. with a Rosary to be recited at 6:00 p.m. A Final Viewing will be held on Monday, February 10, at 9:00 a.m. with a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. with Father Stephen Schultz presiding. Interment will follow at Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens. Pallbearers will be Tony Mora, Charlie Carrejo, Gilbert Chavez, Christopher Cordova Jr., Leo Chavez, and Joe Tarin. Honorary Pallbearers will be George Chavez, Al Padilla, Ita Archibeque, Dennis Luna, and Mike Melendez. Sign Smiley's online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhomenm.com](http://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com) Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM

# Cemetery Details

## Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens

101 N. 10th Street  
Belen, NM 87002

# Previous Events

## Viewing

FEB **9**. 5:00 PM (MT)

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

## Rosary

FEB **9**. 6:00 PM (MT)

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

## Final Viewing

FEB **10**. 9:00 AM (MT)

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

## Funeral Mass

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FEB **10**. 10:00 AM (MT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ Romero Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ismael "Smiley" Cordova



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**Romero Funeral Home** - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Dear Kandy & family,  
We were so saddened & shocked to hear about Smiley. He was very good to me when I worked for him, our sincere condolences.  
Love & hugs to all of you,  
Lita & Fred Sanchez

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**Lita Sanchez** - February 27, 2014 at 07:59 PM

NR

“ My sincere condolences in the passing of Smiley.  
  
Nick Romero

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**Nick Romero** - February 13, 2014 at 04:29 PM

AT

“ Kandy - We were saddened to hear of Smiley's passing. May GOD continue to bless you and help you through this sad time in your life.  
  
Anna Trujillo & Edwin Padilla

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**Anna Trujillo** - February 12, 2014 at 11:39 AM

LA

“ *Kandy and Family,  
Our sincere condolences to you and your family. Smiley was a wonderful man that contributed so much to the community. He will dearly be missed by all. Our prayers and thoughts are with you at this time and in your time of healing. Your Tribute of Smiley was very touching. Thank you for sharing this.*

*Manuel, Louise Aragon and Family*

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**Louise Aragon** - February 11, 2014 at 10:35 AM

 Lydia Zazueta

“ *From Lydia Zazueta and Family.  
To Kandy and Family.  
Please accept our Sympathy for your loss, Smily he was a generous and a men the like to help the community, thank you for sharing this video tribute with us. My the Lord Bless you and your family, prayers and thought are send.*

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**Lydia Zazueta** - February 11, 2014 at 09:26 AM

EG

“ *Extending deepest sympathy, for you in your loss. And hoping, too, that comfort and peace may come to you.  
Edwina Gardner*



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**Edwina Gardner** - February 10, 2014 at 02:50 PM

SC

*Thank you Edwina*

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**Sharon Cordova** - February 14, 2014 at 09:29 AM

FS

“ *Frances Silva lit a candle in memory of Ismael "Smiley" Cordova*



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**Frances Silva** - February 10, 2014 at 11:31 AM

DS

“ *Dominic Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Ismael "Smiley" Cordova*



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**Dominic Sanchez** - February 10, 2014 at 10:58 AM

DP

“ *Diana Phillips lit a candle in memory of Ismael "Smiley" Cordova*



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**Diana Phillips** - February 10, 2014 at 10:45 AM

RM

“ *I will always remember his kindness when my husband passed away. There is a new angel in heaven. My thoughts and prayers are with with you. May all your wonderful memories be held close to your heart. Sincerely, Roberta Martinez & Family*

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**Roberta Martinez** - February 10, 2014 at 09:07 AM

VY

“ *Kandy, Joey, and family,  
We are so very sorry for your loss. Your dad (Joey) always had a smile on his face, much like you. May your memories of him and his love carry you through this sad time. Praying for peace and comfort for all of you.  
With deepest sympathies,  
Dan & Val (Lopez) Yoakum & family*

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**Valerie Yoakum** - February 10, 2014 at 07:43 AM

EW

“ *Dearest Kondy and family, Please accept our sympathy for your loss. Tom and I will miss his wonderful smile and sincere concern for our welfare. The last time I visited with him we had such a fun time recalling the time he and I taught religion classes. This gracious, gentle man leaves a big hole in the heart of our community.  
We are so sorry.  
Tommy and Edwina Weathersby*

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**Edwina Weathersby** - February 09, 2014 at 10:15 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Ismael "Smiley" Cordova.*



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February 09, 2014 at 07:29 PM

RS

“ *May god bless all of you. Your in our prayers. Rowena and Armando Sanchez*

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**rowena sanchez** - February 09, 2014 at 06:32 PM

ES

“ *Kandy and Family, the first word that came to my mind as I watched the beautiful video tribute, was SERVICE. First and foremost, Smiley was God's faithful servant. Everything else about his life emanated from that service. Faithful and loving husband, father grandfather and friend. Smiley was the first person to officially welcome me to Belen, and I remember how at ease he made me feel the day I walked into the bank to ask for a car loan. His eyes lit up when I told him I was married to Isabel, Fermin Cordova's daughter. He told me in no uncertain terms that I had married into a very good family. Later on as I got to know Smiley well, I came to realize that he had not made that comment because I had married a Cordova, but because he knew I had married someone raised with the same spiritual foundation that he had established for his family. I got that loan, and many more as the years went by, but more importantly I got a friend. And like the first word that came to my mind today, I know that Smiley heard that same as he entered The Kingdom of heaven, " You have served me well, enter good and faithful servant. Thank you for sharing him with us. Love and Prayers: Ernie and Isabel Salazar. ps. the car was a 1964 Dodge Dart and Smiley told me to go get it blessed! :-)*

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**Ernie & Isabel Salazar** - February 09, 2014 at 05:25 PM

CM

“ *Our love and blessings to all the Cordova family during this very difficult time. Besides all the political functions...it was great seeing Smiley dancing. He loved it so much and it showed!!! Rest in peace Smiley. You will be missed.*

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**Chris & Belinda Martinez** - February 09, 2014 at 04:40 PM

CA

“ I grew up around Kandy and Smiley and remember attending many Elk's activities together. These memories of laughter and fun are treasured.

*My deepest sympathy,*

*Catherine Romero*

*(Louie and Angela Romero's Daughter)*

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**Catherine** - February 09, 2014 at 04:21 PM

A(

“ My prayers are with ALL of you during this sad and difficult time. Please keep him in your hearts and all the memories, too. God Bless each and everyone one of you...

*Alice-Robinson (Eusebio & Anita Cordova's daughter)*

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**Alice Robinson (Cordova)** - February 09, 2014 at 04:17 PM

PF

“ The Cordova family is special to the Gabaldon family. When we told Dad (Pat) about Sonney (as we affecting) called him he cried. "Aqi se mantenía" , meaning that he spent most of his time on the farm in Los Chavez helping out. He especially helped out when I went to war and when I returned he was always here helping. Sonney, Kondy and Nila were always keeping in touch with their Uncle Pat. Coming by to check on him, taking dad out to lunch, riding around Los Chavez, or just sitting around the kitchen table talking about Sonney's favorite subject "the old days". for this Dad and us will always remember and be grateful. "Sonney" we will truly miss you. We love you and your family. The Pad Gabaldon family.

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**Pat Gabaldon family** - February 09, 2014 at 11:38 AM

FM

“ FERMIN AND JENNIE MONCIVAIZ

*SMILEY, was our first Banker more than 30 years ago when we first moved to this area.*

*he has been a true friend all this time. We are HONORED to have known SMILEY all these years. Go with GOD SMILEY. We will be praying for you and your family.*

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**FERMIN AND JENNIE MONCIVAIZ** - February 09, 2014 at 09:40 AM

PM

“ *What a beautiful video of the fun-loving Cordova family made in tribute to their beloved patriarch, "Smiley." Que en paz se descansa. Our love always,  
Peggy, "Mac," and Nathaniel McLoughlin*

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**peggy mcloughlin** - February 08, 2014 at 04:58 PM



Michelle Ethridge

“ *Dear Cordova Family: Sending my sincere condolences in your time of loss of your father and husband and hoping your happy memories will carry you through this hard time. He was a good man with a good family, respected throughout our community, and will always be remembered. Peace and understanding to all who knew him.*

*Michelle Ethridge*

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**Michelle Ethridge** - February 08, 2014 at 12:08 PM

BS

“ *Dear Kandy: I was so sorry to hear about Smiley's death. You were both such a beautiful, happy couple--married 57 years! What a tribute to your life together. My sympathies go to you and your entire family. Sincerely, Bea Sanchez (formerly with UNM-VC)*

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**Bea Sanchez** - February 08, 2014 at 10:45 AM

AS

“ Kandy & Family,  
We'd like to extend our most sincere  
condolences on your loss of Ismael "Smiley."  
God Bless all of the family at this most difficult  
time. Lit a candle in memory of Ismael  
Cordova.



Sincerely,  
Adam & Ruby Salas & Family

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Adam & Ruby Salas - February 07, 2014 at 04:11 PM

DM

“ When Manuel and I revalidated our wedding vows, Smiley was  
our most gracious usher/alter server. May he be at peace in the  
arms of our Lord.  
Dolores A. Marquez

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Dolores A. Marquez - February 07, 2014 at 11:35 AM

PL

“ Kandy, Pam, Sharon, Christopher and Joe, and grandchildren: I am  
so sorry to hear of your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with each  
of you. You husband, father and grandfather was such a positive  
force in so many lives, with his involvement in Valencia County,  
always with a smile on his face. His legacy lives through each one  
of you, through all those loving memories he created with each of  
you. Thank you for sharing him with all of us! I know his character,  
having known you Kandy, Pam and Sharon for so many years, and  
enjoying him through each of you. Many Blessings to your family!!!  
Paul T. Luna.

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Paul T. Luna - February 07, 2014 at 11:03 AM

MS

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Michelle Esquibel Sanchez - February 07, 2014 at 09:52 AM

CC

Thank You Michelle for your prayers, and kind heart

CHRIS C.

Chris Cordova - February 11, 2014 at 02:40 PM

CM

“ Condi & Family, We are so sorry for your loss. Your husband & father was such a sweet man. We pray for your peace but know he will always be in our hearts. With all our Love Cathy & Greg Sachs

Cathy McCartney - February 07, 2014 at 07:07 AM

AA

“ Lamento mucho la pérdida de su ser amado. Estoy segura que está pasando por un tiempo muy difícil ya que la muerte de un ser querido deja un gran vacío en el corazón. Algo que me ayudó mucho a mi es el consuelo que da la palabra de Dios, La Biblia. Si tiene una Biblia, le invito a que busque los textos de Juan 5:28, 29, Revelación 21; 3,4 y Hechos 24: 15. Ahí vera que se nos da la bella esperanza de la resurrección. Esto nos deja saber que en un futuro, ¡vamos a poder ver a nuestros seres queridos nuevamente, incluyendo a su ser amado! ¿Se puede imaginar el gozo que tendremos?

Quisiera compartir más con usted esta magnífica esperanza. Con dicho pensamiento en mente, le invito a visitar el siguiente enlace: <http://www.JW.org/es/publicaciones/libros/tratado-muertos-volver-a-vir/> Ahí encontrara un artículo que habla más al respecto.

AAK - February 07, 2014 at 06:15 AM

MC

“ Sorry to hear the passing of smiley. He was my first loan officer at First national bank of Belen. He was very proficient of what he did. He help the hispanic community and those who were unforunate in making there lives better in the surrounding area of this great valley will be missed .

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**mike chavez** - February 06, 2014 at 09:57 PM

YG

“ Our condolences to the Cordova family! Prayers to the family - John and Yvette Garrett

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**Yvette Garrett** - February 06, 2014 at 09:24 PM

YF

“ My condolences to the Cordova family. Smiley was always a pleasure to do business with.. You will be remembered...

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**Yvonne Flores-Aragon** - February 06, 2014 at 09:19 PM

RO

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you all. God bless.

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**Roxanne** - February 06, 2014 at 07:42 PM

SW

“ Our deepest Condolences to all of you, Smiley was truly one of the good guys, our respect and deep sorrow for the loss of such a great man. Thanks for all you did for Alvin and I Mr. Cordova we will miss you. Sandy and Alvin Peralta

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**Sandy Wells** - February 06, 2014 at 07:40 PM

TM

“ *May God Bless all of you in this time of a great Loss. He is in his makers hands and will be well taken care of. Threasa Maestas*

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**threasa maestas** - February 06, 2014 at 05:23 PM

FP

*My condolences to the Cordova family! This valley has lost a very well respected and honorable person!!*

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**Fred E Peralta** - February 06, 2014 at 07:18 PM

FP

*My condolences to the Cordova family! This valley has lost a very well respected and honorable person!!*

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**Fred E Peralta** - February 06, 2014 at 07:18 PM

DC

*Sending you and your family my love amd deep condolence, Condi. Will keep you in my prayers . Dylia Castillo*

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**Dylia Castillo** - February 08, 2014 at 06:50 PM

KD

*Cordova Family, our sincere condolences. Kathy & Joe Duffy*

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**Kathy Duffy** - February 08, 2014 at 07:10 PM