



Jose Villarreal Jr.

February 25, 1942 - April 8, 2026

Jose Villarreal, Jr., Ph.D., Captain, United States Air Force
February 25, 1942 - April 8, 2026

Jose Villarreal, Jr., was born in Mission, Texas, to the late Jose Villarreal, Sr. and Maria (Mora) Villarreal. He passed away peacefully at home in Los Lunas, New Mexico at the age of 84 after a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease and heart failure. He was preceded in death by his beloved sisters, Eduarda Vasaldua, Maria Elena Cabrera, and Juanita Garcia.

Raised in San Antonio, Texas, Jose graduated from Burbank High School before attending Texas A&M University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1964. Immediately after graduation, Jose answered the call to serve his country in the United States Air Force. He earned his commission through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. After intensive training as a Navigator-Bombardier in the B-52 Stratofortress, he deployed with the Strategic Air Command, 486th Bombardment Squadron and was involved in extended overseas operational assignments with Vietnam era SAC missions. In December 1969, Jose was honorably released from active duty with the rank of Captain (03).

After completing his military service, Jose returned to Texas A&M University, where he earned his Master's degree in 1971 and his Doctor of Philosophy

(Ph.D.) in 1974. His dedication to education and lifelong learning shaped both his professional career and the many students he mentored.

Jose enjoyed a successful 25-year career with IBM as a project manager before pursuing his passion for teaching. He moved to New Mexico, where he served as a professor at New Mexico Highlands University and Eastern New Mexico University, teaching advanced mathematics and computer science and inspiring students with his knowledge, patience, and encouragement. Students respectfully referred to him as "Dr. J."

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Jose was a skilled woodworker who carried on the craftsmanship he learned from his father. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to family and friends-not just by fixing things, but by teaching others how to do them.

Jose shared 29 loving years of marriage with his beloved wife and partner, Consuelo ("Coni") Lovato. Together they built a strong blended family rooted in faith, respect, and care for one another. He is also survived by his children, Sarita Villarreal, Marcos Villarreal, Patricia (Jeremy) Sohns, Jessica Villarreal (Warren), Suzette (Andrew) Ortiz and Catherine (Chris) Torrez. Survivors also include his brother Hector (Mary) Villarreal. Their family includes 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Jose was a faithful parishioner of San Clemente Parish in Los Lunas. He was a proud lifetime member of VFW Post 9676. Services will be held April 28, 2026, at San Clemente Parish, with visitation at 9:00 a.m., Rosary at 9:30 a.m., and Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. Burial with military honors at Santa Fe National Cemetery will follow at 1:00 p.m. Pallbearers: Andrew Ortiz, Chris Torrez, Jeremy Sohns, Caleb Dalton, Nick Sohns, and Jedediah Villarreal. Honorary Pallbearers: Hector Villarreal, Richard Lovato, Ed Lovato, Jack Lovato, and Jose Silviano Lovato.

The family extends heartfelt appreciation to members of VFW Post 9676 in Los Lunas for their fellowship and support; and to the compassionate caregivers of Luna Del Valle Hospice and Heritage Home Healthcare of Albuquerque for the dignity and kindness they provided during his final days. Romero Funeral Home, Belen, NM is in charge of arrangements.

Captain Jose Villarreal will be remembered for his faithful honorable service to his country, his devotion to education, his quiet strength, his humble spirit, and his deep love for his family. His life stands as a lasting example of duty, integrity, faith, and service to others.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 28. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (MT)

San Clemente Catholic Church
244 Luna Ave SE
Los Lunas, NM 87002

VFW Post 9676 Final Tribute

APR 28. 9:15 AM (MT)

San Clemente Catholic Church
244 Luna Ave SE
Los Lunas, NM 87002

Rosary

APR 28. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (MT)

San Clemente Catholic Church
244 Luna Ave SE
Los Lunas, NM 87002

Funeral Mass

APR 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

San Clemente Catholic Church
244 Luna Ave SE
Los Lunas, NM 87002

Graveside Service

APR **28**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM.

Santa Fe National Cemetery

Tribute Wall

“ To the strongest man I have ever known, Gigi Jose

There are people who come into this world and leave behind accomplishments... and then there are people like you, who leave behind a feeling—something that lives on in the hearts of everyone who knew you. You were that feeling for me.

Some of my most treasured memories are simply watching you work. The way your hands moved with purpose, the way your mind seemed to understand things before anyone else could—it was incredible to witness. You didn't just fix things, you brought them back to life. There was a quiet strength in you, a steady confidence that made everything feel safe and possible.

You were a true craftsman—an engineer in every sense of the word. You didn't just build things... you understood them. Wood, tools, computers—whatever was in front of you, you mastered it. There was a level of precision in everything you did—every cut, every detail, every solution—done with intention and care. Your brilliance was something I've never seen matched. You made the complicated feel simple, like it was just second nature to you.

But what made you unforgettable wasn't just what you knew—it was how you loved.

I will always remember your laugh—rich, full, and unmistakably yours. It carried a kind of warmth that filled every corner of the room, the kind of sound that made people feel at ease without even realizing why. It wasn't just laughter... it was comfort, it was joy, it was life.

And the way you loved Gigi... it was so beautiful in its softness. The way you wrote “Hunny Bunny” on her gifts—something so small, yet so full of tenderness—it said everything about your heart. You didn't just love her—you built a life around her. If she needed something, you brought it to life with your own hands. A deck you created not

just to stand on, but as a place where memories would unfold— where we would gather on warm summer nights, watching Fourth of July fireworks light up the sky, not realizing at the time how special those moments truly were. Stairs so beautifully crafted from wood they felt like they had always belonged there, each step shaped with intention and care. And the dining room you built... it became the heart of it all.

That space held us. It gathered us in, year after year, for Christmas and Thanksgiving—where Gigi turned every moment into something unforgettable. The table was always set with the finest gold silverware, the most beautiful dishes, and personalized name cards placed so thoughtfully it felt as though the entire room had been curated just for each of us. It looked like something out of a magazine—elegant, intentional, and touched with a kind of timeless beauty that made every gathering feel sacred.

Every corner held meaning. Every moment felt cared for. Together, you created something that felt whole in a way that's hard to describe—warm, intentional, and quietly magical.

It was never just a room.

It was where we learned what togetherness felt like.

It was where love was lived, not just spoken.

It was a kind of magic we didn't just visit...

it's something we were lucky enough to grow up inside.

You even left little pieces of yourself all throughout your home... in ways only you would think of. The way you cared for that space—and for Gigi—showed in the smallest, most thoughtful details. Nothing was ever left unfinished or out of place. You made sure everything felt just right—like the way you would carefully run wires out of sight, even guiding them beneath the carpet so the home stayed seamless, warm, and undisturbed. It wasn't just about fixing things... it was about creating a space that felt peaceful, cared for, and complete. That was you—intentional, thoughtful, and quietly extraordinary in ways most people would never even notice.

You named my first kitty, Tuxedo... and even in something that simple, you left a piece of yourself behind. That's what you did—you made everything a little more meaningful without even trying.

And somehow, you did it all in your own signature style—socks with sandals, your satchel always by your side... completely yourself, never trying to be anything else. It's those little things that feel like their own kind of magic now, because they were so perfectly you.

You were strong in every way that mattered. Not loud, not showy—but steady, wise, patient, and deeply loving. The kind of strength that holds a family together, that teaches without words, that stays with us long after you're gone.

I don't just miss you... I carry you with me. In the way I remember, in the way I love, in the way I see the world just a little differently because of you.

And Gigi... the love you and Gigi Jose built is still here. It lives in every room he created, every detail he touched, every memory you made together. The way he loved you is something we all witnessed, and it will never fade.

Keep building beautiful things in heaven... and keep watching over Gigi, your Hunny Bunny.

I love you always, Gigi Jose. Love the Bee Family 🐝

Brooke Martinez - April 30 at 12:01 AM

EL

“ My favorite memory of Jose is the day he and Aunt Coni stood as Padrinos to my 2 oldest children. From that day until his last, he modeled for my children, and for me, an example of rectitude. His was a humble love demonstrated in actions rather than words. I hope to be more like him with each passing day. We will miss him sorely. May God grant him eternal rest.

Edward W. Lovato and family: Jessica, Jackie, David, and Michelle

Edward W. Lovato - April 28 at 10:42 PM

EL

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories*



Edward W. Lovato - April 28 at 10:37 PM

EM

“ Jose was a caring, selfless, smart, funny man. He was always willing to lend a helping hand and he could fix anything! He helped us fix our hot water heater and prep our AC unit for summer without hesitation. The love and tenderness that he showed my Aunt Coni was so special to witness. He was quick to laugh and joke around. He will be greatly missed!

Elaind & Matt - April 27 at 10:33 PM

BS

“ *My Dear Cousin, How I hurt for you.
Our heart felt condolences to all of your family that mourn Jose.
He has left more than a void, but a chasm. He was a good husband
to you,
and you were fortunate to be able to care for him, as you did.
I loved his humbleness. He will be missed.
Love, Bernice & Pete*

Bernice Sisneros - April 26 at 11:05 PM

JV

“ *5 things I love about my Dad is he was a kind man who had a big
heart and helped others who were in need. He was a hard worker
and always put his family first. My dad taught us how to be
responsible and be a hard worker. My dad would make us laugh
when he joked with us about things and would always try to make
things better for us. There were times when I would see my dad cry
too and every time I did, I would come up to him and tell him that
everything will be okay. My dad was my hero and I looked up to him
and he has taught me so much about life. He always would check
up on me after I moved out to make sure I was okay and he was
always there for my boys and I. I will miss him dearly. I love you dad
with all my heart.*

Jessica Villarreal - April 26 at 10:27 PM

FJ

“ When we first met Jose we were just starting our family and looking for a home to settle into. Finding Jose's home in Eldorado meant everything to us and it was an honor to raise our children in the home that he had once called his own. He took such amazing care of us in the time we were there and he took such good care of the home. Always coming down to work on the yard and if anything ever came up, he was right there for us. As we handed over the rent, Marjorie would always say, "okay, now don't go to the casino with that!" and with his little chuckle he would say, "it's going to my boss." Coni, during that time you always remembered the kids and gave them gifts every holiday. As it got harder for Jose to do the maintenance and come to the house, Coni was with him every month and we were so grateful to see you both. During the 12 years of living on the loop, Coni and Jose became family to us. You treated our kids as your own grandchildren and showered us all with so much love and support and you took such good care of us. We were and are eternally grateful that you both came into our lives. I will always remember Jose's little chuckle. His laugh was one of the best and the sparkle in his eye was always so bright. We will miss him always.

Love,

Farland, Marjorie, Mateo, and Francesca

Farland Johnson - April 26 at 09:24 PM

PS

“Dad, we are grateful for all your sacrifice for Jessica and I. You took us in to keep us out of the foster system. You did everything you could to protect us. Thank you for all you’ve done for us. You will be deeply missed.

Mom, you’ve been right by Dad’s side to the end as any loving wife will do. We have prayed and continue to pray for strength and peace for you. We will continue to be here even with our Dad’s passing. You’re still very much a part of our family.

Love Trish and Jeremy

Patricia Sohns - April 20 at 03:10 PM

MD

“ When we think of Coni and Jose we think family, friendship and Love. Together they took a 100 year old piano Dianne's parents had gotten her in grade school and totally and beautifully restored it. When ask what we owed them we were ask to write a check to Eastern University as a donation. A tribute to their selflessness.

Jose was key in helping us set up our computer system as our business expanded through the years. We would watch in amazement as he wired, programed and installed each piece of the system. As he finished he gazed into our souls and issued a directive on how everything worked. As he finished he ask if we had questions to which we both responded, "What button do we push?" A brilliant man to say the least.

Standing up with them at their wedding was an honor. The family meals and lunches delightful and helping to raise our grandson together an amazing privilege.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to Coni and all the family and friends who loved and will miss Jose.

Mike and Dianne Dalton

MICHAEL AND DIANNE DALTON - April 19 at 06:07 PM

CT

“ Mom — For 29 years, and until his final breath, you stood faithfully by Jose’s side. We all carry such special memories of him, and everywhere we look in our home, we see the work of his hands and the love he poured into it. We lift you up in prayer, asking God to grant you peace, comfort, and strength in the days ahead.

Jose — You will be missed more than words can express. You will be Forever Remembered and always in our hearts.

Love, Cat and Chris

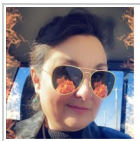
Cat & Chris Torrez - April 16 at 03:42 PM

TR

“ Sending you love and strength 🙏



Teles and Esther Rael - April 16 at 10:15 AM



“ Coni and family,
Holding you close in our thoughts and hoping you find moments of peace and comfort knowing Jose is resting.

Steve & Melissa Romero

Melissa Ortiz-Romero - April 15 at 10:27 PM

AS

“ Mom, with heavy hearts, we share our deepest condolences on the passing of Dad, Grandpa Jose, and your Husband.

He was a loving father, family man, and a source of strength and wisdom to those who knew him well.

Together, we honor his life, his legacy, and the many memories he leaves with us. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

With love and remembrance,

Andrew & Suzette.

Andrew & Suzeete - April 15 at 06:16 PM

MM

“ We will miss you deeply, never our domino days will be the same

Monika Martin - April 13 at 07:41 PM

MV

To Coni, Hector, Mary and all his loving family we extend our deepest condolences on Cousin Joe's passing. May God bless us with strength during this difficult time of grief and loss. We will continue to pray for his family and friends. We are confident that he is now in the arms of his mother and father and sister in God heavenly kingdom. May his rest in eternal peace. Mr.& Mrs. Mike Villarreal 🙏❤️🙏

Mike Villarreal - April 20 at 08:21 PM