



## Manuel C. Chavez

December 12, 1914 - October 10, 2015

1914-2015

Icon from Valencia County, Judge Manuel C. Chavez, age 100, a resident of Belen, New Mexico, passed away on Saturday, October 10, 2015. Judge Chavez was born on December 12, 1914, in Barelvas, Albuquerque, to Predicando and Remedios Vigil de Campos Chavez. Judge Chavez grew up in San Fernandez, where he learned how to farm and raise sheep and cattle from his father. He attended grade school in a one room school house in El Cerro and graduated from High School in Los Lunas on May 10, 1934. Judge Chavez enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, working in Santa Fe and Staton from June, 1935, to June, 1936. He worked for Valencia County in various capacities, such as being a typist for abstract Inspector, County Clerk's Office, and Deputy County Treasurer for Elfigo Baca and Nicanor Romero. He was also Valencia County Republican Party Chairman for many years. Judge Chavez was elected County Treasurer in 1948, serving two terms. He served 12 years on the Los Lunas School Board and was the Belen Municipal Judge from 1981-2002. Judge Chavez also worked with the Midwest Community Action Program for ten years. He is preceded in death by his first wife Mary S. Chavez and his second wife, Nila P. Chavez; children, Senator Willie Chavez, Andy Chavez, Virginia Lovato and Clifford Chavez; parents, Predicando and Remedios Vigil de Campos Chavez; sisters, Antonia Castillo, Juanita Carbajal, Tillie Otero; brothers, Escolastico Chavez and Elias Chavez and many nieces and nephews. Judge Chavez is survived by his daughter, Luisa Lucero; son, Dennis Chavez and wife Belinda; stepchildren, Lorraine Padilla (Preme), JoAnne Knight (Bob), Arlene Hays, Jeannete Hiner (Larry), and James Peña (Sherry), along with many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Judge Chavez will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends, as he has always been the "rock" of his family. All services will be held at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church on Thursday, October 15, 2015, beginning with a Public Viewing at 9:00 a.m. with a Rosary to be recited at 10:30 a.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Tome Catholic Cemetery. Pallbearers are Nick Carrasco, Joe Maestas, Jesus Sanchez, Preme Padilla, Roberto Lovato, and Nick Martinez. We would like to thank Gloria Sisneros for going on Sundays to give him Communion, also to all the employees from Hospice for

being there for him and the family, also Yvette and Yvonne for helping us take care of dad. Please sign Manuel's online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhomenm.com](http://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com) Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St. Belen, NM.

# Cemetery Details

## Tome Catholic Cemetery

Tome, NM 87060

# Previous Events

## Viewing

OCT 15. 9:00 AM (MT)

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

## Rosary

OCT 15. 10:30 AM (MT)

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

## Funeral Mass

OCT 15. 11:00 AM (MT)

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

# Tribute Wall

WG

“ *With deepest sympathy to the family  
Wayne Golliehair and Family*

Wayne Golliehair - October 23, 2015 at 10:28 AM

JJ

“ *Our condolences go out to the entire FAMILIA of Manuel Chavez. He was an icon in our county with a long history of being a well-liked and respected man. He was always ready to visit and talk about anything, especially politics and his family. He was always sharp and pretty happy. We were saddened that this gregarious man has left us for his eternal home. May God bless all of you at this time and may your many, many memories sustain you. May he rest in peace. Juan & Josie Julian*

Juan & Josie Julian - October 22, 2015 at 06:26 PM

MC

“ *Dear Family I am sorry I wasn't there to celebrate the passing of our dear Uncle Manuel. They tell me all the nephews and nieces were there. God Bless them all. Uncle Manuel was one of a kind, Helped us all. Not only family but neighbors and any one who needed him. I saw him 2 years ago and he was his joyful and smiling all the time. He was the last of our uncles and aunts on the Chaves side. I will have him in my Prayers every day. I hope all of us that are left can emulate his life. May God Bless you All. Marcelino*

Marcelino Carabajal - October 16, 2015 at 04:05 PM

FM

“ *Frank And Dolores Marquez lit a candle in memory of  
Manuel C. Chavez*



Frank and Dolores Marquez - October 15, 2015 at 09:28 PM

MS

“ *MARYCECILIA {GABALDON} SEDILLO lit a candle in  
memory of Manuel C. Chavez*



MARYCECILIA {GABALDON} SEDILLO - October 15, 2015 at 06:37 PM

MS

*I loved, loved living near Uncle Manuel and Aunt Nila many, many years ago when I resided in Los Chavez. I would stop by and listen to stories of long, long ago. Uncle Manuel teased me so much!!! He made me laugh. He was an awesome Uncle. Rest In Peace. Love always.....*

**MARYCECILIA {GABALDON} SEDILLO** - October 15, 2015 at 06:41 PM

RA

“ *Roberta Chavez Archuleta lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez*



**Roberta Chavez Archuleta** - October 15, 2015 at 03:39 PM

VM

“ *Vitalia And Edward Morawski lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez*



**Vitalia and Edward Morawski** - October 15, 2015 at 02:15 PM

TJ

“ *Tanya Jaramillo lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez*



**Tanya Jaramillo** - October 15, 2015 at 02:10 PM

FS

“ *Fred & Lita Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez*



**Fred & Lita Sanchez** - October 14, 2015 at 10:44 PM

NF

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the family of Manuel. Nick and Cecilia Fajardo and family.*



**Nick and Cecilia Fajardo** - October 14, 2015 at 08:44 PM

MB

“ *Milton & Annabelle Barela lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez*



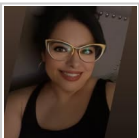
**Milton & Annabelle Barela** - October 14, 2015 at 08:27 PM

 Bernardine  
Baca  
Spiers

“ *Bernardine Baca Spiers lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez*



**Bernardine Baca Spiers** - October 14, 2015 at 07:01 PM



“ *Bernadette Baca-Torres lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez*



**Bernadette Baca-Torres** - October 14, 2015 at 01:35 PM

TS

“ *Tony And Kathy Savilla lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez*



**Tony and Kathy Savilla** - October 14, 2015 at 11:47 AM

LS

“ Loretta Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez



Loretta Sanchez - October 14, 2015 at 08:01 AM

DR

“ Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez



Dicky and Suzanne Romero - October 13, 2015 at 08:04 PM

AM

“ Ann Sims McCartney sent a virtual gift in memory of Manuel C. Chavez



Ann Sims McCartney - October 13, 2015 at 03:59 PM

JP

“ To the Chavez Family  
Manuel was married to my mother (Nila) for almost 40 years. He was a kind and generous man who told me that he would take good care of my mother. He kept his promise. He will be missed for all the fond memories and stories he would tell. He was a gracious man who thought of his family first before ever thinking about himself. He had a long and fruitful career, loved politics and especially New Mexico politics. My sisters and I will always be grateful to him for the support he showed us. He thought of us as his own children.  
He will be missed but knowing he has gone to join my mother is enough. No man ever enjoyed a life like his for over 100 years.  
God Bless His Family!  
Sherry and James Pena

James Pena - October 13, 2015 at 02:58 PM

GS

“ *Gloria Sisneros lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez*



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**Gloria Sisneros** - October 13, 2015 at 11:22 AM

GS

“ *Dear Chavez Family,*

*Thank you for allowing me into your Dad's life and home over the past 6 years he brought me many years of joy and happiness every time I saw him. I looked forward to seeing him on Sunday's he made my week.*

*I was witness to the outpouring love you have for your Dad & Grandpa, he was so fortunate to have such a loving, caring and beautiful family. He will be greatly missed.*

*My deepest sympathy to your family. May God Bless You.*

*Gloria Sisneros*

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**Gloria Sisneros** - October 13, 2015 at 10:21 AM

PW

“ *we were neighbors of Manuel Chavez for several years. I enjoyed seeing him out checking the irrigation ditch or looking at his cattle. What an active man. He will be missed. Our sympathies to all family and friends. Harold and Patricia White*

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**patricia white** - October 13, 2015 at 09:13 AM

DB

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Dan Bruns** - October 12, 2015 at 10:34 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Lita Sanchez - October 12, 2015 at 08:00 PM

LS

*The Chavez familia....Laco, Juanita, Manuel, Antonia, Tillie, Remedios (their mom)*

Lita Sanchez - October 12, 2015 at 08:02 PM

AS

“ *"Lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez."*

*To The Family of Manuel Chavez,  
We'd like to extend our most sincere condolences on your  
Loss of Manuel. He was a kind, well known man, who has  
truly left a legacy to all who knew him. May God Bless all of the Family at this  
most difficult time.*



*Sincerely,  
Adam & Ruby Salas & Family*

Adam & Ruby Salas - October 12, 2015 at 03:24 PM



“ *Luisa, Yvette and all of Manuel's family our deepest condolences go out to all of  
you. Manuel was an amazing man who always had time for everyone. He will be  
greatly missed and remembered with love. May all of you find comfort in knowing  
that so many share your great loss. God bless you all. Love always. Rosemary  
Zamora and family.*

Rosemary Zamora - October 12, 2015 at 03:00 PM

MW

“ *Dear Family of Manuel, Manuel was such a kind, funny, precious soul. He made  
everyone feel like you were part of his family, I remember, when Nila became ill I  
went to visit them, we talked for quite a long time about everything, and when I  
was ready to leave he asks Lorraine "Who is she?" He was so CUTE! He will be  
missed..... God Bless You All .....Frances and Davy*

Mary Frances Wells - October 12, 2015 at 10:06 AM

BE

“ For the loved ones of Manuel Chavez I would like to send my condolences . And would like to share a comforting thought from the bible. He will wipe out every tear from thier eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away. Rev:21:4. Sincerly Bea.

bea - October 12, 2015 at 08:15 AM

NS

“ My husband and I were neighbors of Judge Chavez for several years after he retired, and I would have occasional conversations with him about irrigation and other neighborhood concerns. I remember him always with a smile and a twinkle in his eye -- what an old charmer! He will be missed.

Nancy Strickland

Nancy Strickland - October 11, 2015 at 10:18 PM

BS

“ Beatrice S Salazar lit a candle in memory of Manuel C. Chavez



Beatrice S Salazar - October 11, 2015 at 09:55 PM

BS

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Manuel C. Chavez. Que descanses en paz tio, te damos Gracias Senor Jesus Cristo por el tiempo que dejaste esta gran persona estar con nosotros en este mundo. May you rest in peace uncle. We give thanks to the Lord for the time you allowed this wonderful person to remain with us here on earth. Beatrice and Rick Salazar

Beatrice and Rick Salazar - October 11, 2015 at 10:05 PM

TG

“ Dennis and Luisa my deepest condolences on the passing of your dad, He was a good man that will always be in my mind. He married me and Jackie in his kitchen I gave him a fifth of whiskey as a reward. Charles and Angela were my padrinos. God Bless you and your families.

Tony Griego and family

tony griego - October 11, 2015 at 12:46 PM

TO

“ Dear Chavez Family,  
We will miss Uncle Manuel SO much! We use to love meeting up with him around town and at the different family gathering. He always had interesting things to share, a keen wit and a warm and loving smile!

All of you will be in our thoughts and prayers. Please let us know if there is anything you need!

Until we meet again, Tio; Dios te bendiga!

Con carino y amor,  
Teddy and Ramona Otero and Family

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**Teddy and Ramona Otero** - October 10, 2015 at 10:41 PM

BC

“ Deanna & family,

I am so sorry for your loss! 100 years of wisdom lost.  
Please try to find comfort in knowing he is in Heaven. I try,  
but I still want my grandpa with me. God bless you all!

Love you,  
Bernice & Estevan



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**Bernice Montoya y Chavez** - October 10, 2015 at 08:25 PM