

Manuel "Manny" D. Romero

June 18, 1952 - November 3, 2017

1952-2017

Manuel "Manny" David Romero a beloved, husband, father, grandfather, Godfather, padrino, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend went home to be with the Lord on November 3, 2017. Manuel was preceded in death by his son, Manuel David Romero Jr.; his parents, Juan and Palmiria Romero, and Alvaro and Daisy Maestas; his grandparents, Trinidad and Jesusita Gutierrez; his sisters, Clara Torres and Jeannie Kear; his brothers, Raymond Romero and Joe Gallegos; his nephews, Jeffrey Kear and Pat Garcia; and his great nephew, Christopher Montano. He is survived by his beloved wife of 46 years, Carol Maestas Romero; his adored children, Melissa and Mike Aragon, Matthew and Tanya Romero; his adored grandchildren, Michael Aragon, Ali Aragon, Mateo Romero, Caitlyn Cordova, Darren Romero, Kaitlyn Romero, and soon-to-be-born baby Romero. He is also survived by his brothers and sisters; Ruby and Adam Salas, Juan Jr. and Carmen Romero, Leroy Romero, Kenny and Nora Maestas, and Debbie Trujillo; and many nieces and nephews and friends all over the world. Manuel was born June 18, 1952 in Horse Springs, New Mexico, and later moved to Belen where, as a teen, he worked at Daisy's Grocery Store. He graduated from Belen High School, joined the United States Air Force, and married Carol, his high school sweetheart. They soon returned to Belen to raise their family. He worked in various trades before finding his calling in the prison industry—first as an officer at Central New Mexico Correctional Facility, while attending the University of New

Mexico, where he earned an Associate's degree in Correctional Studies, then a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. He worked his way up the New Mexico Corrections Department, serving as an Associate Warden at CNMCF, Deputy Director of Adult Prisons in Santa Fe, and Deputy Secretary and at times, Acting Secretary for NMCD. He played a key role in vacating the Duran Consent Decree during his tenure in the department. Manuel's first language was Spanish, which served him well when he worked in the Puerto Rico prison system for a number of years as a court expert appointed by the United States District Court, and as a Warden/Complex Administrator in Ponce, PR. He continued his career in the corrections field, most recently with the New Mexico Association of Counties as a Loss Prevention Specialist; and built his own consulting practice over the course of the past twenty years, serving as an expert witness, inspector and auditor, providing his expertise nationally for the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, United States Marshals Service, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), amongst other agencies and in high profile legal cases in multiple states through the U.S. District Court(s) circuit over the years. His work has taken him to hundreds of prisons and jails in the United States and its territories, including some of the most notorious in the United States, such as San Quentin State Prison, San Rafael, CA; Rikers Island, Queens, NY; and Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility, Lake County, Mississippi. He was also the court expert for the Metropolitan Detention Center, McClendon Case in Albuquerque. He has contributed to the creation of new policies for prison conditions and security, requiring implementation by the investigated institutions. He also wrote chapters for several textbooks and training manuals for the prison industry and garnered several multi-million dollar federal grants for programs he developed and implemented, including the first pre-release model in Puerto Rico, and a program at CNMCF to reduce recidivism through a parenting skills program for inmates and their families, which was eventually adopted as an ongoing program at the prison. Manuel approached life and work with compassion, kindness and integrity. While he clearly established himself as an

accomplished professional in his field, more importantly, he dearly loved his family and made every moment, big or small, special for those surrounding him. Even though Manuel worked so hard, he always found time to attend family functions, sporting events and activities of his grandchildren, often finding time to take them to school or pick them up. He is so loved and will be dearly missed by all. All services will be held at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. A Public Viewing will be held at 5:00 p.m., with a Rosary to be recited at 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, November 9, 2017. A Final Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m., with a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, November 10, 2017. Interment will follow at Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens. Please sign Manuel's online tribute at 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

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

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

Rosary

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

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

Final Visitation

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

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

Funeral Mass

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

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

Interment

NOV **10** (MT)

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

Tribute Wall

MD

“ On behalf of the NM EDGE program, we send our heartfelt condolences. We knew Manny through his work with the Association of Counties where he helped us develop curriculum for detention administrators in New Mexico. He was delightful to work with and we will miss him dearly. May God rest his good soul and bring you comfort in your time of grief.



Sincerely,

Mary DeLorenzo

Jeanine Chavez Eden

Elia Galindo

Chantel Barton

Marilyn Cimalore

Corinna Cogburn

Dr. Jon Boren, Associate Dean and Director of NM Cooperative Extension Service

Mary DeLorenzo - November 17, 2017 at 12:44 PM

CR

Thank you so much for your kind words. i would like to think that some of his work will continue to be utilized in a positive way! He loved his work and yet always found time for his family. He was an extraordinary man!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 11:55 AM

GP

“ *Carol and family,
My heartfelt condolences to you! Manuel was well respected and
will be dearly missed by all whose lives he impacted. It was a
privilege working with such a kind man. My prayers are with you and
your family.*

Gloria Padilla

Gloria Padilla - November 11, 2017 at 05:20 PM

CR

Thank you so much Gloria! Your words mean so much to us!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 11:58 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero.*



November 10, 2017 at 10:18 AM

EC

“ *Ethan Carr lit a candle in memory of Manuel
"Manny" D. Romero*



Ethan Carr - November 09, 2017 at 11:36 AM

CR

Thank you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 11:58 AM

PC

“ From the time I met Manuel over 30 years ago through our last conversation a few days before his passing, he always treated me and every other person with respect and kindness. He lived the Golden Rule every day, whether dealing with an important government official or with a reviled prisoner. I've learned a lot from Manuel and I will try to emulate his graciousness for the rest of my life.

We will try to carry on your good works, brother.

*With love and respect,
Peter Cubra*

Peter Cubra - November 09, 2017 at 08:50 AM

CR

Thank you so much Peter! Manuel always respected you and the hard work you do on behalf of others. I know he enjoyed working with you. It warms my heart to know that others will carry on what he tries to do in this world!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:01 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero.



November 09, 2017 at 08:36 AM

KT

“ *The Broken Chain*

*Little did we know that day
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
in death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you
You did not go alone.
For parts of us went with you
the day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories
Your love is still our guide
And though we cannot see you
You are always at our side
Our family chain is broken
and nothing seems the same
But as God calls us one by one
the chain will link again.*

*Manuel, we will always love you and we will miss you every day.
Love, Kenny & Nora Maestas and Debbie Trujillo*



Kenny & Nora Maestas and Debbie Trujillo - November 08, 2017 at 11:37 PM

CR

Manuel loved you all and appreciated how h was part of the family. I love you all!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:09 PM

BM

“ *Our prayers are with the family at this difficult time.
God Bless!
Bill & Lora Marez*

Bill Marez - November 08, 2017 at 10:47 PM

CR

Thank you so much!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:10 PM

RB

“ *Soon and very soon we are going to meet the
King and what a joy that will be when we all
come together again!!!*



Rose Mary Campa Blakely - November 08, 2017 at 10:23 PM

CR

Yes Rose Mary! It will be a glorious day!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:11 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the
family of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero.*



November 08, 2017 at 10:05 PM

 Sharla Scovel

“ *Our prayers and thoughts are lifting you up before the*

Lord. Dennis and Sharla Scovel



Sharla Scovel - November 08, 2017 at 09:20 PM

CR

Thank you Sharla and family.

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:13 PM

CC

“ *He was a shining star always smiling and so intelligent and kind! God bless Manuel you were a Great Man! My deepest condolences Carol and children.*

Celeste Casias

celeste casias - November 08, 2017 at 06:56 PM

CR

Thank you Celeste! That was Manuel, he always had a smile and a kind word for others!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:14 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero.*




November 08, 2017 at 06:23 PM

KK

“ Kenneth and Carol Ray - Ashland, KY purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero.



Kenneth and Carol Ray - Ashland, KY - November 08, 2017 at 06:16 PM

 Amanda Espinoza

“ What an amazing man Manuel was. The epitome of a loving husband, father and grandfather. We feel blessed to know him. We are so very sorry. Felix, Amanda, Carlos and Diego Espinoza.



Amanda Espinoza - November 08, 2017 at 05:33 PM

CR

Thank you so much, Amanda and family! He was the best!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:16 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Dr. Kenneth A. Ray - November 08, 2017 at 05:22 PM

CR

Thank you for sharing this photo, Ken!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:16 PM

AS

“*In Loving Memory of Manuel David Romero.*”



*You're the wonderful brother
I've adored since I was small,
And for me, the day you left us
Was the saddest day of all.
But all the memories that we shared
From when you were a boy,
Have only filled my heart
With happiness and joy.
You grew up and proved to be
A man both fair and true,
And every day, throughout my life
I will always think of you.*

*Love,
Your Sister, Ruby*

*Manuel,
You were such an accomplished man. Fly with The Angels. Thank
you for serving our Country.*

*Love,
Adam, Ruby & Family*

Adam & Ruby Salas - November 08, 2017 at 03:45 PM

BC

*Oh, Ruby such a beautiful poem and so fitting for such a very nice
man. He leaves a very good legacy!*

Beverly Castillo - November 08, 2017 at 04:15 PM

CR

Ruby, Manuel loved you all so much! He used to say that even though we may not see you every day, the love is still there! Your poem describes the kind of man he tried to be! Thank you for everything! I love you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:21 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero.*



November 08, 2017 at 03:42 PM

TD

“ *The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero.*



The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department - November 08, 2017 at 03:02 PM

CT

“ *The time you spent on Earth must have been a golden plan by God as he laid out his hand to you and gave you the blessings and love to help so many others in need of guidance and care - your loving hands have blessed many who could never repay you for what you have done for them (us) and you will never be forgotten my friend, mentor and most of all, a person who knows how to love without conditions and lend a helping hand to whoever was willing to be taught by the master all the good things in life, work or play - you sir, are the best of the best - Carl*



CARL TOERSBIJNS - November 08, 2017 at 02:42 PM

CR

Thank you Carl! Your words mean so much to us! He always tried to be a good person and was always ready to help others. He was a good man that will be dearly missed by all who knew him!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:25 PM

AS

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Manuel David Romero.*

*Love, Adam & Ruby Salas
Otero Family & Ten Eyck Family*



Adam & Ruby Salas - November 08, 2017 at 02:19 PM

CR

Thank you all!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:43 PM

CT

“ Carl ToersBijns lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero



Carl ToersBijns - November 08, 2017 at 01:58 PM

CR

Thank you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:44 PM

CF

“ Carl ToersBijns, Veronica and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero.



Carl ToersBijns, Veronica and Family - November 08, 2017 at 01:55 PM

BJ

“ Beatrice Jojola lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero



Beatrice Jojola - November 08, 2017 at 12:13 PM

CR

Thank you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:44 PM

Mary Pearson

“ *Mary Pearson lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Mary Pearson - November 08, 2017 at 11:26 AM

CR

Thank you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:45 PM

RP

“ *Robles Rael & Anaya P.C. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero.*



Robles Rael & Anaya P.C. - November 08, 2017 at 11:01 AM



“ *Lorraine Marquez lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Lorraine Marquez - November 08, 2017 at 01:34 AM

CR

Thank you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:45 PM

MT

“ One of the kindest, good-hearted men that ever lived, he really impacted so many lives. I hope only happy memories continue to carry you through this difficult time Carol. He was a friend to all. My deepest condolences to all who loved him.

Michelle D Tafoya - November 07, 2017 at 09:39 PM

CR

Thank you Michelle! Your kind words are appreciated!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:47 PM

GM

“ Our deepest condolences Carol to you and your children and grandchildren, and to his sister Ruby and Adam. May he rest in peace and give you strength.

Gary & Estefana Montoya - November 07, 2017 at 08:51 PM

CR

Thank you Gary and Estefana! Your thoughts are appreciated!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:49 PM

 Julieann Benavidez

“ Julieann Benavidez lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero



Julieann Benavidez - November 07, 2017 at 08:49 PM

CR

Thank you Julie!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:49 PM



“ *John Calderera lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



John Calderera - November 07, 2017 at 06:54 PM

CR

Thank you John!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:50 PM



“ *Please keep my family in your prayers.*

Kassie Norwood - November 07, 2017 at 06:17 PM

CR

Our memories of our loved ones will get us through.

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:51 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero.*



November 07, 2017 at 05:49 PM

MR

“ *Marilyn And Robert lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Marilyn and Robert - November 07, 2017 at 05:47 PM

CR

Thank you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:52 PM

GR

“ *Gabriella Romero lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Gabriella Romero - November 07, 2017 at 11:53 AM

CR

Thank you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:52 PM

BC

“ *Bernadine Cordova lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Bernadine Cordova - November 06, 2017 at 10:10 PM

CR

Thank you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:53 PM

BC

“ *I want to send my condolences to Carol and your family, He was such a kind man.
I will be praying for your family. God Bless you
Bernadine Cordova*

Bernadine Cordova - November 06, 2017 at 10:09 PM

CR

Thank you Bernadine! Our thoughts and prayers are with you as well!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:54 PM

KM

“ *God bless you Manny, you have helped many and advocated for those most in need.
You and your family remain always in our thoughts and prayers.*



Ken Martinez - November 06, 2017 at 06:19 PM

CR

Thank you Ken! I hope his work will continue through others!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:55 PM

MG

“ *Mark And Amy Garcia lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Mark and Amy Garcia - November 06, 2017 at 12:04 PM

MG

We are praying for your family- I will miss his smiling face walking into the dental office! May his soul rest in peace. May our prayers comfort his family. God Bless you all!

Mark and Amy Garcia - November 06, 2017 at 12:06 PM

CR

Thank you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:56 PM

DR

“ *Our deepest sympathy. I will miss our phone chats about work and life, your smiles and laughter we shared over the past years. Heaven rejoices your presence. Good bye my good friend. Ken*



Dr. Kenneth A. Ray - November 05, 2017 at 09:32 PM

LH

Carol and Family , from the bottom of my heart I am so very very sorry for your loss. Manny was a wonderful husband father and friend. God Bless you all. Loretta Hanson

Loretta Hanson - November 06, 2017 at 09:02 PM

CR

Thank you Ken! Your group was one of a kind! I hope you can all continue what he helped to start.

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 12:58 PM

CR

Thank you Loretta! He tried to be a friend to all! We can only hope to carry on with the memories through friends!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:00 PM

MS

“ *Maxine Schmock lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Maxine Schmock - November 05, 2017 at 07:12 PM

CR

Thank you Maxine!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:01 PM

CE

“ *Charles D. Eaton lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Charles D. Eaton - November 05, 2017 at 02:38 PM

CR

Thank you Charles!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:01 PM

DJ

“ Dorothy & Johnny Johnston lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero



Dorothy & Johnny Johnston - November 05, 2017 at 09:53 AM

CR

Thank you Dorothy and Johnny!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:02 PM

LP

“ Lenore G Pena lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero



Lenore G Pena - November 05, 2017 at 01:55 AM

CR

Thank you Lenore!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:03 PM

BL

“ May God's Peace surround you in your time of sorrow. In the short time that we've known Manuel and Carol we quickly recognized how kind and loving they are to all they meet. May the memories of your loved one sustain you now and in the months and years to come. God Bless the family of Manuel D. Romero.

Sincerely,
Bill and Berlinda Lawson

Berlinda Lawson - November 04, 2017 at 10:39 PM

CR

Thank you so much Berlinda and Bill! Your kind words mean so much to us!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:04 PM

EH

“ *A good man will be missed god bless*



Eddie Hurbina - November 04, 2017 at 06:32 PM

OD

Manny may you rest in piece you will be missed

Odell - November 06, 2017 at 09:21 AM

CR

Thank you Eddie!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:05 PM

CR

Thank you Odell!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:05 PM

BC

“ *Bernie And Jean Chavez lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Bernie and Jean Chavez - November 04, 2017 at 03:40 PM

CR

Thank you Jean and Bernie!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:06 PM

BC

“ *Beverly Castillo lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Beverly Castillo - November 04, 2017 at 01:53 PM

CR

Thank you Beverly!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:07 PM

DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Dicky and Suzanne Romero - November 04, 2017 at 11:33 AM

CR

Thank you!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:07 PM

AD

“ *Many blessings prayers condolences hugs much love are coming to you and your family carol at this time and may almighty god bless your family and keep your family wrapped in the comfort of his love Aimee C. Delano*



Aimee Clarissa Delano - November 04, 2017 at 07:27 AM

BM

Our deepest condolences to the family.

Bonnie Montoya - November 07, 2017 at 07:18 PM

CR

Thank you Aimee! Your thoughts are appreciated

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:08 PM

CR

Thank you Bonnie!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:09 PM

KG

“ *Ken Garcia lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Ken Garcia - November 04, 2017 at 12:14 AM

CR

Thank you Ken!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:09 PM

DS

“ *Deborah Yvonne Steininger lit a candle in memory of Manuel "Manny" D. Romero*



Deborah Yvonne Steininger - November 03, 2017 at 10:33 PM

CR

Thank you Deborah!

Carol Romero - November 26, 2017 at 01:10 PM