



## Maria Erlinda Benavidez

August 12, 1929 - January 11, 2015

1929-2015

María Erlinda Lobato Benavídez, age 85, peacefully passed as she lived with grace, dignity and on her own terms, On January 11th, as she was being embraced by her loved ones, she went to heaven to be with our Lord Jesus Christ. Erlinda will forever hold a special place in her family's hearts. They lovingly remember and are thankful for the blessing she was in their lives. They will miss seeing her pray and visiting her cozy, little, warm home. They will miss her unconditional love, laughter and especially hugging their little Granny. However, they rejoice knowing that she is enjoying eternal life, peace and joy in our heavenly home with our Lord Jesus Christ. Again, Erlinda is dancing and laughing with Daddy and family. She was born August 12, 1929 to Felipe and María Lovato in Abo, New Mexico. Erlinda was married to George R. Benavidez on September 1, 1952 at San Lorenzo Catholic Church in Abo, New Mexico. Erlinda and George were married for 51 years and had three children Manuel, María Eloisa and Linda Lou. Erlinda was an active member of Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. Erlinda faithfully served her Catholic Church thru the Catholic Daughters of America, Blessed Sacrament Society, Legion of Mary, Divine Mercy and Sacred Heart Association. Erlinda was a content homemaker for 62 years. Waiting for Erlinda in heaven are her husband, George R. Benavídez; son, Manuel L. Benavídez; great-granddaughter, Carolina Sofía; great-grand angels; parents, Felipe Torres Lovato and Maria Benigna Padilla Lovato; brother, Jose de Jesus Lovato; sister, Quiteria Luna; brother, Baltazar Lovato; sister, María Concepcion Lovato; maternal-grandparents, Pablo Padilla y Gallegos and Quiteria Aragón y Lucero; maternal great-grandparents, Santiago and Benigna Padilla, Juan Pablo and Juanita Marilleta Lucero y Aragón; paternal grandparents, Martín and Felicita Lobato, Ventura and Mercedita Peralta Lobato. Erlinda is survived by her two devoted daughters, Linda and husband, Albert Sanchez, Mary and husband, John Anderson and beloved grandchildren, George, Solise, Isabella, Adam, Megan, Jennifer, Buddy, Steven Ray, John Moses, Breanna, Abraham, Tabitha, Chad, Ashly, Caden, Carla, Beto, Adriana, Mateo, Lucía Paloma, Stephanie, Ernest George and Rebecca. Erlinda is also survived by her sister, Bernarda Lobato García; and brothers, Pablo Lovato and wife, Mary Ann, Martin Eloy Lovato, Felipe Lovato

Jr. and wife, Vicky. Erlinda's favorite pass time was praying, listening to the radio and cooking Pinto Beans which she offered to anyone who came to visit. She enjoyed making "colchas" with old jeans, which currently adorn each of her grandchildren's beds. Erlinda often dressed in her favorite color of red and looked stunning. Erlinda was very patriotic as her favorite song in the world was our "Star Spangled Banner." Erlinda loved to dance with her husband George and both were elegantly synchronized when they danced at the old Tabet Hall. Erlinda loved summer so she could work outside but always looked forward to winter's "sopapillas and biscochitos." Even though Erlinda only went to eighth grade at Abo Elementary, where she was Valedictorian, she was self-taught and would say "Yo aprendí mas en un día de necesidad que en un año de Universidad." Thank you for your unconditional love mother. Thank you for teaching us by your example of living a confident life, with dignity, discipline, hard work, forgiveness, strength, perseverance and self-denial. Thank you for teaching us the importance of love and devotion to God and family. Our Lord was always with Erlinda and because of her deep faith in Him; He carried her through her life's trials and tribulations. Her independence and stubbornness to drive her little white car kept her family and community in prayer for her safety. Our love for her will never vanish and we have consolation knowing that we will all be together again someday in Heaven with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are all assured that her name, Maria Erlinda Lobato Benavidez is written in the book of eternal life. Erlinda was truly a blessing to her family, her comadres and all who were fortunate enough to know and love her. All services will be held at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church in Belen, New Mexico on Thursday, January 15, beginning with a public viewing at 6:30 a.m. with a Funeral Mass to follow at 7:00 a.m. Rosary will follow the Funeral Mass. Interment will take place at 10:30 a.m. at Santa Fe National Cemetery, 501 North Guadalupe Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico, where Erlinda will be buried with her husband George R. Benavidez. Family and friends are invited to fellowship and celebrate Erlinda's life at a reception following interment at 1:00 p.m., at Knights of Columbus Hall in Belen, New Mexico. Pallbearers will be her grandchildren. Sign Maria Erlinda's online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhomenm.com](http://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com) Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main Street, Belen, NM

# Cemetery Details

## Santa Fe National Cemetery

501 N. Guadalupe Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

## Previous Events

### Viewing

JAN 15. 6:30 AM (MT)

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

### Funeral Mass

JAN 15. 7:00 AM (MT)

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

### Rosary

JAN 15. 7:45 AM (MT)

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

# Tribute Wall

JL

“ Yo, Linda, was the way I always answered her "quien habla?" on the phone. I love you my sister-in-law. I will miss you and your sweet ways as I know your girls will. Tell all hello for us . God bless your family and help them through their time of sorrow. Judy

Judy Lovato - January 15, 2015 at 12:20 PM

CC

“ We will sure miss Auntie Linda and her famous chocolate chip pound cake. Our prayers and love be with you all in this time of sadness. God bless you all. Tina Lovato Chavez and family.

Christine Lovato Chavez - January 15, 2015 at 01:30 AM

PH

“ Your mother was a lovely woman whose faith was ever present in her thoughts, words and actions. You were blessed with a wonderful mother. She gave me such comfort in the words shared with me when my mother died in September. I know how much you will miss her. The memories you have of her will help you through. God Bless all of you during this time, know that she is in the presence of the Lord. Phyllis & Rick Hayes

PHayes - January 14, 2015 at 05:57 PM

DC

“ Dispatch and Friends from New Mexico Gas Co. purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Maria Erlinda Benavidez.



Dispatch and Friends from New Mexico Gas Co. - January 14, 2015 at 12:05 PM

QE

“ Quanterion Solutions Inc.; Preston, Eric, and Ellen purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Maria Erlinda Benavidez.



Quanterion Solutions Inc.; Preston, Eric, and Ellen - January 14, 2015 at 08:18 AM

LP

“ 1 file added to the album *A women of faith and she was a role model for believing in Our Lady of Guadalupe and our Lord Jesus*



Lenore G Pena - January 13, 2015 at 11:41 PM

LP

“ 1 file added to the album *A women of faith and she was a role model for believing in Our Lady of Guadalupe and our Lord Jesus*



Lenore G Pena - January 13, 2015 at 11:40 PM

BP

“ Beverly Perrault lit a candle in memory of *Maria Erlinda Benavidez*



Beverly Perrault - January 13, 2015 at 07:58 PM

BP

*Mary, Linda and family. I am so sorry to hear about your mother's passing. I have known your family since 1966 when I came as a Grand Rapids Dominican sister to Belen and was Mary's seventh grade teacher. I am so grateful that I had the honor and privilege of meeting your family and especially your mother who became a dear friend for so many years. I am grateful I was able to spend a day with her in early December. We had a great time that day and it was wonderful hearing about the family and the great love she had for each one of you. She was an inspiration to me in so many ways and filled with endless faith. May each of you rest in the comfort of knowing that she is at peace and cherish the memories of her that you will always carry in your heart.*

Beverly Perrault - January 13, 2015 at 08:13 PM

MW

“ *Mary and Family, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your beloved Mom. She was such a beautiful woman inside and out. May Our Lord's Peace and understanding be with you all. God Bless You, Frances Wells*

Mary Frances Wells - January 13, 2015 at 06:48 PM

TH

“ *The first time I met Sra. Benavidez was when her daughter, Mary, took me to the State Fair Parade. Mary said she always loved the parade and I remember how wonderful it was as a new arrival to Albuquerque. She was as excited as any kid watching the colorful and beautiful sights. God bless her and her family.*

Tina Hernandez-Zudell - January 13, 2015 at 05:58 PM

RL

“ *Ruben, Debbie & Cynthia Lovato lit a candle in memory of Maria Erlinda Benavidez*



Ruben, Debbie & Cynthia Lovato - January 13, 2015 at 12:39 PM

DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Maria Erlinda Benavidez*



Dicky and Suzanne Romero - January 13, 2015 at 09:51 AM

AW

“ *I am sorry to read about the death of your loved one. May you find comfort in your loving memories and in God's promises to soon "swallow up death forever" and "wipe away the tears from all faces" ( Isaiah 25:8) While grief at the loss of Maria Erlinda Bevavidez is great, joy at welcoming her back in the earthly resurrection will be greater.( Mark 5:42 )  
With deepest sympathy.*

Audey W - January 13, 2015 at 05:59 AM

RE

“ *oh my Precious Forever Friend!!! I love you forever my dear friend. I was so blessed to know you and to hear your beautiful stories about how you and George met. You were one of the most intelligent friend I ever had and your love for the Lord, your love for your family and your special friendship with me will always inspire me. Thank you for being my friend. I love you forever. Rhona Baca Espinoza*

Rhona Baca Espinoza - January 12, 2015 at 10:10 PM

BC

“ *Bernice Montoya Y Chavez lit a candle in memory of Maria Erlinda Benavidez*



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**Bernice Montoya y Chavez** - January 12, 2015 at 01:04 PM

SM

“ *so sorry Linda Mary and manual to hear of your mom's passing she was such a sweet lady she's with your dad now.may God bless you guys at this difficult time.*

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**Stella Vallejos Molina** - January 12, 2015 at 11:43 AM

SM

“ *Stella Vallejos Molina lit a candle in memory of Maria Erlinda Benavidez*



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**Stella Vallejos Molina** - January 12, 2015 at 11:40 AM