



Mary B. Sanchez

February 7, 1930 - February 20, 2020

1930-2020

Mary B. Sanchez, cherished wife, mother, aunt, teacher and friend, was welcomed into Heaven on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the age of 90. She was born in Veguita, New Mexico to Evaristo and Luisa (Vallez) Baca on February 7, 1930. Mary was the last surviving member of her immediate family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Felix, and son, Shawn Sanchez; her siblings, Boleslo Baca, Cristobal (Tita) Baca, Domingo (Carmen) Baca, Berardo (Ramona) Baca, Amalia Baca and Anuncia Chavez. Mary is survived by her adoring children, Charles Sanchez, Mark Sanchez (Keith Manes), Renee Baca (Robert), Valerie Otero (Marty), Michelle Riney (Keith) and her devoted niece, Lilly Baca. She was loved by her grandchildren, Christy Sanchez (Adrian), Justine Driskell (Daniel), Enrique Baca, Leah Baca, Isaiah Otero, Zachary Otero, Paige Riney, Kristen Riney, and her great grandchildren Aiden Muller, Jamie Driskell, Aida Driskell and Grace Otero. Mary also leaves behind many nieces and nephews whom she always encouraged and Felix's siblings Mary (Harold) Hutchings, Annie (Pressie) Garcia, Lorraine (Michael) Shiplet and Daniel (Lydia) Sanchez. Mary was a tenacious woman. She did not let her humble beginnings on a small farm in Veguita deter her from her goals and dreams. On the contrary, she made use of the hard work and problem solving skills she learned on that small farm to guide her ambitions. Once she set her mind on a goal or task,

she worked diligently to achieve it. Mary graduated from New Mexico State University (NMSU) with a degree in Elementary Education and the University of New Mexico with a degree in Educational Administration. She taught school in Socorro County, southern New Mexico and for the Belen Consolidated Schools. Mary became an elementary school principal after seven years of teaching. In 1977, she was appointed the Superintendent of the Belen Consolidated Schools; one of the first Hispanic female Superintendents in the nation. She also served 4 years as superintendent of the Reserve Schools. Mary was a founding partner of Effective Leadership Services, a consulting firm that supported and prepared women throughout the country in becoming school superintendents. In 1978, Mary was awarded the NMSU Distinguished Alumna for the College of Education, a tribute she was very proud of. In 1985, she was appointed regent of NMSU. Both she and her husband, Felix, were so honored to serve the university they loved so much. They both were staunch Aggie fans. Mary was one of the organizing members of the Bank of Belen, what is now known as United Business Bank. She worked very hard in establishing the bank charter and encouraged others to invest in this thriving institution. Mary served on many state and national organizations on behalf of her community and her profession however; her family was her greatest love. She loved her children and grandchildren unconditionally. Her children knew they were loved. Mary was generous, witty and forgiving. She had the ability to create curiosity in everyday tasks like gardening or cleaning. Mary never made her children do anything; rather she made it look exciting or interesting so that they wanted to join in on the fun (work). She encouraged her children to do and be their best without judgment or criticism. Her children will miss her immensely as well as her many friends, relatives and those who considered Mary their role model.

Pallbearers will be Christy Sanchez, Isaiah Otero, Enrique Baca, Leah Baca, Paul R. Baca and Phillip Baca. A Public Viewing will be held on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., followed by a Rosary to be recited at 7:00 p.m. at Romero Funeral Home Chapel. A Final Visitation will take place on

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass celebrating her life at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens. The Sanchez family would like thank our cousin, Lilly Baca, for being a faithful companion and caregiver to our mother Mary and brother Shawn. We also extend our heartfelt thank you to Mary's Hospice providers; Carolyn, Beth, Monique and Sally and a sincere thank you to Romero Funeral Home and Our Lady of Belen Church for their kindness and compassion during our time of need. Please sign Mary's online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB **24.** 6:00 PM (MT)

Romero Funeral Home Chapel
609 N. Main St.
Belen, NM 87002
(505) 864-8501
romerofuneralhome@comcast.net
<https://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com>

Rosary

FEB **24.** 7:00 PM (MT)

Romero Funeral Home Chapel
609 N. Main St.
Belen, NM 87002
(505) 864-8501
romerofuneralhome@comcast.net
<https://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com>

Final Visitation

FEB **25.** 9:00 AM (MT)

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

Interment

FEB **25**. 11:00 AM (MT)

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

Funeral Mass

FEB **25**. 10:00 PM (MT)

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

Tribute Wall

RB

“ Michelle...i am so sorry to hear about your Mom's death. I didn't know she had died until a month later. I would have attended her funeral.
Your Mom always treated me well.
Thinking of you, Valerie, and Rene.
I didn't really know your brothers.

Racy Bowersox - May 04, 2020 at 10:56 PM

RS

“ Our condolences to Charlies, Chuck and all the Sanchez family. Barbara and Raymond Sinkew



Raymond Sinkew - April 06, 2020 at 11:32 PM

AR

“ My condolences to Maria's family. Our OUTSTANDING role model has now become an Angel watching over us! Many blessings from Reserve Alumni!

Andrés R.J. Rael - March 06, 2020 at 10:21 PM

PT

Oh me general. Where do I start. You touched my heart the first day I met you at Reserve schools. We became instant friends. So many trips to Honda and strolling in to town at 5 am. You were an inspiration to many. You will be missed. My condolences to all the family. Yes Heaven gained an angle.

Patsy Tafoya - April 02, 2020 at 11:18 AM

LR

“ *As Superintendent of the Reserve Schools, Mrs. Sanchez was a great role model for myself as well as for other female Hispanic educators. Rest in peace Mrs. Sanchez. My deepest condolences to her family.*
Linda J. Romero/Reserve, NM



Linda J. Romero - March 05, 2020 at 10:05 PM

PR

“ *Phillip Romero lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Phillip Romero - March 02, 2020 at 05:41 PM

BR

“ *Barbara Romero lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Barbara Romero - February 27, 2020 at 12:56 PM

JY

“ *Jane Yarbrough lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Jane Yarbrough - February 27, 2020 at 12:43 PM

JH

“ Jeff And Becky Hunter lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez



Jeff and Becky Hunter - February 25, 2020 at 11:14 AM

JH

Such a wonderful lady who was an inspiration to so many.

Jeff and Becky Hunter - February 25, 2020 at 11:15 AM

RE

An amazing lady!! I shared many a cup of coffee with this beautiful friend. She was such an inspiration to me. I send my love to each of the children and Lily. You are all very special to me.

Rhona Baca Espinoza - February 27, 2020 at 12:13 PM

JT

“ John And Donnita Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez



John and Donnita Thompson - February 25, 2020 at 10:20 AM

AT

“ Aubrey & Celeste Tucker lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez



Aubrey & Celeste Tucker - February 25, 2020 at 09:35 AM

NB

“ *C. I will always remember and miss Mary with her beautiful smile, Having shared our time on the Bank of Belen board of directors was fun and we became good friends. My prayers are with you and your family and I'm sorry that I will not be able to be at the services tomorrow.*

nick blea - February 25, 2020 at 03:10 AM

RO

“ *Robert & Maxine Olguin lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Robert & Maxine Olguin - February 25, 2020 at 12:02 AM


Bernardine
Baca
Spiers

“ *Valerie and Family,
Your mother was a role model for so many of us in public education. Mary leaves a lovely legacy in her family and service to education. Siempre,
Bernardine and family
Eternal rest, grant unto Mary O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.
May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.*



Bernardine Baca Spiers - February 24, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“ *Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.*



February 24, 2020 at 04:01 PM



“ *Monique Trujillo lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Monique Trujillo - February 24, 2020 at 03:52 PM



“ *Lea County BOCC, Manager & Employees purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.*



Lea County BOCC, Manager & Employees - February 24, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ *Diana Phillips Ulibarri lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Diana Phillips Ulibarri - February 24, 2020 at 01:55 PM

BS

“ *Billie Alice SanchezTorres lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Billie Alice SanchezTorres - February 24, 2020 at 12:06 PM

BS

My thoughts and prayers are with you Renee, Valerie and entire family! Your mother was a treasure to all who were lucky enough to know her!

Billie Alice SanchezTorres - February 24, 2020 at 12:09 PM

KJ

“ *Karen J. purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.*



Karen J. - February 24, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ *Lavender & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.*



February 24, 2020 at 10:51 AM

MP

“ *The Sanchez Family, so sorry to hear of the passing of your Mom. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Love Marty and Marlene and Family*



Marlene Pino - February 24, 2020 at 10:49 AM

LJ

“ *One of the better teachers I ever had and she was super nice to me!*
🙏

Linda Jaramillo - February 24, 2020 at 10:49 AM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.*



February 24, 2020 at 10:48 AM

AC

“ *Annette E. Chavez lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Annette E. Chavez - February 24, 2020 at 08:08 AM

BT

“ *I will miss my neighbor even though she hasn't been out in some time. She always had a smile and hello.*

Beverly Turley - February 23, 2020 at 11:10 PM

AB

“ *My Auntie Mary will always have a special place in our heart. My daddy was very proud of her of all the accomplishments she made. The family of Cristobal and Tita Baca.*

Alice Baca - February 23, 2020 at 10:50 PM



“ *Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.*



February 23, 2020 at 09:38 PM

CL

“ *May Mrs. Sanchez rest in Christ's Peace. She shared her talents through hard work and many benefitted. Time to rest. My condolences to her family, friends, and all her dearest ones.*



Crissie Leyba - February 23, 2020 at 07:15 PM

JC

“ *Jean And Bernie Chavez sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Jean and Bernie Chavez - February 23, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White* was purchased for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.



February 23, 2020 at 06:37 PM



“ *Jennie Mascarena lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Jennie Mascarena - February 23, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ *It's been an honor to know Mary and the wonderful family she has. My thoughts and prayers are with you all*

Carolyn Jaramillo - February 23, 2020 at 06:02 PM



“ *Crossing Over Lid Decoration* was purchased for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.



February 23, 2020 at 04:36 PM

RA

“ Rita C Aragon lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez



Rita C Aragon - February 23, 2020 at 03:55 PM



“ Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.



February 23, 2020 at 03:27 PM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.



February 23, 2020 at 01:45 PM



“ Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.



February 23, 2020 at 01:09 PM

AS

“ Lilly, Chuck, Renee, and all the Sanchez family, I am so sorry for the loss of your beautiful Mary. Thoughts and prayers to all of you. May her soul, through the mercy of God Rest In Peace 🙏



Adela Sanchez - February 23, 2020 at 10:18 AM

WD

“ Chuck, my sincere condolences on the passing of your mother. I remember her very well. She was a wonderful, smart, funny lady who always had time to stop and talk to me. I'm sure she will be missed.

Wendy (formerly Tabet) Dunford

Wendy (formerly Tabet) Dunford - February 23, 2020 at 08:08 AM



“ My condolences Lily, and to Mrs. Sanchez family. May she rest peacefully. Anna



Anna Zamora Torres - February 23, 2020 at 06:58 AM

ET

“ Eloy & Deborah Tafoya lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez



Eloy & Deborah Tafoya - February 23, 2020 at 05:25 AM

SS

“ *What a wonderful friendship we had for 80 years with never an argument between us! Thank you for the many memories we shared, for your love, for your generosity and your unconditional support. You are a shining example of what true friendship really is. I love you Mare... And will miss you tremendously! until we meet again...*

*Your amiga,
Shirley Fry Scarafiotti*

Shirley Scarafiotti - February 22, 2020 at 09:14 PM

DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*



Dicky and Suzanne Romero - February 22, 2020 at 06:13 PM

LM

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Mary B. Sanchez*

Lupita & Lorraine Montaña



Lorraine Montaña - February 22, 2020 at 04:47 PM



“ *Pink Mixed Fireside Basket was purchased for the family of Mary B. Sanchez.* ”



February 22, 2020 at 02:01 PM