



Melinda "Mo" Cruz

November 18, 1973 - August 13, 2016

1973-2016

Melinda "Mo" Cruz, age 42, a 22 year resident of Los Chavez, NM, passed away on Saturday, August 13, 2016. She was a member of Calvary Chapel Rio Grande. Melinda was a valued and beloved family member of the Trinity Food Services and Valencia County Jail for many years. She was a warrior at life. Melinda was a true believer in Christ. Her faith and belief in the Lord helped her battle and defeat colon cancer, facing every hardship with a big beautiful smile and a heart of gold. She was the backbone of her family, Melinda loved her husband and her children dearly. She always looked for the good in everyone. Melinda's involvement with her children's academics and sporting events was her number one priority. Her most recent joy was the birth of her first grandson, Ryan. Throughout Melinda's life she experienced many joys that fulfilled her. She is preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Pete and Fedelina Chavez; her paternal grandparents, Eloy and Emilia Rael; and other special family members. Melinda is survived by her loving husband of 26 years, Billy Cruz; her sons, Cody and Billy Jr. Cruz; her daughter, Brooke Cruz; grandson, Ryan Cruz; her parents, Sally and Victor Tafoya; her brother, Chris and wife, Yvonne Olguin Rael, and their children, Joshua, Jessica, and Alyssa Rael; her sister, Carol and husband, Michael Montiel, and their children, Michael Jr., Joseph, and Michele Montiel; her sister-in-law who was like a sister, Terri Cruz, and her daughter, Kristin Cruz Vigil; father-in-law, Bill Cruz who was like a dad to Melinda; special mother-in-law, Deanie Cruz;

her friend who was like her brother, Robert Dealy; and father, Victor Rael. She is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. All services will be held at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, on Thursday, August 18, 2016. A Viewing will begin at 8:30 a.m., with a Rosary to be recited at 9:30 a.m., and a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens. Pallbearers are Joseph Montiel, Joshua Rael, Jordan Flores, Robert Dealy, Ray Flores, and Michael Silva. Please sign Melinda's online tribute at 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

AUG 18. 8:30 AM (MT)

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

Rosary

AUG 18. 9:30 AM (MT)

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

Funeral Mass

AUG 18. 10:00 AM (MT)

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

Tribute Wall

JR

“ You were an Awesome Lady, Your Smile was like no other, You would Light up to get Little Brooke off the bus. Billy and Brooke I am so sorry to hear of your loss. You and your Family are in my thoughts and prayer's.



Julie Ramirez - August 24, 2016 at 09:43 PM



“ Melinda I just want to thank you for being there for me and talking to me when I needed someone. You will always be n my heart and thoughts. REST IN PEACE BEAUTIFUL GIRL You will always be loved 💖🙏



Gabriela Gurule - August 19, 2016 at 02:58 AM

AB

“ Our condolences to the family. We knew Melinda since she was a little girl. She always had a deep faith in God and know that she is in His loving presence.



Anthony and Ermelinda Baca

Anthony and Ermelinda Baca - August 18, 2016 at 04:55 PM

LH

“ *Lila Hernandez lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Lila Hernandez - August 18, 2016 at 01:38 PM

YF

“ *Yvonne Farina lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



yvonne farina - August 18, 2016 at 12:02 PM

KK

“ *Kevin And Denise Kurtz lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Kevin and Denise kurtz - August 18, 2016 at 08:38 AM

JP

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*

Jessica Aragon Photography - August 18, 2016 at 03:00 AM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jessica Aragon Photography - August 18, 2016 at 02:56 AM

Manda Janelle

“ Manda Janelle lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Manda Janelle - August 18, 2016 at 12:09 AM

LG

“ RIP you an my kids went to bible study together an it breaks my heart that you are gone from this earth but we will all meat up again in the lords hands fly with the angels bless all your family at this time of need expecially your husband an babies God Bless you all



Liz Carrillo Gonzalez - August 17, 2016 at 11:49 PM

ES

“ Ernestine Silva lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Ernestine Silva - August 17, 2016 at 10:19 PM

EO

“ Sorry to hear of your passing ...
Our deepest condolences to the family ...
Billy Ester Ashley Jez



Ester Ortega - August 17, 2016 at 08:22 PM

TJ

“ Tanya Jaramillo lit a candle in memory of
Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Tanya Jaramillo - August 17, 2016 at 07:55 PM

SC

“ Shannon Callahan lit a candle in memory of
Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Shannon Callahan - August 17, 2016 at 04:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Melinda "Mo" Cruz.



August 17, 2016 at 03:46 PM

AR

“ So sorry to hear of your passing. My deepest condolences to your family. May you fly high with angels.
Arlene Madrid



arlene - August 17, 2016 at 02:07 PM

GW

“ *Geraldine Williams lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*




Geraldine Williams - August 17, 2016 at 12:45 PM

BC

“ *Bernadette Chavira lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Bernadette Chavira - August 17, 2016 at 12:44 PM


Amanda
Espinoza

“ *Amanda Espinoza lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Amanda Espinoza - August 17, 2016 at 12:01 PM

DT

“ *Donna Trujillo lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Donna Trujillo - August 17, 2016 at 10:31 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Melinda "Mo" Cruz.*



August 17, 2016 at 10:15 AM



Amanda
Espinoza

“ *Mo! I just can't believe that you are gone. You were always so encouraging to me when my dad had cancer and after he died and when my mom had cancer; even when you were battling cancer yourself. You were always so positive and made me feel better on my worst days. I have known you all of my life and I will cherish so many memories of us growing up and Uncle Pinky and Auntie Laura's house. You are family and I will keep you in in my heart forever. Love...Weezie.*

Amanda Espinoza - August 17, 2016 at 09:53 AM

DT

“ *Sally and family, we are so sorry for your loss. May God give you strength as you continue your journey through life without your daughter, wife, momma, grandma, sister, niece, auntie, cousin and friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. The Thompsons - John, Donnita, Allen, (Kathryn & Dominic), Travis Eli, and Dylan (Amanda & Natalie Rose)*

Donnita Thompson - August 17, 2016 at 09:30 AM

RM

“ *Melinda was a loved member of the Dennis Chavez Elementary family. She will be greatly missed.*



Rita Martinez - August 17, 2016 at 08:57 AM

MS

“ *My deepest condolences to Melinda's entire family and her many friends. She was and will continue to be an inspiration to so many with her courageous spirit and positive attitude, always with that beautiful smile on her face. Please know that you are all in my thoughts, and I wish you peace and comfort during this incredibly difficult time.*

Michelle

Michelle (Esquibel) Sanchez - August 17, 2016 at 08:29 AM

EM

“ Edwina Moya-Peña lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Edwina Moya-Peña - August 17, 2016 at 08:28 AM

BE

“ Mo... You silly Billy! Always a crack up, never fails....
I'll never forget how I looked up to you, and how awesome of mother you were. When we all got together at family functions, you were always so **ENERGETIC!**
I looked up to you because of your beautiful mind and spirit! But at the same time never made me, or anyone feel less of a person! You never judged! Also, I just want to thank you for Being everything to my niece, Dee. I Know how tight you both were, and I just wanna comfort you, by knowing we are a big family, who will be here for Billy SR, Billy JR., Cody, and Brooky Boo!
All of us will be here
we'll never forget you ever
Love,
Bev, Skyy, Lilly,
and Aunty Mary Lou

Beverly - August 17, 2016 at 03:21 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Melinda "Mo" Cruz.



August 17, 2016 at 12:57 AM

MT

“ *Melanie Tharnish lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Melanie Tharnish - August 17, 2016 at 12:42 AM

MT

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*

Melanie Tharnish - August 17, 2016 at 12:40 AM

MT

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*

Melanie Tharnish - August 17, 2016 at 12:38 AM

MT

“ Mo 🙏❤️🙏🌿💋💋

I don't know how to Unbreak my heart... 😞😞😞 I don't understand, even as a Minister for over 25 years.... I don't understand, why you charted to go home, sooo early in life...

I'm gunna miss our talks... I always made time for you, no matter, if it was our 2 am phone conversations....

I'm gunna miss you saying, "Eeeejolllee, thank you myMel!!!" I'm gunna miss your hazel, bright brown eyes, laughing... And, telling me... Eeeeeee... How did you know that? And me laughing.... And pointing to Heaven.... And, the messages of your Nana Chavez shaking that Pointed finger at me.... Talking about her Famous Rice, and Carnitas with beef jerky....

I'm sooo mad, we didn't get to have our lunch, last week.... I still have the info for your Mijos books for college.... Dang it mo.... We were supposed to do those family photos... 😞😞😞😞 I'm soooo pissed... I don't know how to make this right????? 😞😞😞💧💧💧

I'm just sooo heartbroken.... My family and I have known you, all our lives.... Best job I had was working with your precious M💕 My Sally, at Musica- for Adelante. Lover your mommy sooo much💕 Lover your Family Dearly... 🙏🌿🙏🌿🙏🌿🙏🌿💋💋

I'm hoping you'll visit me in my dreams, and give me a message....

*Once you're all settled in Heaven... I will keep my promises, your secrets, and I promise to watch over your babies... 💙💙💕🌿💋💋
💋🙏💋💋*

I loverrrrr you my M💕

I'll see you soon..... 💕💧💕💧💕💧🙏🙏🙏

Your, Mel...

Love- Terry Mel and our precious boyzzzz💙💙💋💙💙

Melanie Tharnish - August 17, 2016 at 12:29 AM

LI

“ Our deepest condolences to the family.. Our prayers are with you. Melinda will TRULY be Missed for she was a Beautiful soul. 😞

Linda - August 17, 2016 at 12:05 AM

LF

“ Linda And Julian Apodaca & Family lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Linda and Julian Apodaca & Family - August 16, 2016 at 11:42 PM

RE

“ Renee lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Renee - August 16, 2016 at 11:38 PM



“ I didnt know Melinda personally but I do know her cousins and family very well we all grew up on the same block! I just wanted all of you to know your all in my heart and prayers! God Bless you all.....

Sofia Baca - August 16, 2016 at 10:43 PM

YV

“ Prayers to the family and friends. Melinda was a beautiful person inside and out. Her smile and laugh were contagious. She never had anything mean to say, but always words of encouragement. You will truly be missed by so many. Love you my dear friend. R.I.P. you are now an angel in heaven.

Yvonne Mora Vallejos - August 16, 2016 at 10:28 PM

CE

“ Melinda and I worked at the Namaste RTC and had so many fun nights cooking for the kids and laughing so hard!! I will miss her so!

connie elsberry - August 16, 2016 at 10:24 PM

JT

“ My deepest condolences to the family... May God give you all the strength to get through this most difficult time. Melinda touched so many hearts and will be missed dearly. May she rest in peace... 🙏



jessica trujillo - August 16, 2016 at 10:18 PM



“ Victoria Lucero Mestas lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Victoria Lucero Mestas - August 16, 2016 at 10:02 PM

MM

“ My beautiful beautiful Auntie Angel in heaven... I'll always be grateful for everything bit of love you gave me, everything you taught me...it doesn't matter how hard the battle in front of you is, you just gotta get up and take it on in full force with a smile and a positive outlook. Your so strong, your so wonderful....I'm your Hita always. I'll forever miss you, and i will always have you in my heart... I love you auntie with all my heart!

Michele Montiel - August 16, 2016 at 09:34 PM

RE

“ Beautiful Melinda, we are going to miss your big pretty smile! Miss your heartwarming hugs. Miss your infection laugh. Miss your good cooking made with love. I don't know why this is your time to go but I know you are an angel. You are truly one of the best persons. It's true the good die young. I will do my best to encourage Billy, Cody, Billy III and Brooke. We are depending on God for strength and love!

Renee - August 16, 2016 at 09:28 PM



“ Love you my Mo Bundy!!! RIP sister!!👩👧

Carol Montiel - August 16, 2016 at 09:21 PM

GF

“ Gaylene Freeman lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Gaylene Freeman - August 16, 2016 at 09:18 PM

LQ

“ *Lisa Quintana lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Lisa Quintana - August 16, 2016 at 09:01 PM

LQ

May your sister rest in peace with the angels carol wish I could be there to support you love you friends forever

Lisa Quintana - August 16, 2016 at 09:06 PM

GA

“ *My condolences go out to the entire family. I knew Melinda best from Dennis Chavez where Billy went to school with my son. Melinda always had a smile on her face. She will be missed by many. May you rest in peace, Melinda. God Bless the family.*

Gaylene - August 16, 2016 at 08:59 PM

BV

“ *Melinda! You will be missed. I am so sorry for your families loss but you are in paradise! I will miss our chats! It was a pleasure to know you for the short time I did.*
Becky

Becky Vega - August 16, 2016 at 08:38 PM

AS

“ To many memories just think of one. I still can't believe it. I know in my heart that will always be looking down at your family and friends. We will always love and miss you. I will continue to cherish our friendship.



Amanda Sanchez - August 16, 2016 at 08:37 PM

MC

“ Melinda you were loved by so many and will be dearly missed your beautiful smile was a welcome when you visited DENNIS CHAVEZ ELEMENTAR with your Hita. Give my love "Peanuts" a hug, he is most likely causing trouble. Love you ,lovely Melinda Cruz.



Mary Chavez - August 16, 2016 at 08:27 PM

AD

“ Here's to Merlinda I never met u . I just knew u through fb. You were a God fearing women. You will for ever be missed may u rest in peace



Anthonygeorge drane - August 16, 2016 at 08:10 PM

AD

“ Here's to Merlinda I never met u . But on fb u were always a God fearing women. May u RIP.....and I know u will forever be missed.



Anthonygeorge drane - August 16, 2016 at 08:06 PM

MV

“ I will never forget your smile, your kind words and all your postings on Facebook. I will miss you so much. You made me smile when I read your postings, so possative always. You will be missed. Always in my heart.

Marie varela - August 16, 2016 at 07:41 PM

KC

“ Karen Chavez lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Karen Chavez - August 16, 2016 at 07:40 PM



“ Kevin Ulibarri lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz

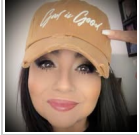


Kevin Ulibarri - August 16, 2016 at 07:36 PM

YA

“ Mo.... my heart is completely torn.... not just myself but I know Dee's heart is too. You were her confidant... You were like a mother and a best friend to her.... Words alone cannot say how much i appreciate you... You were am angel on earth and are now am angel in heaven.... I love you cousin.... Thank you again for all that you were to so many people.... You will be missed. I know we will meet up again so until that time your memory will be kept alive...

Yvonne Aragon - August 16, 2016 at 07:24 PM



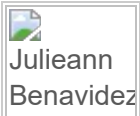
“ Love you my beautiful Angel may you RIP!!! This is not goodbye sis you will forever be in my heart 💖 Love u my MO Bundy 👧👧

Carol Montiel - August 16, 2016 at 07:23 PM



“ Melinda, you are a dear friend that will forever be missed! Saddens me that you're gone but comforts me to know your walking at peace with God. My sincerest condolences to Melinda's family and friends. May her memory forever bring a smile to your soul. God Bless.

Troy Andrews - August 16, 2016 at 07:19 PM



“ Julieann Benavidez lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Julieann Benavidez - August 16, 2016 at 07:18 PM



“ Karen Chavez lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Karen Chavez - August 16, 2016 at 07:18 PM

JH

“Everybody loved Mo. She will be greatly missed and forever remembered lovingly. My prayers go out to all the family. May God bless you all. John Harris

John Harris - August 16, 2016 at 07:13 PM

Bill
Hawley

“My dear beautiful cousin. You were such an inspiration to so many. Such a wonderful mother and wife. Always putting the needs of others before your own. You were always soft spoken and positive in everything you did. Such a beautiful smile to match your amazing soul. We will miss you dearly and I will always hold a special place in my heart for you and your family. I'm happy knowing that you are now in the presence of our father in heaven and other loved ones who have passed on before you. It is you who are truly blessed cuz and we all could only hope to know such peace one day. I will see you one of these days when my father calls me home also. Until then keep all the angels smiling with that beautiful smile and soul of yours. Love you always <3

Bill Hawley - August 16, 2016 at 07:08 PM

BM

“My deepest sympathy. God Bless her family. She became your guardian angel.



berna moya - August 16, 2016 at 07:03 PM

CS

“ Chris And DeAnna Silva lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Chris and DeAnna Silva - August 16, 2016 at 07:01 PM

MI

“ My Deepest Sympathy! My Prayers Are With Her Family!



Michele - August 16, 2016 at 06:26 PM

VE

“ Vera lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



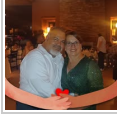
Vera - August 16, 2016 at 06:21 PM

JS

“ Jackie Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Jackie Sanchez - August 16, 2016 at 06:20 PM



Billy, Kids, Carol and Family members, I send my deepest condolences to you all. Melinda was a beautiful person inside and out. There are no words....I am so sorry for your loss.

Jackie Sanchez - August 16, 2016 at 06:22 PM

DP

“ *Darlene Peña lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Darlene Peña - August 16, 2016 at 06:05 PM

BB

“ *I've know Melinda since she was a little girl. She was best friends with my sister. They were in youth group together. Melinda loved the Lord since she was little. Melinda was a very kind person and I loved her dearly.. I'm going to miss you my little sister. I love you melinda, I hope your dancing.*

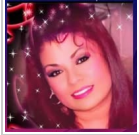
Bernadette Baca - August 16, 2016 at 06:05 PM

YP

“ *Yvette Padilla lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Yvette Padilla - August 16, 2016 at 06:04 PM



“ *Melinda was a very caring person, and she touched everyone's heart, she beautiful face, and smile was always like a breath of fresh air, she comforted everyone who needed help, she was a very special person to all who knew her. Love you Melinda always* 💕💕



Rebecca Chavez - August 16, 2016 at 05:54 PM

EP

“ *Eugenia Pena lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Eugenia Pena - August 16, 2016 at 05:54 PM

DO

“ *Dominic lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Dominic - August 16, 2016 at 05:52 PM

DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Dicky and Suzanne Romero - August 16, 2016 at 05:50 PM



“ *Hope Romo lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



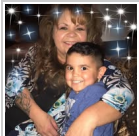
Hope Romo - August 16, 2016 at 05:50 PM

JS

“ *Joy Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz*



Joy Sanchez - August 16, 2016 at 05:44 PM



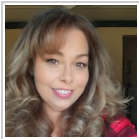
“ *Melinda you will TRULY be missed; you were a beautiful Angel in every which way!!! May you be in Glory with OUR DEAR LORD & FOREVER UN OUR HEARTS!!! GOD BLESS your FAMILY!!*

Hope Romo - August 16, 2016 at 05:44 PM

VM

“ Words can't explain the sadness i feel. Melinda was not just a cousin, she was more like a sister. She was so, so funny and at the same time so inspirational to all of us. Melinda, you are and will always be a true warrior in my eyes. We will miss you and will vow to help your family with anything they will need in the days and years to come. The Lord called you up, but we know that this earth is temporary and we will one day be hugging and laughing again. "Fly, fly, so high above the sky, so high I almost touch the sky. Thank you, thank you, thank all of you the wind beneath my wings." Love you Mo!

Veronica Martinez - August 16, 2016 at 05:44 PM



“ Your beautiful smile, courage and strength was intoxicating to anyone who met you. I think it was us who were blessed to know you. God bless your precious family and I pray they have peace knowing you are now watching out for them from up above. Fly with the Angel's my sweet friend.



Barb Crawley - August 16, 2016 at 05:38 PM

MD

“ Misty Dawn Duran lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Misty Dawn Duran - August 16, 2016 at 05:12 PM

KG

“ Rest in peace my friend I will truly miss you and that beautiful smile. Billy, Cody, Billy Jr. and Brooke you are in my prayers. Know that she is up above watching over each of you.

Kathy Griego

Kathy Griego - August 16, 2016 at 05:09 PM

Misty Dawn Duran

“ Misty Dawn Duran lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



Misty Dawn Duran - August 16, 2016 at 05:07 PM

AA

“ Ada Aragon lit a candle in memory of Melinda "Mo" Cruz



ada aragon - August 16, 2016 at 04:57 PM

AA

Rest In Peace My Beautiful Friend, I will miss you.

ada aragon - August 16, 2016 at 05:02 PM

 Maxine Carrillo-Smith

“ *Such a beautiful smile. The 1st thing that comes to mind when I hear your name. RIP beautiful. Haven't seen you in years but talked online and always enjoyed everything you posted. Blessings to your family. You will surely be missed*❤

Maxine Carrillo-Smith - August 16, 2016 at 04:08 PM

 Maxine Carrillo-Smith

“ *Such a beautiful smile. The 1st thing that comes to mind when I hear your name. RIP beautiful. Haven't seen you in years but talked online and always enjoyed everything you posted. Blessings to your family. You will surely be missed*❤

Maxine Carrillo-Smith - August 16, 2016 at 04:08 PM