



## Melvin Arnoldo Cordova

August 28, 1926 - April 6, 2020

1926-2020

Melvin Arnoldo Cordova was surrounded by loved ones when he departed from this world and entered the Kingdom of Heaven on April 6, 2020, at the age of 93. He was born to Hipolito and Cipriana Cordova in the small village of La Joya, NM, where he grew up with his older brother Rudy, his sister Lovelia and his younger brother Vincent.

During World War II, Melvin served as a medic in the Navy. After the war ended, he was honorably discharged from the service and attended the University of New Mexico (UNM) where he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Spanish with a minor in Education. Shortly after graduation from UNM, Melvin married Consuelo Mirabal, who was his devoted partner in love and life for over 69 years. They moved to Pecos, NM, where he started his career in education as a Spanish teacher and athletic coach.

Melvin attended Highland University where he received his Master's in Business Administration. Upon completion of his degree, he moved his family to El Rito, NM, for his first school administration position as a high school principal. His career in education would span forty years and include serving in Cuba, NM, first as high school principal, then as the Superintendent of the Cuba Independent School District. He was subsequently Executive Director of State School Boards in Santa Fe, NM, and then Superintendent of the Zuni School District.

Melvin is survived by his wife, Consuelo, and his children: Annette Cordova (Randy Koontz) of Tempe, AZ; Joan Cordova of Beaumont, CA; Kathleen Cordova (Nathan Dickerson) of Las Cruces, NM; Paul (Billie) Cordova of Robstown, TX; Christelle (Todd) Prucha of Hideaway, TX; Judy Cordova (Ron Gronewald) of Riverside, CA; Susan (Robert) Vigil of Claremont, CA; Arnold (Veronica) Cordova of Albuquerque, NM; Linda Cordova of Mililani, HI; Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren are: Christopher & Elaine Koontz & Children, Liam & Audrey; Jon, Erich & Katy Koontz; Jolene Cordova & Children, Jacob & Jared Harris; Alexandra, Victor, Kathryn Dickerson; Jeff & Jason Gammel; Derek & Erin Prucha; Mandy & William Dumpfrof & Lauren; Bobby Lou Moll & Kevin Harrison; Patricia & David Bishop & Brayden, Alyssa, Gabriel; Matthew Vigil, Anthony & Sophia Vigil & Dylan; Jessica Vigil & Ava Vigil-Phelps; Brianna Vigil; Stephen & Nicolas Cordova; Alycia & Zachary Bailey, Ryan & Amanda Camody; Amber Camody.

Private Burial will take place in Santa Fe at the National Cemetery on Monday. A celebration of life will be held later when restrictions due to the coronavirus are ended.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Melvin and Consuelo Cordova Future Teacher Scholarship, UNM Foundation, Two Woodward Ctr, 700 Lomas NE, STE 108, Albuquerque, NM 87102. (Checks payable to the UNM Foundation)

<https://www.unmfund.org/fund/consuelo-and-melvin-cordova-future-teacher-scholarship/>

Please sign Melvin's online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhomenm.com](http://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com)  
Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM

# Tribute Wall

RD

“ Like my sister, Linda DeClark, I too, remember those trips to Cuba, New Mexico, to visit our cousins and Uncle Melvin and Aunt Consie. I cherish those memories also when my Aunt Consie and Uncle Melvin stopped in Tulsa to visit her Sister, my Mother, and I happened to be there on vacation. I had other opportunities while living here in Albuquerque to visit with them in Los Lunas and on special occasions such as when they celebrated their 50th Renewal of Wedding Vows in 2000 and during the Mirabal Family Reunion in Las Vegas in 2004 celebrating the lives and families of my Grandfather, Remijio Mirabal. These were certainly celebrations of life and also a chance to see relatives I hadn't seen in a long time or had never seen before. Many of these people were of of my Aunt and Uncle's generation and also my Mother's as Consuelo is my Mother's next older sister. Many of these people have since passed on. His distinctive voice is forever ingrained in my brain. I will always remember his warm and sincere embrace of me whenever we met. As long as he lives in me, his essence and his qualities, he will forever influence me and guide me in the since I know how a good man is supposed to be, especially in relationship to others.

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Richard DeClark - April 21, 2020 at 10:45 PM

RD

“ Richard DeClark lit a candle in memory of Melvin Arnoldo Cordova



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Richard DeClark - April 21, 2020 at 10:16 PM

LD

“ I have many good memories of Uncle Melvin.  
I treasure the vacations my family took to  
New Mexico to visit his family.  
Linda DeClark



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**Linda DeClark** - April 21, 2020 at 12:13 AM

FM

“ My deepest condolences to the family of Melvin Cordova. I  
remember Melvin and his family as a little girl growing up in Abeytas  
and going to the La Joya schools. His dedication to education was  
very evident in his life and the impact it made on his own family and  
others was more than what he knew. I can still see him smiling and  
enjoying his last days with his beloved Consuelo! Frances Abeyta  
Morgas

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**Frances Morgas** - April 17, 2020 at 06:20 PM

DD

“ Not quite sure how best to do this. I had the pleasure and the honor to meet Mel on several occasions because Annette and I were very close for several years. Those were good years with fond memories. I also met all the Cordova siblings (I think) at one time or another, but mostly had the opportunity to interact a little bit with Joan and Kathleen at times when I was with Annette. These memories I cherish to this day even though they occurred more than 30 years ago. I admired Mr. Cordova. He was a good man, lived an exemplary life, raised and provided for a family that any and every man would be proud of. My fondest thoughts reach out to all the Cordova children whom I had the good fortune to meet and interact with—even for a brief time—during my younger life. Your dad was a good father and your success in your own lives is a testament to how he helped raise you all.

Very sincerely,  
Don Duszynski

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Donald Duszynski - April 13, 2020 at 02:26 PM

SD

“ I was saddened to hear about Mel. I so enjoyed the times I spent with him. I loved that little twinkle in his eye. What a wonderful family man he was. He will be missed by many. My love to all of you. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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Sharron Dickerson - April 12, 2020 at 08:27 PM

JC

“ Please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of your dad. He was an exceptional man and certainly one of my favorite people. I like to think that your dad and mine are together again and enjoying themselves, much as they did on this earth.

Bob and Margaret Cordova

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Joan Cordova - April 12, 2020 at 04:47 PM

LT

“ *In the fall of 1958 Mr. Cordova came to the Northern New Mexico Normal School at El Rito, NM to serve as the school principal; I had the good fortune of being a senior there at that time. I have fond memories of his gentle guidance and unquestionable caring for our unique institution and for us as individual students. Saddened to hear of his passing but with tremendous gratitude for his love I send condolences in behalf of the graduating class of 1959 El Rito Eagles --- .Luis S. Torres (Class Pres.)*

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**Luis Torres** - April 12, 2020 at 04:18 PM

CH

“ *Dear Aunt Consie and Cousins,*

*We will always have fond memories of visits to the Cordova's. In one trip we could play ourselves out playing with one cousin to the next. Most of all we will never forget the best welcoming hugs, smiles and laughter that Uncle Melvin and Aunt Consie showered us with throughout the years.*

*Prayers and love are being sent your way from the (Mirabal) Grenko cousins and their families.*

*John, Cynthia (Jerry), Ev (George)*

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**Cynthia Howell** - April 12, 2020 at 01:15 PM

FD

“ *I traveled with Melvin to China and Spain and visited with him in Las Cruces for multiple family occasions. What I remember is he always had a twinkle in his eye and and a smile on his face. He will be missed by family and friends.*

*Floyd Dickerson*

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**Floyd Dickerson** - April 12, 2020 at 10:28 AM

JO

“ Hi Cordova Clan,

*I am very sad to hear about my Uncle and I wanted to share my condolences and a few thoughts with all of you. I felt my Uncle was always appreciative of me and who knows how he managed that with so many of us relatives running around. My memory of him will always be his smile which was so many things with his one simple gesture. It was genuine love of family, it was caring, it was pure joy, and it could light up a room with happiness. My life lesson, there is nothing a smile cant help.*

Love

*HB and Family*

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**Joan** - April 11, 2020 at 12:25 AM

PP

“ *Uncle, my heart is heavy, yet elated to know I will see you again in Heaven. Thank you for always praying over me and my family. I'm eternally grateful for your lessons/talks about our Lords love and guidance over us. You were the best brother-in-law my grandparents Sam and Monica Vigil could have ever had. Love and miss you. Prayers and peace to the family.*

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**Paula Ross Harshaw Aka Little Paula** - April 10, 2020 at 04:42 PM

SS

“ *Shirley Barela Schmock lit a candle in memory of Melvin Arnaldo Cordova*



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**Shirley Barela Schmock** - April 09, 2020 at 10:54 PM

EG

“ *Emma And Evelyn Griego lit a candle in memory of Melvin Arnaldo Cordova*



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**Emma and Evelyn Griego** - April 09, 2020 at 10:36 PM

TC

“ *Our deepest sympathy to all the Cordova family.  
Eliosim Romero and family.*



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**Teresa Crook** - April 09, 2020 at 10:03 PM

HP

“ *Melvin Cordova --- truly a caballero distinguido. Melvin was an unassuming educational leader who touched the lives of so many New Mexicans. May Consuelo and his family know how deeply his work was appreciated by all of us who worked with him. Vete, mi amigo: Duerme, vuela, reposa: ¡También se muere el mar!*

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**Hugh Prather** - April 08, 2020 at 09:17 AM

FG

“ Fred And Nina Garcia lit a candle in memory of Melvin Arnoldo Cordova



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**Fred and Nina Garcia** - April 07, 2020 at 05:25 PM

MB

“ We were sorry to hear about Melvin. Our thoughts and prayers are with with him and all of his family.  
Eternal rest grant onto him and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he Rest In Peace.  
Martin and Antoinette Baca



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**Martin & Antoinette Baca** - April 06, 2020 at 08:25 PM

DR

“ Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Melvin Arnoldo Cordova



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**Dicky and Suzanne Romero** - April 06, 2020 at 07:24 PM