



Ramon Baca

December 14, 1947 - November 29, 2023

1947-2023

Ramon D. Baca, age 76, passed away peacefully on November 29, 2023, after a tough battle with cancer.

Ramon was the first of 8 children born to Doroteo and Carmen Baca. He is preceded in death by his father Doroteo R. Baca, mother Carmen B. Baca, brothers, George Baca, Jacob Baca and nephew Jonathan Baca.

He is survived by his Wife of 20 years Cecilia Gomez Baca, her service k-9 companion Abby, brothers Arnold Baca, Patrick Baca (Annie), Angelo Baca (Judy), sister in law Elizabeth Montano Baca (George), sister Elizabeth Baca, and brother Charles Baca (Mary-Margaret). He leaves many nieces, nephews and grand nieces and nephews who dubbed him "Uncle Buddy".

Ramon graduated from Belen High School in 1966. Following high school he attended New Mexico State University and graduated in 1970 with a degree in Agriculture Business. After graduation he joined the New Mexico Air National Guard. During that time he started a successful career in farming. Ramon was a highly respected farmer in Valencia County, growing mostly alfalfa for hay and corn for silage.

Arrangements are handled by Romero Funeral Home in Belen, with a visitation and rosary on Tuesday, December 12 at 5:00 pm at Romero Funeral Home chapel in Belen and visitation and Mass on Wednesday, December 13 at 11:00 am at Tome Catholic Church in Tome. Interment will follow at the Tome Catholic cemetery. Please sign Ramon's online tribute at www.romerofu

neralhomenm.com Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 12. 5:00 PM (MT)

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

Rosary

DEC 12. 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>

Final Visitation

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (MT)

Catholic Church of Tome
Church Loop
Los Lunas, NM 87031
(505) 903-1623

Funeral Mass

DEC 13. 12:00 PM (MT)

Catholic Church of Tome
Church Loop
Los Lunas, NM 87031
(505) 903-1623

Interment

DEC 13. 1:00 PM (MT)

Tome Catholic Cemetery
Tome, NM 87060

Tribute Wall

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dante Berry - December 14, 2023 at 04:17 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dante Berry - December 14, 2023 at 04:12 PM

DB

“ Below is part 3 of eulogy read at Ramon's rosary service.

Together they completed the 2023 harvest.

Let me close by referencing the parable of the dishonest steward found in the gospel of Luke, chapter 16. The dishonest steward abused the trust and squandered resources entrusted to him by the master (God). Our brother Ramon was the exact opposite! He was the honest steward who managed all things well. But not only did he manage material holdings, more importantly, he was a good steward of the faith handed down to him by his grandparents and parents. Like the land, he produced a bountiful harvest. Ramon was faithful to the end and I believe Ramon has earned his eternal reward. Now a merited crown awaits him. Amen!

Dante Berry - December 14, 2023 at 12:11 AM

“ Part 2 of eulogy read at Ramon's rosary service.

There is a saying, Life is a tragedy for those who feel and a comedy by those who think.

Ramon was a quiet man, a devout Catholic with a deep prayer life. His search for a parish community where he could practice his catholic faith led him to Immaculate Conception in downtown Albuquerque. At that time the parish was run by Jesuit priests, a good fit with Ramon's intellectual views. At Immaculate Conception, he joined a choir and met his future wife Cecilia Gomez. Cecilia recalled the way Ramon proposed to her. One day after mass he took her to Zales where he bought her a diamond ring. They married on October 18, 2003. Pat and Annie were their padrinos. Ramon was a knight in shining armor, he was much respected and loved by the Gomez family for his gentle care and dedication to his young wife. Ramon provided a new home for Cecilia out in the country, where she appreciated the clean air, quiet atmosphere and good water. She also gained many new nephews and nieces and Ramon and Cecelia were kind to all of them.

Music was a joy they shared in common. At Immaculate Conception, they sang in two choirs, one in English, the other Spanish. Ramon sang baritone and bass and Cecelia soprano. Together they enjoyed traveling. Their travels took them to Italy twice and also included two river cruises. One cruse across Germany the other in France. Ramon enjoyed trying new foods and listening to the music those foreign countries had to offer. His appreciation of music was broad; from rancheras, to country to classical. His album collection included Beethoven, Mozart and opera. He especially enjoyed the music of Les Miserables and Madam Butterfly.

Ramon studied piano. When he decided his fingers were not meant for the ivory keys, he switched to a Celtic harp!

Ramon was also an avid reader. He kept up with current events in the community, the state and all the way to international level. Our brother Ramon was a quiet, sophisticated man.

Ramon and Cecelia practiced their faith and used their God given

voices singing in church and in a Christmas play. In 2011 they joined a local acting troupe, Los Pastores de Belen, performing in a traditional Spanish Christmas play. It is during this 12-year period that Ramon and I became close. We did many road trips together including one to Barstow. He and Cecelia were dedicated to the play. Ramon played several parts because he was good at memorizing his lines. The last few years he played the part of Toringo. The character Toringo is the eldest shepherd who teaches the other shepherds how to go and adore the Christ Child. About eight years ago Ramon began his battle with cancer. He approached it bravely, with unwavering faith. He even traveled to Lourdes to bathe in the healing waters. For Ramon the cancer was just one more thing to manage along with the farm and other duties. He went through several procedures including a surgery. The cancer went into remission. For a few years he was cancer free. Then about a year ago his PSA numbers crept up. The cancer was back and it had spread. True to character, he continued to practice his faith, work the farm, manage the assets of others, sing in choirs, and share his dry humor. I recall a visit to Rust Hospital this spring, Ramon told me his situation reminded him of a Tom T. Hall song, "Who's gonna feed them hogs". As Ramon's health declined, his family took the yoke upon their shoulders. They helped with food and transportation and running the tractors and irrigation. Together they completed the 2023 harvest.

Dante Berry - December 14, 2023 at 12:06 AM

“ Below is part 1 of the eulogy read at Ramon's rosary service.

Good evening, thank you all for being here, to pray for our brother, our cousin, our uncle, our friend Ramon. Your presence is a blessing to the family and to his wife, Cecilia.

My name is Dante Berry, I am Ramon's cousin and it's my privilege and honor to tell you about his life. His was a life well lived; a life of hard work, honesty, integrity, music, dry humor and deep faith in God. His was a life of service to others, not in the spot light, but always present, consistent, rock steady, like the Manzano Mountains in the east. We are all going to miss him very much!

Ramon David Baca was born December 14, 1947, the first child of Doroteo Baca and Carmen Bernal. Ramon was among the first wave of baby boomers. He was the 3rd of 43 grandchildren born to Manuel Baca and Leocadia Sanchez, his paternal grandparents. He was baptized in the Tomé church and given the name Ramon in memory of his uncle who was killed in battle at the age of 18 during the final days of World War Two. A war in which his father, uncles and other relatives fought. Right from the beginning Ramon carried the weight of responsibility. He was the eldest of eight children: Ramon, Arnold, Patrick, Angelo, Jacob, George, Elizabeth and Charles. They all grew up in Adelino working the family farm and ranch.

Ramon was destined to work the land. Arnold remembers playing “farmer” with Ramon when they were 4 and 5 years old. In the backyard they created a miniature field complete with rows and a little irrigation ditch. Well, they needed to irrigate and decided to pour jugs of oil into the little ditch to water the rows. You can imagine the reaction from their father, their Papa. Because Ramon was the oldest, he was often in charge of keeping his siblings in line, making sure they got their work done. However, when they were stinkers, Ramon had to answer to Papa for it. In a way, Ramon was his father's right-hand man. He was an obedient son.

As a teenager Ramon was active in FFA raising show animals. He

graduated from Belen High in 1966 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from New Mexico State. Yes, he was an Aggie! Ramon was also a member of the New Mexico Air National Guard, enlisting after collage.

After a few years working in Parker, Arizona he returned to the middle Rio Grande Valley to manage Baca Farms, a successful business. Over the years Ramon earned a reputation as one of the best farmers in the valley. At one point he farmed about 500 acres. Including the family lands, and many acres of "custom farming", 25 acres here, 40 acres there and so on. It was a lot of work coordinating, irrigation, cutting, bailing and planting for all those pieces of land, not to mention dealing with the people.

Imagine the life of a dedicated farmer. In the words of Neil Diamond, he was a solitary man. Getting up during the third watch of the night to open or close the water, bailing when the dew fell, the rhythmic sound of the bailer his companion, his thoughts deeper than the roots dug up for a spring planting.

How many times did his mind turn to prayer as he wondered if the rain would catch him with alfalfa down? Or praying for rain during drought. Driving the ditch banks, riding the tractors it was him and his guardian angel working the fields.

Ramon's farming knowledge was extensive and many people sought his advice. Once I asked him how to get rid of bind weed in my field. His response was swift and direct, "sell the field and buy one without bind weed." On a different occasion we discussed retirement plans, he said he had enrolled in the farmers retirement plan – work till you drop! Yes, Ramon had a profound sense of humor. He enjoyed a good joke, but also found humor in the absurdity of everyday life. What he saw and read in the news and observed in his community. There is a

Dante Berry - December 14, 2023 at 12:01 AM

AG

“ *The family of Manuel and Flora Perea will keep your family in our thoughts and prayers. Ramon was a long-time respected friend and business associate to them both.*



Arlene Garcia - December 13, 2023 at 03:43 AM

JR

“ *Cecilia, I'm very sorry to hear of Ramon's passing. Jim Reddin.*



Jim Reddin - December 11, 2023 at 11:49 PM

EB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Elizabeth Baca - December 07, 2023 at 06:30 PM

BK

“ *Praying for peace and comfort for all Ramon's family at his passing. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord! Blessings to you all from your friends in South Dakota!*

Bill & Joyce Kubat - December 07, 2023 at 12:26 PM

CS

“ *Ramon I always enjoyed assisting you with your farm. You were always a very good farmer. Then I really enjoyed doing La Gran Pastorela with you! You will be missed amigo. Cliff Sanchez*

Clifford Sanchez - December 06, 2023 at 11:51 AM

RG

Cecilia - Sorry to hear of Ramon's passing. He will be missed. He was a very kind person. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. May perpetual light shine upon them..my condolences go out to you and Abby.

Love always

Agnes Garcia

Rose Agnes Garcia - December 06, 2023 at 05:52 PM

RU

“ *Ramon And Diana Ulibarri lit a candle in memory of Ramon Baca*



Ramon and Diana Ulibarri - December 05, 2023 at 03:11 PM

DS

“ *Dorothy Sedillo lit a candle in memory of Ramon Baca*



Dorothy Sedillo - December 04, 2023 at 09:02 PM