



## Rita Lopez

May 18, 1923 - May 11, 2014

1923-2014

Rita Lopez passed away on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, 2014 at Gentiva Hospice in Albuquerque following a short illness. She would have been 91 next week. Rita was born in Belen, New Mexico, on May 18, 1923, to the late Antimo and Concepción Hidalgo Ulibarri. At a very young age her family including her younger sister Paulette, moved to Torrington, Wyoming, where she graduated from Torrington High in 1941. She met her husband-to-be, Manuel Lopez right after WWII, as he was fulfilling a promise to his mother, Aurelia Lopez, to stop on his way home to visit her close friend, Concepción Ulibarri. They fell in love and were married in Torrington shortly thereafter. Manuel started a business in Belen; Rita was a practicing beautician for a short while until she decided to stay home to raise her children. Once the children were grown, and Manuel retired from his business, Rita and Manuel moved to Grants where they remained until returning to their home in Adelino in the late 70's. Manuel grew chile and alfalfa on their two acre parcel, until his death in 1989. Rita was well known for her great sewing and baking skills, winning blue ribbons for her cookies at the State Fair. Rita eventually moved to Albuquerque to be near her two daughters. She lived at Encino Terrace until going into the hospital in late April, followed by a brief stay at Gentiva Hospice, where she remained until her passing on Sunday. Rita is survived by her three children, Concepción "Concha" Lopez-Cherry and husband, Ned Cherry; Clarence Lopez and wife, Nancy Blackney-Lopez and Carleen Lopez;

as well as grandchildren, Gabriel Harrington and Cristina Lopez-Cherry and Ethan and Estevan Blackney-Lopez; great-grandchildren, Hazel Mae Korce and Summer Corbin-Lopez; as well as numerous loving nieces and nephews, who remember her fondly for her kind and generous spirit. Rita is also survived by her sister, Paulette Lopez; sisters-in-law, Emilia Baca, Sessy Lopez, Onecima Duran; and brother-in-law, Tane Lopez. All services will be held at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, beginning with a Viewing on Friday, May 16th at 8:30 a.m. with a Rosary to be recited at 9:30 a.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. with Father Stephen Schultz presiding. Interment will take place at the Santa Fe National Cemetery on Monday, May 19th at 9:00 a.m. Per Rita's wishes, Pallbearers will be Gabriel Harrington, Cristina Lopez-Cherry, Ethan Blackney-Lopez, Estevan Blackney-Lopez, Pearl Aune and Frank Johnson. Honorary Pallbearers will be Cynthia Bailey, Judith "Jude" Edwards, Debbie Lopez, Gloria Miers, Dolores Peralta and Elizabeth Olguin. The Lopez family would like to express their appreciation for the excellent care that Rita received over the past week from the Gentiva doctors, nurses and techs. We are also grateful for Rita's faithful caretakers, Margaret Morrison and Lorie Armijo. Sign Rita'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

## Final Viewing

MAY 16. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (MT)

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

## Rosary

MAY 16. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (MT)

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

## Funeral Mass

MAY 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

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



# Tribute Wall

GF

“ Dear Lopez Family and Friends,  
I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear loved one, Please accept my sincere condolences. May it comfort you to know that "The Most High God" has resurrected humans on Earth before by means of His son Jesus Christ, and He assures us He will do so again in the near future. (Acts24:15,Revelation 21:3,4)

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**Greene Family** - May 20, 2014 at 06:28 PM

DD

“ With sincere sympathy to Conchita, Carleen, Clarence, Paulette, and grandchildren.

*She had great qualities. Rita was one of the most graceful, poised people, I have ever known. She was extremely attentive and caring. I loved Rita. I wish the earth was populated with people like her. Women like her should be in leadership roles. There would be no wars. I am happy for her that her pain has been taken away. My daughter, Lisa, prayed for her every day.*

*Sincerely,  
David*

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**David Douglas** - May 16, 2014 at 08:47 AM

MD

“ With sympathy to Ned, Conchita, Carleen, Clarence, Nancy, and families.

*I feel sad to lose Aunt Rita especially after reading the obituary. Although, I am happy she is at peace. I wish I could attend the funeral for closure. I have many good memories of Aunt Rita, Uncle Manuel and all of you. I remember Conchita in her baby basket. Aunt Rita was recovering from Conchita's birth in the guest bedroom at our grandparent's home. ( the green eyes)! Aunt Lucia said I was in shock with the new baby and didn't talk for three days. I watched Aunt Rita playing with Carleen and Clarence when she was bathing them. All of you are special cousins to me.*

*With Love,  
Margaret*

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**Margaret Douglas** - May 16, 2014 at 08:23 AM

FJ

“ Thank you for all the wonderful memories. As you walk around Heaven be sure to say hi to my mom. I will miss you and our dinner dates.

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**Frank Johnson** - May 15, 2014 at 07:48 PM

GM

“ Gloria Miers purchased the Heavenly Sentiments Spray for the family of Rita Lopez.



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**Gloria Miers** - May 15, 2014 at 10:29 AM



“ You were heaven sent and now heaven bound. Suffering is over, wings on you abound. Fly angel fly, now you are completely free.

*Happy trails to you Auntie Rita, peace and contentment to your family.*

*Love, Patricia Chavez Wagy*



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**Patty Wagy** - May 15, 2014 at 07:19 AM

PT

“ Concha, Carleen, Clarence & Family, Our deepest sympathy is with you and your family. It was so sad to hear of Auntie Rita passing away. Nice to know that she was surrounded by all her family and friends and was in good care. What a great woman she was!!!! We will be there in spirit and keep all our memories in our hearts. Hugs and Kisses to all. Love, Patricia and Philip Termini & Family

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**Patricia Termini** - May 14, 2014 at 12:34 PM



“ A Full Life was purchased for the family of Rita Lopez.



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May 13, 2014 at 07:41 PM

EM

“ With my heartfelt sympathy to Concha, Carleen, Clarence, and Paulette,

*After a nice visit with your mom and sister on the Sunday before Mother's Day, I was expecting to hear that she was out of hospice and in assisted living. Instead, Molly called to let me know that her dear Aunt Rita was gravely ill. Then Molly made the dreaded call to me on Mother's Day of all days.... As you well know, even when the inevitable is expected, it is a shock. The finality of the loss is painful.*

*I held beautiful Rita Lopez in great esteem and admiration for the wonderful person she was. I knew Rita through my parents in the past and more recently through my cousins.*

*Ironically, both my parents, Blas and Lina Martinez as well as my sister-cousin died at the same hospice. My mother lived at Encino Place, too. We have much in common.*

*Sincerely,  
Estella A.Martinez*

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**Estella A Martinez** - May 13, 2014 at 06:48 PM

BM

“ Berna Moya lit a candle in memory of Rita Lopez



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**Berna Moya** - May 13, 2014 at 09:02 AM

BM

*To the Lopez Family I was saddened when I heard of Auntie Rita. She was one special lady. I pray you all find comfort in each other and find comfort in each other knowing she no longer is suffering. I love your family as if I was one of your own. Auntie Rita I will always love & remember you as a loving & warm woman...Love & prayers Berna*

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**Berna Moya** - May 13, 2014 at 09:07 AM