



## Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela

July 30, 1965 - February 25, 2021

1965-2021

Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela, an educator and resident of Los Lunas, NM, passed away on the early morning of February 25, 2021 at the age of 55. Rudy, a 1983 graduate of Los Lunas High School, was very ambitious both academically and athletically. He was a multi-sport NM All-State selection in Football, Wrestling and Track & Field. After receiving many scholarships from around the country, he decided to take his football talents to southern California where he attended Imperial Valley College. Rudy was a phenomenal player and teammate, with a work ethic that would quickly separate himself from everyone else. Upon graduating with honors and receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree specializing in education, Rudy continued his academic and athletic career by attending New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM. He lettered both years as a standout player and again, received a Bachelor of Arts degree specializing in history while minoring in athletics. Post Highlands University, Valenzuela demonstrated his admirable devotion to assisting troubled youth by becoming a staff member of Vision Quest Wagon Train Program located in Elfrida, AZ. This program gathered troubled youth from the inner-cities of California such as Stockton, Compton, Oakland and San Diego. The majority of the youth were former gang members facing juvenile hall. Following his tenure with Vision Quest, he would go on to attend the University of Texas, San Antonio where he studied and worked under Texas State Representative, Anadelia Romo, as a Grant

Writer. His main objective was to research and write proposals and reports with the help of a grant coordinator for the Texas legislature. Following San Antonio, Valenzuela continued his academics at the University of Oklahoma's College of Education in Norman, OK. Valenzuela would go on to receive a master's degree in special education while obtaining a minor's degree in physical education. Over the next 10 years, Rudy would go on to teach and coach athletics in multiple school districts all over New Mexico which included Cuba, Espanola, Los Lunas, and Belen. Throughout his life he helped hundreds of kids in many ways whether it was coaching, teaching or just being a great mentor.

During the latter stages of his life, he was a member of the USATF Masters club where he achieved national and international ranking in the sport of track & field. Anybody that encountered Rudy, knew he devoted his life to physical fitness and community service; primarily troubled youth. Rudy was highly decorated in both athletics and education. This was all capable due to his tenacious demeanor and championship attitude which helped inspire many. Rudy Valenzuela is a fiber woven into the Los Lunas community and his legacy will live on forever.

Rudy is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Evaristo and Sophia Gonzales; paternal grandparents, Senobio and Susie Valenzuela. He is survived by his son, Aaron Valenzuela and girlfriend, Danielle; longtime friend, Rebecca Romero; loving parents, David and Alice Valenzuela; sister, Delilah and husband Dave Sanchez, nephew Jordan and wife Kystal; nieces Gabby, Mykayla and Marisa; nephew, David; great nieces Amaya and Lilliana; and great newpew Zayden. Services will take place on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at San Clemente Catholic Church in Los Lunas, beginning with Rosary to be recited at 9:30 AM, Funeral Mass at 10:00 AM, and Interment to follow at Los Lentes Catholic Cemetery. Pallbearers are Lawrence Valenzuela, Dean Vigil, Ron Hubble, Jordan Moody, Aaron Valenzuela, Joseph Barta, Jason Gonzales and Dave Sanchez. Honorary Pallbearers are Robert Valenzuela, Anthony Garley, James Shoun, Forrest McNabb, Tim Shaun, Aristeo Valenzuela and

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

# Previous Events

## Interment

MAR 9. 11:00 AM (MT)

Los Lentos Catholic Cemetery  
Los Lunas, NM 87031

# Tribute Wall

TA

“ I just want to leave some Positive words for Rudy and his family, As someone who recently started working with Rudy, I noticed from the moment we started talking and interacting with him at work, that, this man was smart, confident, up front, Funny, Wise, and many others, But during the short period of time i Knew Rudy, he was ALWAYS ready to help me, or others, he was Never shy about the want to help people. I can Honestly say that the time (even though VERY short), That I shared or worked with Rudy is and will always be something I am eternally grateful for. May your spirit continue to SOAR , and Protect all those you love . Many Prayers, thoughts, and Positivity from my Familia to yours. R.I.P. Rudy,

-Tim Archuleta- Friend/Coworker

Tim Archuleta - March 21, 2021 at 12:40 PM

RR

I just came across this post online. I was Rudy's teammate and fellow DB at Imperial Valley College in the early 1980s, starting in 1983. Rudy and I were both starting CBs as freshman and later roommates. I moved on to playing at UNLV in Las Vegas and Rudy did the same at UNM Highlands. He had profound success in his collegiate and post-graduate pursuits. He was a humble but tenacious and honest man and I was proud to know him.

Ron Rovacchi - November 27, 2025 at 07:24 PM

AA

“ Arnold&Ada Aragon lit a candle in memory of Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela



Arnold&Ada Aragon - March 17, 2021 at 11:12 PM

CP

“ *In the short time I knew Rudy, he brought such positive energy and joy into my workday. I am glad to have known him and his legacy will continue to inspire me for years to come. My heart goes out to his family and friends and all the people he touched throughout the years. May our Lord in Heaven provide the peace that passes all understanding. --Cassie*

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**Cassie Pusey** - March 17, 2021 at 07:19 PM

DG

“*“Mr. Rudy” is what I called him in the recent new hire class that he started on February 8th. This training was to be a Customer Service Representative to provide New Mexico residents in need of assistance through various programs - an extremely important and rewarding role.*



*Although I taught Rudy and his NM classmates virtually from Austin, TX, Rudy quickly became the stand out of the class. He was never once late, he was always helping his team mates, and was a very memorable, humorous, and outgoing ray of light in this sometimes gray and impersonal virtual learning environment. His laugh was infectious and eyes always sparkling!*

*An "About Me" PowerPoint slide is one of the training tasks assigned for each trainee to share with the class and trainers. The slide is also shared with future team leads, supervisors, and top leaders within the trainees career path for all to learn about the new employee. In Rudy's slide he lists many of his professional accomplishments and personal favorites that were important in his life like his son, Aaron and his love of good nutrition, health, exercise, sports, education, and the fact that he continued to compete and medal in the sport of Track & Field at the age of 55!*

*One can only hope that Rudy is now running his race for our Lord and Savior and will continue to educate and keep all of our loved ones who have gone before us, in great shape and eating healthy! You will be truly missed "Mr. Rudy" and my love, prayers and positive energy go out to all of your friends and family who I know are saddened by their loss and heart broken by your sudden passing.*

*Rudy, thank you for your true devotion to learning and having the desire to offer to shine a light of hope on your fellow New Mexicans by helping them. You were a true Angel of Care!*

*Please know that you made a real impression on your trainers, team mates, and supervisors during your very short time on our team... you will ALWAYS be remembered my friend! ❤️*

*With sincere sympathy,  
Dawn Grissom-Perez*

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**Dawn Grissom-Perez** - March 17, 2021 at 05:38 PM

DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela*



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**Dicky and Suzanne Romero** - March 10, 2021 at 02:31 PM

RC

“ *Ruben & Eileen Chavez lit a candle in memory of Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela*



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**Ruben & Eileen Chavez** - March 08, 2021 at 04:17 PM

YS

“ *Our deepest condolences to David, Alice & Delilah & families for the loss of your son, brother & families. We had lot's of fond memories during the summer's, schooling and family functions. God Bless You 🙏*

*Yvonne Moya-Storey*



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**Yvonne Storey** - March 07, 2021 at 11:42 PM

AG

*Our deepest condolences to the Valenzuela family. Our prayers, loving thoughts are with you at the loss of Rudy. 🙏🙏🙏❤️❤�*

**Ann Garcia** - March 11, 2021 at 09:57 AM

YT

*“ Yvette Tapia lit a candle in memory of Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela*



**Yvette Tapia** - March 07, 2021 at 06:23 PM



*“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela.*



March 07, 2021 at 01:41 PM

SH

*“ Stan And Sherrie Herrera lit a candle in memory of Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela*



**Stan and Sherrie Herrera** - March 07, 2021 at 01:06 PM

MM

*“ That laugh tho R.I.P friend*

**michael martinez** - March 06, 2021 at 02:34 PM

JD

*His laugh was truly the best!!! 🙏💙*

**Jamie Dearing** - March 11, 2021 at 01:38 PM

RB

“ *All my life growing up and coming to Los Lunas every year I always made a point to see Rudy because he was a dear cousin and family who was always nice and polite and we always talked about family who he loved and cared for. He was a great athlete and loved by many. I will miss him and always remember him. My condolences to all my family especially to David and Alice. God be with him and May he Rest In Peace. Your Cousins Robert & Sandra Baca 🙏🙏🙏*



**Robert C Baca** - March 05, 2021 at 01:54 PM

JB

“*"The Rude"....Lord, please help me find the right words to honor my lifelong friend and relative. As an athlete, you were a stud and consummate team-player. Watching you run a quarter mile in lane 7 never failed to inspire me to work that much harder because I did not want to let you down. As a room mate, I seen that you were always helping others while you were working across the street for YDI making a difference in our community. I will never forget your laugh either bro, it was very contagious. I remember being with you in the front row of many, many concerts which alone shows what a tough guy you were. I still can't believe you are gone and it is breaking my heart to know that you are because you always gave me hope and inspired me to be better than I was. God Bless your family because they were always good to me as well but mostly, God Bless you! This town will never, ever forget you Rude because you are woven into the very fiber that is Los Lunas. Thank you for helping me be a better person bro, I'll try my best not to let you down!! See you soon!*

*Joseph A Barta*



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**Joseph A Barta** - March 05, 2021 at 01:52 PM

CA

“*Christine, Deborah Nelson, Judy Moya, & Anthony purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela.*



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**Christine, Deborah Nelson, Judy Moya, & Anthony** - March 05, 2021 at 01:09 PM

DN

“ Growing up we had so much fun. Your smile and laugh were always a joy. I taught you how to ride your bike without training wheels.... now your can ride freely. I also taught you to snap your fingers and you may still do it in your happy place to get attention. Please give my niece, brother, and daddy a hug and kiss for me. I love and will miss you cousin. Be in peace. In loving memory and fond thoughts.  
Cousin Deborah (Debbie Garley) Nelson

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**Deborah B Nelson** - March 05, 2021 at 12:44 PM

CM

“ We had so much fun together in HS. We were inseparable, we ran track, went to prom, took long walks and laughed so hard we'd cry. We shared many wonderful memories. Always have a special place in my heart.

*The Lord keep you and bless you, make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace my friend. Love & blessings* ✝️

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**Carmen Mendez** - March 05, 2021 at 06:29 AM

JG

“ We were the best of friends in highschool. I'll always remember the good times we had. I wish I could have been in your life as we got older. I know you are in a better place now, But that doesn't fill the emptiness of you being gone. You will always be remembered as the life of the party. I'll never forget you my friend. Til we meet again in in heaven 🙏

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**Jason Gonzales** - March 05, 2021 at 12:46 AM

JB

*God Bless you Jason. I will never forget "Rudel at the Buttel"*

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**Joseph A Barta** - March 05, 2021 at 01:56 PM

JG

“ *Joseph Georgia Garcia lit a candle in memory of Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela*



Joseph Georgia Garcia - March 04, 2021 at 10:34 PM

JG

*Our condolences are with you all, Joe & Georgia Garcia*

Joseph Georgia Garcia - March 04, 2021 at 10:36 PM

NG

*Sorry for you're loss. We will pray for you. God Bless . 🙏🙏🙏 Norma Lala Marty Griego*

Norma Griego - March 09, 2021 at 07:53 AM



“ *Lorraine Marquez lit a candle in memory of Rudolph "Rudy" Lauriano Valenzuela*



Lorraine Marquez - March 04, 2021 at 10:17 PM

JD

“ *My heart is broken for Rudy and his family. Rudy and I graduated together from Los Lunas High School. I have fond memories of his great smile and awesome laugh. Rest easy my friend, you will always be treasured. My most sincere condolences and prayers go out to his wonderful family. May God bless and comfort you all.*

Jamie Dearing - March 04, 2021 at 03:12 PM