



Ruperto Baca

November 14, 1928 - April 10, 2014

1928-2014

Our beloved Rupert Baca was called home to be with our Lord on Thursday, April 10, 2014 surrounded by his loving family. Rupert was born on November 14, 1928 in Belen, NM to the late Salomon and Nicomerez Baca. Rupert was a proud Veteran who served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He served in the New Mexico National Guard as a Motor Pool Sergeant and Expert Marksman for 35 year until his retirement. He was a member of Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church where he participated in many ministries. He was Chairman of Our Lady of Belen Cemetery Council. He also served on the Fiesta Committee, Marriage Enrichment and taught religious education classes, and the Spanish choir. He was a member of the St. Mary's School Board, the Parish and Finance Counsel, La Gran Pastorela. He was also a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elk's Lodge, Mid Rio Grande Committee Action Program, Valencia County Foster Grandparents Program and a Scoutmaster. He was also well known for his role in the movie "Fools Rush In." He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved first wife, Lourdes; son, Leonard; step-father, Antonio Benavidez; sister, Cecilia Otero; and brother, Edwin Benavidez. Rupert is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Filomena Baca; children, Catherine and husband, Raymond Gonzales; Evangeline Baca, Lena Baca; Patsy and husband, James Garley, Sally Baca, Fernando and wife, Stephanie, Salomon and wife, Lori, Juliana Baca and husband, Fred Ortega, Joey, Martina Baca, Valentina Baca, and Patrick and wife, Dianne; 20 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; sister, Solia Moya; siblings, Ruby Romero, Raymond, Glen and Charles Benavidez. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, cousins and friends. All services will be held at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, beginning with a Viewing on Tuesday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. with a Rosary to be recited at 7:00 p.m. A Final Visitation will be held on Wednesday, April 16th at 12:30 p.m. with a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. with Father Stephen Schultz presiding. Interment will follow at Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens. Pallbearers will be his eight daughters. Sign Rupert's online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main Street, Belen, NM 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

APR 15. 6:00 PM (MT)

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

Rosary

APR 15. 7:00 PM (MT)

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

Final Visitation

APR 16. 12:30 PM (MT)

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

Funeral Mass

APR 16. 1:00 PM (MT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Romero Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ruperto Baca



Romero Funeral Home - April 17, 2014 at 02:41 PM



Ruperto Baca in Fools Rush in.

April 17, 2014 at 03:33 PM



Thank you for sharing the video, he had so much life, we will miss him dearly.

Maria Baca - April 18, 2014 at 12:17 AM



“ Paul F. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Ruperto Baca.



Paul F. - April 22, 2014 at 04:44 PM



“ My dear Baca family neighbors

Your father was always such an inspiration to me. Worked hard ,raised a big family and we always had enough team members for a baseball game! I love all of you and am so sorry for your loss! Your father was a great man!

Love

Rick Nesbitt and Family

Rick Nesbitt - April 22, 2014 at 09:08 AM



Thank you for your wonderful comforting words. We will miss him very much and we have so many great memories of our childhood growing up with our Father.

Maria Baca - April 23, 2014 at 10:06 PM

AA

“ *Estoy contristada con la pérdida de su ser querido, no hay duda que la muerte es muy dolorosa, por tal razón quería compartir con usted algunas palabras de consolación que le ayudaran en estos momentos difíciles, tal como me ayudaron a mí. Estas palabras se encuentran en la Biblia, si tiene Biblia le invito a que lea, Juan 5:28,29, Hechos 24:15, Revelación 21:3, 4, ahí notara que dichos textos hablan de la bella esperanza de la resurrección, solo podemos imaginar la alegría de volver abrazar a nuestro ser querido que ha fallecido. ¡Qué maravilla! Con dicho pensamiento en mente, le invito a que visite el siguiente enlace: <http://www.JW.org/es/publicaciones/libros/tratado-muertos-volver-a-vivir/> Ahí encontrara un artículo que habla más al respecto.*

aak - April 21, 2014 at 05:54 AM

MT

“ *Very sorry for the passing of Mr. Baca. He was a tough soldier and a strong man. His faith, his love and care of others was a great example to every man he came in contact with. I am proud to say I knew Rupert and served with him in the National Guard.*

Michael Ray Trujillo - April 18, 2014 at 05:44 AM

MB

“ *We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Rupert Baca. It was a great honor and privilege to serve in the Army National Guard with Rupert. He inspired myself and all those who served under him. His respect and patience with my youthful ways helped me to mature. He was and will always be a role model to me and my family. His leadership touched so many lives. He leaves a great legacy.*

*May God bless and keep you always.
Mac and Anita Baca and Family*

Mac Baca - April 17, 2014 at 09:23 PM

MB

Thank you for those wonderful words of comfort. He is going to be missed.

Maria Baca - April 18, 2014 at 12:11 AM

CG

“ *My sincerest condolences to the Baca Family. I am sorry I was unable to attend any of the services due to illness in my family.*

Your father always treated me so good when I was married to his cousin, Ray Zamora. Even after our divorce he always was the same and I will always be grateful for his kindness during this difficult time.

May God grant you peace and comfort in the days to come.

*Sincerely,
Corrine Zamora Gallegos*

Corrine Zamora Gallegos - April 17, 2014 at 07:02 PM

MB

Corrine, Thank You for your words of comfort.

Maria Baca - April 18, 2014 at 12:31 AM

LF

“ *Saló, Fernando, and all my Baca neighbors,*

I am sorry I did not know of your father's passing until seeing it in the paper this morning. May God give you peace. He always had a smile and a wave for me and served his country greatly.

Larry and Kelly Fajardo

Lawrence Fajardo - April 17, 2014 at 10:55 AM

MB

Thank you for your comforting words. We will all miss him dearly.

Maria Baca - April 18, 2014 at 12:21 AM

WT

“ *Filo,*

I was so sorry to hear of Rupert's passing. He was such a nice man; and every time I watch "Fools Rush In," it still tickles me to see him in it. My heartfelt sympathy to you.

Wendy Dunford (formerly Tabet) - April 17, 2014 at 08:10 AM

WT

*Wendy (formerly Tabet) Dunford
Chareston, SC*

Wendy Dunford (formerly Tabet) - April 17, 2014 at 08:12 AM

MB

Thank you for your comforting words. We will all miss his smiling face.. He has left so many wonderful memories with us all.

Maria Baca - April 23, 2014 at 10:35 PM

FS

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Rupert's family*



Frances Silva - April 16, 2014 at 12:57 PM

KG

“ *My sincere condolence to the entire Rupert Baca Family,
A true "Mans Man", he will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.
It was an honor to serve with him as a National Guardsman but even more proud
to call him a friend.
Kenny Griego*

Kenneth Griego - April 16, 2014 at 11:34 AM

VB

Thank you Kenny. Your words are comforting at this time and always.

Valentina Baca - April 16, 2014 at 04:21 PM

MB

*Thank you Kenny, My dad spoke highly and proud to have served with you in the
National Guard. Thanks for your words of comfort.*

Maria Baca - April 16, 2014 at 11:06 PM

ES

“ *To Rupert's family and my prima, Philomena,
Please know that I surround you with prayer and love as you grieve the loss of
such a loved and loving man as Rupert. I am so sorry I cannot be there in person
to celebrate the mass of Resurrection.
Con mucho Carino,
Sr. Eva Silva*

Eva Silva - April 16, 2014 at 08:38 AM

AR

“ A true example of the term "un buen hombre". Finding time to serve not only his family but his church and community as well. May God bless you all. Siento mucho.



Albert Romero - April 16, 2014 at 06:45 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ruperto Baca.



April 16, 2014 at 06:29 AM

RC

“ He will be deeply missed, and remembered for his gentle fun way and integrity. He knew no stranger. He always brightened my day when he'd come into the church rectory and visit with me when I subbed for Marcella. He will always have a special place in my heart. He truly touched my life and I was very inspired by his faith.
I extend my deepest condolences and prayers to the Baca family. God Bless you and comfort you.
In Christ,
Rebecca Chavez

Rebecca Chavez - April 15, 2014 at 11:13 PM

VB

Thank you Rebecca, we appreciate your kind words.

Valentina Baca - April 15, 2014 at 11:50 PM

“ I would like to extend my condolences to the Baca Family. And ask that our Loving God send to your hearts comfort at this very difficult time.

While I know that Rupert Baca touched the lives of many people, I'd like to express just how much of a positive influence he was in my life. Rupert Baca was my Platoon Sergeant in the National Guard. He was a man that would not ask you to do something that he would not do himself. Rupert taught by example, letting you make mistakes and guiding you through the Consequences' of your mistakes so that you wouldn't do them again. And once that you understood what he was teaching you, he had a look on his face that you just knew he was pleased, otherwise if you were not catching on to what he was teaching, he would draw pictures, wither it was by story, or actual drawings on anything he could write on.

Rupert later became my shooting coach in the National Guard Shooting Team. He taught me the concepts and the art, and science of shooting. He taught in the same manner of Mr. Miyagi from the Movie Karate Kid. I didn't realize I had learned to shoot the pistol from 25 and 50 yards until I made the 1984 National Guard Shooting Team. I had been taught to handle and shoot a pistol without bullets for most of my training. One day I got frustrated with Rupert, thinking I hadn't learned anything I had been practicing shooting a pistol without bullets. Rupert took me to the range, and told me to extend my arm (in competition you shoot with one arm extended) he said "front sight should be clear, rear sight slightly out of focus, and the target should be completely blurry." "Take in a breath, and as your exhale the trigger pull should be a surprise".....low and behold.....I shot a bull's eye. He said with a look on his face that showed he was pleased....."We'll continue practice tomorrow" I could not believe that I actually hit the bulls eye, I went on to represent New Mexico in the National Guard shooting team, with Rupert's consent teaching "You're here to make noise, not to win any competition, there will always be someone who will be shooting better." Only to discover a year later I had won many medals, trophies, and awards, Rupert being my coach kept them in a box saying "I guess I was wrong, you were much better than they were" Rupert had taught me humility. I never understood why we left the shooting match before it was over.

Rupert Baca is a man in which Credibility, Integrity, and Honor, was his platform and touched many lives, and all who were bless to of known him have similar stories describing his charter He was my sergeant, my teacher, and mostly my friend. I know that when he crossed over to heaven, Rupert's Master said to him, "Well done, my good and faithful servant". The world will be different now. But heaven will be richer, and I became a better soldier, and a better person because of Rupert Baca. Good bye my dear friend, until we meet again.....

Edward Saiz

VB

Thank you Edward. Your words are comforting at this time and always.

Valentina Baca - April 15, 2014 at 08:31 PM

MB

Thank you Edward that was a wonderful story. We will all miss him dearly.

Maria Baca - April 16, 2014 at 11:16 PM

 Maggie Garcia

“ *Maggie Garcia lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Baca*



Maggie Garcia - April 15, 2014 at 05:48 PM

CS

“ *Truly an icon has departed this earth and gone into a much better place, "Mi Tio Rupe" as he was affectionely known in my Nana Reina's and Tata Castulo's home in Tome. As a child growing up in Tome, I always thought he was my Nana's brother when in fact he was her nephew. He was held in such esteem that "Mi Tio Rupe" stuck even when we found out he was our cousin. I cannot think of one person who gave so much of himself to the community and Valencia County for that matter.*

Thank you for making a difference in so many people's lives. You were an advocate for the poor, the disabled and everyone who ever needed a helping hand. You are now resting after a remarkable and giving life.

May God give your loving family consolation and hope that they will see you again!!

*Love,
Clarita & Gilbert Serafin*

Clara Serafin - April 15, 2014 at 03:55 PM

VB

Thank you Clarita. Your words are comforting at this time and always.

Valentina Baca - April 15, 2014 at 08:31 PM

AS

“ *To The Family of Ruperto Baca,
We'd like to extend our most sincere condolences on your loss of Ruperto. He'll
always be remembered in Belen, as a friendly man and always with a smile. May
God Bless all of the family at this most difficult time.*

*Sincerely,
Adam & Ruby Salas & Family
Bosque , N.M.*

Adam & Ruby Salas - April 15, 2014 at 01:59 PM

AS

“ *"Lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Baca."*

*Sincerely,
Adam & Ruby Salas & Family*



Adam & Ruby Salas - April 15, 2014 at 01:49 PM

RE

“ *Dearest Baca Family,
Rudy and I are so sorry for your loss. We feel so connected to each of you in a
special way. I have been blessed to know you all since I began first grade at St.
Mary's School and cherish those memories of so many of you attending school
with me and all the while remembering the dedication of your father in our lives.
Rudy always respected and valued the leadership of your father during his
military career. Your father was an icon, a beacon in this community and our
community is a little dimmer because of his passing. We are praying for God's
amazing comfort on your lives. Love you all, Rudy and Rhona (Baca) Espinoza*

Rhona Espinoza - April 15, 2014 at 10:04 AM

VB

Thank you Rhona. Your words are comforting at this time and always.

Valentina Baca - April 15, 2014 at 08:32 PM

CG

“ To my good friend Martina,

I am truly sorry for your loss! There are no words that will make losing your dad, your hero, your first love, any easier. Hold on to those special memories you have and know that your "daddy" was a very special man. I never got to meet him but I felt like I knew him just from watching you light up when you would talk about him. I actually get to see him quite often because he is in one of the funniest scenes ever in one of my favorite movies and I watch it every time it comes on. I will laugh as usual but will shed a few tears the next time I watch it. Gob bless you and the rest of your family during this difficult time.

Chris Garcia

Chris garcia - April 15, 2014 at 09:26 AM

FC

“ To all the Baca Family I'm so sorry you had to let your Father go. As Father, Grand Father and Friend he did his job very well.

Mr. Baca,

I've told you this so many times before. Thank You for answering all of my questions no matter how tired you were, or how stupid the questions. Thank You for taking you're Time to show me what I didn't understand, showing me how it needed to be done. Thank You for talking to me and not Down at me.

It Meant the world to me then and I still hold your actions along with the words you spoke very high.

I see now what I didn't the First time I meet you. I will miss you My Friend.

Will you Do me favor Light the Stove.....

Frank H. Conrad - April 14, 2014 at 09:24 PM

VB

Frank your words are encouraging. Thank you,

Valentina Baca - April 15, 2014 at 08:33 PM

JM

“ *My dearest Martina, my prayers and thoughts are with you and your familia at this time. I will always remember your "Daddy" from my favorite movie! I will continue to pray that you stay strong during this difficult time. Love Jenn Martinez-Eubanks*



Jenn Martinez-Eubanks - April 14, 2014 at 04:11 PM

JA

“ *Baca Family*

My deepest condolences to your entire family for this great loss. I can remember how friendly and caring your dad was.....he was always with a smile whenever I saw him. I know how proud he was of his family--he lived a happy life. Cherish your memories.

My Love and Prayers to you,

Judy Abeita-Chavez

Judy Abeita-Chavez - April 14, 2014 at 10:15 AM

VB

Thank you, Judy. Your words are cherished forever.

Valentina Baca - April 15, 2014 at 08:33 PM

MB

Judy, Thank You for your Love and Prayers.

Maria Baca - April 18, 2014 at 12:28 AM

CM

“ *To all of Rupert's Family. We pray for you during this time of sorrow. Your dad will be truly missed but always remembered! His love was truly felt by all that he brought forward in all of you! Thank you for sharing him. He was s kind and sincere in showing his love. Such a good friend to our family. With all our love Cathy & Greg Sachs*

Cathy McCartney - April 14, 2014 at 07:09 AM

VB

Thank you Cathy and Greg. Your words are comforting at this time and always.

Valentina Baca - April 15, 2014 at 08:34 PM

SC

“ *Fernando & Steph*

You are in our thoughts and prayers. We are so sorry for the loss of your Dad, Fern.

Sandra and Marisa Chacon Chavez

sandra chavez - April 13, 2014 at 09:28 PM



TR

“ *Trish Romero lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Baca*



trish romero - April 13, 2014 at 02:09 PM

TR

I am so sorry for your loss. Ruperto was a Kind and wonderful man who will be greatly missed. My prayers are with you all. God bless you!

trish romero - April 13, 2014 at 02:12 PM

AR

“ *My prayers are with the Baca Family during this sad and happy time. Your dad is at peace and with his maker in Heaven. Keep him in your hearts always along with the memories. God Bless your family. Doug and Alice Robinson (Alice Cordova daughter of Eusebio & Anita Cordova)*

Alice Robinson - April 13, 2014 at 01:59 PM



Thank you Alice.

Valentina Ortega - April 13, 2014 at 05:58 PM



“ *Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Ruperto Baca.*



April 13, 2014 at 01:41 PM

FC

“ *Frederica Chavez lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Baca*



frederica Chavez - April 13, 2014 at 12:00 PM

FC

So Sorry for your loss.

frederica Chavez - April 13, 2014 at 12:00 PM



Thank you Frederica.

Valentina Ortega - April 13, 2014 at 05:58 PM

“ Filomena and Family,

Please accept my heartfelt condolences! I didn't write this but find it very beautiful and share it when someone we love passes.

Blessings! We join together in the here and now, to commemorate the spirit of love and to honor those who have touched us so deeply.....

When we recognize the preciousness of this moment, we realize it's transformational significance in all of our lives.

Do we accept life's invitation to feel deeply, to love fearlessly, and potently? Will we reconcile ourselves with the inevitable peaks and valleys of our life's transient journey? Can we dig deep and extract the nectar from our tears shed in joy and grief, loss and gain, and ultimately, life and death? We discover renewed courage and faith when our hearts are rendered open, aware of the tremendous priviledge to share and experience love, the gift of life, and its tentative fragility.

Truly, It has taken us our entire lifetime to come to the fulfillment of this poignant and deep realization.

May the challenges we encounter enable us to put our own lives into new perspective, open us to reevaluate what is most dear, and to embrace each moment, no matter how difficult. All we have is this moment, and all we can ever really hold is love. May we cherish these always, and remember that love is never lost.....

Vulnerable as we are, may we find grace in our grief, and in our shared tenderness, the strength and courage to continue on. Together, we hold in our hearts sacred, all those who have passed, all those present, and the future legacy for those who are yet to come.

In honor of all our beloved ones whom have touched us so profoundly, let us take heart and renew our commitment to love, to support and to treasure one another.

Shantih - Let us make peace with the past, and find joy in our memories.

Shantih - Let us comfort each other and find peace in this present moment.

Shantih - And as a family, let us move together into the future with love, in unity, and full, shared awareness of our Universal Spirit.

Much Love,

Lori Armijo

WA

“ Winona Armijo and family of Sam Armijo purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Ruperto Baca.



Winona Armijo and family of Sam Armijo - April 12, 2014 at 09:26 PM



“ Well daddy, it took a cyclone to keep me from you. You told me to see the world, I am. You joined me in Germany, wish you could have done it again. You will be greatly missed. You are the one who made me who I am today, whether that is good or bad, not sure. You are and always will be my hero. I am sure you already met up with momma, Leonard, grandma and grandpa, they will be good tour guides for you. I pray you have found the peace and contentment you deserve. Until we meet again, please be my guardian angel. I love you. Your Chapulin.

Valentina Ortega - April 12, 2014 at 08:06 PM

JL

My heart goes out to you at this time. Know our prayers are with you all and may you have peace in knowing your Dad is at rest and home at last with our Heavenly Father. Great will be his reward. You made him proud as you were close and he loved you.

Jean (Smith) Lineweaver - April 12, 2014 at 09:30 PM

VB

Thank you , Jean, I appreciate your kind words.

Valentina Baca - April 15, 2014 at 08:43 PM

KP

“ Kathy Perea sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruperto Baca



Kathy Perea - April 12, 2014 at 05:08 PM

KP

“ Kathy Perea sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruperto Baca



Kathy Perea - April 12, 2014 at 05:07 PM

KP

“ *Kathy Perea lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Baca*



Kathy Perea - April 12, 2014 at 05:06 PM

KP

“ *Aunt Mena, Patrick and all of the Baca Family*
We are so sorry about Uncle Rupert's passing. He was such a caring, kind and loving person. He will be missed so much. May God Bless you and send his Angels to bring you comfort during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you. All our love.
Kathy, Jon-Michael, Christina, Nicole, Antonio and Johnny Perea also
Karina, Adrian., Sophia and Liam.

Kathy Perea - April 12, 2014 at 05:06 PM

BC

“ *I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of Ruperto. My prayers go out to all of your family... I know how loved he was, and how terribly missed he'll be. May God bless you all at this time and always.*

Beverly Castillo - April 12, 2014 at 04:34 PM



“ *Caroline Garcia lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Baca*



Caroline Garcia - April 12, 2014 at 11:04 AM



“ *To Filomena & the rest of the Baca Family:*

I am so sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of Rupert & will always cherish them. Please accept my sincere condolences.

Caroline Garcia

Caroline Garcia - April 12, 2014 at 11:03 AM

DC

“ Dearest Baca Family,

I am deeply saddened to hear of Ruperto's passing. Words escape me knowing there is nothing I can say that will ease your sorrow at this time. Just know that he is with our dear Lord. My prayer is that God grant all of you extra blessings and peace. My love goes out to all of you!

Diane Chávez

Diane Chávez - April 11, 2014 at 03:28 PM

JG

“ Filomena and the entire Baca Family:

We are so sorry & sad to hear of Rupert's passing. It came to us as a shock. Such a wonderful & beautiful person who had a lot of love & respect for others. We will keep you & Rupert in our prayers. He will forever be missed.

*Love & Prayers,
Your friends,
Joe & Agnes Garcia*



Joe & Agnes Garcia - April 11, 2014 at 01:30 PM