



Ruperto Garcia Baldonado

January 12, 1931 - April 24, 2026

1931- 2026

It is with heavy hearts and great sorrow that we announce the passing of our Precious Father, Rupert Garcia Baldonado, age 95, a former resident of Barstow, CA, and current resident of Bosque, NM. Services will be held at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church (where Rupert was a member of the congregation, choir member, lector, usher, and groundskeeper) on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, beginning with a Visitation at 10:30 a.m., followed by a Rosary at 11:30 a.m., with a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at 12:00 p.m. Interment will take place at the Santa Fe National Cemetery on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. Rupert is survived by his loving wife of 72 years, Flora Dominguez Baldonado; children Maryann (Robert), Mark, Paul, Steven, & Maryagnes (Adam); 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren; siblings, Arturo (Louisa), Sylvia Garcia, Martín (Emily), and Felix (Cheryl), as well as many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Remigio and Avelina Garcia Baldonado; son, Lorenzo Elroy Baldonado; brothers, Secundino, Preciliano, Arsenio, Jose Eliasim, Antonio, David, Guadalupe, and Miguel; and sisters, Reina Pino, Roseanna Cordova, Erlinda Garcia, and Mary Helen Baldonado. Rupert was born and raised in Jarales, NM, along with his 16 siblings. At 19, Uncle Sam paid him a visit and drafted him to serve our country in the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1953. Rupert served as a Forward Observer, with a Radio Operator by his side, on the frontline calling in fire on the enemy. On July 22, 1952, he was wounded in combat by a Mortar

Round that almost took his life. Ruperto spent seven months in a Swedish hospital before being sent back out on the front line to continue his job. He was awarded a Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, and the U.N. Service Medal. Ruperto went back to Barstow, CA, in 1953 and was working at the Marine base when he met his wife of 72 years, Flora Dominguez Baldonado. He attended barber school in Los Angeles (Skid Row), CA, and returned to Barstow to practice his trade. Ruperto eventually owned his own barber shop located outside the Beacon Bowl in Barstow. He and his friend purchased a liquor store before he decided to move back to NM in 1977. Ruperto built a house in Bosque, NM, just a mile away from where he was born, and opened a barber shop at his house. He later worked at Pat's Barber shop in Belen until he retired from cutting hair (54 years), all while farming his land. Ruperto was a very hard-working, fair, and well-respected man, always working hard to make sure people were always treated fairly. He always stood up for the underdog (little people). From registering people to vote, to making sure Veterans got recognized for their service. Ruperto had a dream to build a memorial for all Veterans that lost their lives fighting for their country. Ruperto and his wife (Flora), along with Sam Cordova and his wife (Stella), with the help of many supporters, worked hard to build this memorial. You can visit this Memorial at the Don Jose Dolores Cordova Cultural Center. If there is one word that describes our dad, that would be "Committed." He will be greatly missed as a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, uncle and cousin. WE LOVE YOU, POP! Please sign Ruperto's online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com. Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM.

Cemetery Details

Santa Fe National Cemetery

501 N. Guadalupe Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY 20. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church
101-A N 10th St
Belen, NM 87002

Rosary

MAY 20. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church
101-A N 10th St
Belen, NM 87002

Funeral Mass

MAY 20. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church
101-A N 10th St
Belen, NM 87002

Graveside Service

MAY 21. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM.

Santa Fe National Cemetery

Tribute Wall

SB

“ *Bill and Susie Breckenridge
Sorry for your loss*



Susie Breckenridge - 7 minutes ago

AC

“ *Albert Chavez lit a candle in memory of
Ruperto Garcia Baldonado*



Albert Chavez - 1 hour ago

MC

“ *Max Y Rosemarie Cordova lit a candle in
memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado*



Max y Rosemarie Cordova - 3 hours ago

PB

“ *I always enjoy visiting my uncle Rupuerto and auntie Flora when I'm home visiting and now I'm getting ready to FINALLY move back to NM and I will miss my uncle very much! I will pray for my auntie and cousins during this difficult time but I know he is celebrating with my dad and many of his brothers and sisters.*

Pauline Baldonado - Yesterday at 10:50 PM

RG

“ I will always remember when we used to go get my brothers haircut at his shop many many years ago, prayers for the family may he rest in peace.



Roberta Gallegos - Yesterday at 09:20 PM

RV

“ Richard And Dolores Vigil lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado



Richard and Dolores Vigil - Yesterday at 09:13 PM

MB

“ My deepest condolences to the Baldonado Family!

Mona lisa Bustamante



Mona Lisa Bustamante - Yesterday at 08:44 PM

ST

“ Steve&MagdalenSanchez&family lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado



Steve&MagdalenSanchez&family - Yesterday at 06:18 PM

TS

“ Theresa Sanchez lit a candle in memory of
Ruperto Garcia Baldonado



Theresa Sanchez - Yesterday at 12:41 AM

RO

“ It's really sad to hear of Ruperts passing. This is a big loss to our
community as his contributions were many throughout the many
years he was with us. He will be missed. Condolences to the family.

Ron&Debbie Ortega - April 29 at 10:48 PM

AB

“ Arsenio and Julie Baldonado

Condolences to Uncle Ruperto's family.

*Stephen I really appreciate and admire the care you have given
your mom and dad.*

*I have always loved all of my aunts and uncles especially Uncle
Ruperto.*

I will continue to pray for you Uncle.

Arsenio Baldonado - April 29 at 08:39 PM

GM

“ Our deepest condolences on the passing of
Ruperto. May Ruperto rest in peace.
Gary & Estefana Montoya



Gary Montoya - April 29 at 05:15 PM

TI

“ *TinaJaramillo&Family lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado*



TinaJaramillo&Family - April 29 at 03:05 PM

TI

“ *My Deepest Condolences*

TinaJaramillo&Family - April 29 at 03:03 PM

BC

“ *Beverly Castillo lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado*



Beverly Castillo - April 29 at 02:37 PM



“ *Our sincere sympathy and condolences to Ruperto's family and friends. We remember Ruperto and his wife visiting our Grandpa Juan and Grandma Perfecta Gabaldon in Springerville, AZ. We were surprised and happy to learn we were related to these Baldonado's in Belen, NM when we moved there from Socorro. I told my Son Chad at the time that since we were related to so many Baldonados to be careful not to date those beautiful female cousins, there were so many we were proud to be related to!*



June Salazar - April 29 at 12:28 PM

AS

“ *Adela Sanchez lit a candle in memory of
Ruperto Garcia Baldonado*



Adela Sanchez - April 29 at 11:10 AM

DC

“ *My deepest condolences goes out to Flora and all of Ruperto's
family. Ruperto's love for his family, his community, and his country
was evident in everything he did! Thank you for your service,
Ruperto, and thank you, Flora, for always being by his side!*

Diane Chavez - April 29 at 11:04 AM

ML

“ *Our deepest sympathies go out to Rupert's
family along with our prayers. We missed
seeing Rupert and Flora. They were often on
our minds. We are grateful to Rupert for his
military service.*



Mark and Crissie Leyba - April 29 at 09:56 AM

LS

“ *Rupert Baldonado held a truly meaningful
special bond with my Dad shows how special
their friendship was . He Will be deeply
missed by all who knew him. LindaA
Espinosa Sanchez*



Linda A Espinosa Sanchez - April 28 at 11:53 PM

EB

“ My father Jose Dofie Baldonado loved his primo Ruberto. Ruberto and Flora were always visiting with my parents. They will always be remembered and loved for their love and kindness. I am so glad that Steven took Ruberto and Flora to my dad’s 100th birthday celebration. Their attendance created memories forever. Ruberto will be missed, but memories with him and your family will always be in our hearts. Love you all. Prayers are with you and the family.

Esther Baldonado - April 28 at 10:17 PM

MJ

“ Marty & Beatrice Jojola lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado



Marty & Beatrice Jojola - April 28 at 10:16 PM

CE

“ Charles Eaton lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado



Charles Eaton - April 28 at 04:59 PM

KC

“ We had great memories of the primo, No matter where we saw him he would call us primas and we would talk to him and Flora. He will be greatly missed. We saw him the most at Santa Anna. Then I took my auntie Flora and cousin Maria to see him and Flora and we met his son Steve who was very gracious. HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.



Kathy Baldonado Carrillo - April 28 at 04:26 PM