



## 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 Army: 2nd Infantry Division, 23rd Regiment Indianhead, 2nd Battalion, H Company. 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. Pallbearers will be, Joshua Hawkes, Anthonie Jordan Baldonado, Adrian Michael Baldonado, Adam Arthur, Lester Elliott, and James Otero. Honorary Pallbearers will be his siblings, Arturo Baldonado, Sylvia Garcia, Martín Baldonado, and Felix Baldonado. WE LOVE YOU POP!

# Cemetery Details

## Santa Fe National Cemetery

501 N. Guadalupe Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

# Previous 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

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

Santa Fe National Cemetery

# Tribute Wall

BK

“ *Ruperto, you came into this world to make a difference. Now you leave this world having made a difference. Thank you.*  
*Beatrice Nettles Kurtz*

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**Beatrice Kurtz** - May 25 at 03:36 PM

RM

“ *Our deepest condolences to our primo Ruperto's family. Even though I was a 10 year old at the time, I remember how grateful my parents Perfecto and Maxine Hidalgo were when they found out my brother Santiago (wounded in Vietnam) was at Letterman Hospital in San Francisco and Ruperto would make the trip to visit him. Our family gained so much respect and appreciation for him and his caring actions, I know it gave my parents a lot of relief that Ruperto would regularly visit him. May Ruperto rest in peace and his family given peace and comfort.*

*The Hidalgo family in Clovis NM.... Mariano, Perfecto Jr, Ricardo and Rose Hidalgo Medlin. Prayers lifted for the Baldonado family.*

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**Rose Hidalgo Medlin** - May 24 at 07:57 PM

BZ

“ *Out condolences to the Baldonado Family 🙏  
My father (Herminio Molina) spoke often of him, and of them growing up in Jarales, they kept in touch as they got along in years .. May He Rest in Peace, and May Our Lords Perpetuate Light Shine Upon Him 🕊  
Sincerely,  
Bernadette (Molina) Zamora & Family*



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**Bernadette Zamora** - May 20 at 12:46 PM

AN

“ When I think of Ruperto, committed is a strong word to describe him.

*My mother Estela Baldonado, Nettles was a first cousin. After my mother passed away Ruperto and Flora frequently visited my father; Lonnie Nettles in Albuquerque .... my father always enjoyed Ruperto's visits. The visits kept my father informed of what was going on with the family in Belen.*

*Ruperto got my brother, Leonard Nettles to donate one of his army jeeps to the Memorial to veterans that he set up in Belen. Ruperto gave my brother the grand tour of the Memorial...Leonard told me all about it.*

*I think you could title Ruperto as the matriarch of the Baldonado family and a servant to God.*

*Roberto you can now rest for you've done your job here on this Earth as God has led you to do. Amen and the angels sing Hallelujah!*

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**Agnes Nettles** - May 19 at 10:16 PM

JJ

“ Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to Ruperto's entire family. He will be missed by many, especially Flora and we hope God will bring healing and peace with your grief. Always, Juan and Josie Julian

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**Juan Julian** - May 19 at 06:25 PM

KF

“ Kathy Sanchez And Families lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado



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**Kathy Sanchez and Families** - May 19 at 02:33 PM

KF

*Our sincere condolences to Flora and families on their cherished Ruperto's passing. Prayers for his peaceful rest. Memories from all our boys first haircuts in Bosque.*

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**Kathy Sanchez and Families** - May 19 at 02:37 PM

DZ

“ *My deepest condolences to the family.*  
*Danny Zamora*



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**Danny Zamora** - May 17 at 03:44 PM

OR

“ I will forever remember the friendship we enjoyed and the wonderful life of my friend Ruperto, especially, as his voice unrolls before me. His earthly good actions, love of family, love of community and love of country now brightens the Savior's lamp. His heart, and love, now far away from us beats in divine ecstasy fueled by his Catholic inspiration, life, family tears and joys within which his love was born. He is now at rest in that eternal mystery!



Ruperto, a once wounded Valencia County Korean War veteran, and Jarales/Bosque community leader took measure of Heaven's powers and gave expression to them with joy as he embraced the souls of the communities. His leadership brought forth two major projects, the Jarales Memorial dedicated to local military veterans who lost their lives in support of our country and the Don Jose Dolores Cordova Cultural and History Center. He was a man of action and the term "Wait till tomorrow" sounded like letting the day die in silence. His love of Jarales and Bosque held his peace!

Blessed was Ruperto for he was able to clasp one in his arms, bring the light of day in its flying brilliance yet embrace memories of our past heroes! I will miss his insight, his love of life, seeing the special love he held for his wife Flora and son Steve. May he rest in peace!

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Oscar Ramirez - May 16 at 04:19 PM

TS

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



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Theresa Sanchez - May 11 at 10:12 PM

GS

“ Gilfred Salas lit a candle in memory of  
Ruperto Garcia Baldonado



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**Gilfred Salas** - May 11 at 09:57 AM

MB

“ *Ruperto will be Greatly Missed, Ruperto and Flora were always at all of our family events without fail. Ruperto always talked about how much he loved and respected my Daddy and Mom: Raynaldo and Josie Baldonado and NOW they are all in Heaven talking up a storm and partying I'm sure. We are so very Sorry for your loss..... With all our Love Celsa Baldonado and Irene Sanchez*



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**Mary Celsa Baldonado** - May 07 at 04:07 PM

PP

“ *Preme And Lorraine Padilla lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado*



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**Preme and Lorraine Padilla** - May 05 at 02:18 PM

CE

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



Charles Eaton - May 04 at 01:45 PM

YM

“ Sending my Thoughts and Prayers to The  
Baldonado Family.  
Ruperto, thank you for welcoming my Uncle  
Johnny into your home and teaching him  
some of our Family's history. He enjoyed  
visiting you and Flora whenever he could. I know he will miss you.  
May God Bless You and May You Rest in Peace.



Yvette Martinez - May 03 at 10:36 PM

RS

“Lit a candle In Memory of Ruperto Garcia  
Baldonado.” 🦋🇺🇸🦋

Sincerely,  
Ruby Salas & Family



Ruby Salas - May 03 at 08:57 PM

JT

“ James Tabet lit a candle in memory of  
Ruperto Garcia Baldonado



James Tabet - May 03 at 05:25 PM

WT

“ *W Toft lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado*



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**W Toft** - May 02 at 08:21 PM

TM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. May God Bring the family peace at this time. God Bless 🙏.*



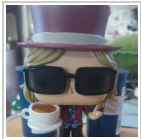
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**Threasa M Maestas** - May 02 at 08:05 PM

DC

“ *Our thoughts and prayers to the Baldonado family. Heaven just gained another angel. RIP Donald & Catherine*

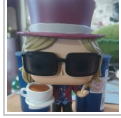


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**Donald and Catherine** - May 02 at 05:11 PM



“ *Repertoire has been a neighbor of mine for 30+ years. When I was first introduced to him, I was told he was a barber. I screamed! I had long hair and told him I wouldn't be visiting him at work, anytime soon. Years later when I decided to cut it all off, I asked Ruperto to do the honors. He gladly cut it, and many more times after that! He will be greatly missed.*

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**Wayne McElroy** - May 02 at 10:41 AM



*Ruperto*

Wayne McElroy - May 02 at 10:43 AM

Jason Hidalgo

“ Growing up, he was my dad's and all 3 of us brother's first Barber with my dad, and I remember dad taking us there one time and he shaving. All 3 of us, boys bald, and my dad And Roberto just spoke Spanish and laughed.

*You will be very missed, wishes.Go out to your family*

Jason Hidalgo - May 02 at 09:15 AM

GS

“ Gilbert & Clara Serafin lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado



Gilbert & Clara Serafin - May 02 at 08:53 AM

KG

“ I have fond memories of him and he was my dad's favorite barber. He was a great man and will be dearly missed.

Kenneth Goodson - May 02 at 01:37 AM

MB

“ Martin And Antoinette Baca lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado



Martin and Antoinette Baca - May 02 at 12:19 AM

BC

“ *Bernie & Jean Chavez lit a candle in memory of Ruperto Garcia Baldonado*



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**Bernie & Jean Chavez** - May 01 at 09:36 PM

SB

“ *Bill and Susie Breckenridge  
Sorry for your loss*



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**Susie Breckenridge** - May 01 at 04:46 PM

AC

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



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**Albert Chavez** - May 01 at 02:56 PM

MC

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



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**Max y Rosemarie Cordova** - May 01 at 01:14 PM

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 - April 30 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 - April 30 at 09:20 PM

RV

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



Richard and Dolores Vigil - April 30 at 09:13 PM

MB

“ My deepest condolences to the Baldonado Family!

Mona lisa Bustamante



Mona Lisa Bustamante - April 30 at 08:44 PM

ST

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



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Steve&MagdalenSanchez&family - April 30 at 06:18 PM

TS

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



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Theresa Sanchez - April 30 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.

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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.*

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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



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**Gary Montoya** - April 29 at 05:15 PM

TI

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



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**TinaJaramillo&Family** - April 29 at 03:05 PM

TI

“ My Deepest Condolences

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**TinaJaramillo&Family** - April 29 at 03:03 PM

BC

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



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**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!*



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**June Salazar** - April 29 at 12:28 PM

AS

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



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**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!*

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**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



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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.



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Kathy Baldonado Carrillo - April 28 at 04:26 PM