



## Stepney Cortez Kibble

March 18, 1925 - March 23, 2016

1925-2016

Stepney Cortez Kibble, age 91, a resident of Rio Communities, Belen, since September 1980, passed away peacefully at home, of natural causes, on March 23, 2016, surrounded by family. Cortez was born in Trenton, NJ on March 18, 1925. His life was characterized by steadfast service to family, church, country and community. His 30 years of government service included military tours with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, and the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He commenced a 26-year diplomatic career with the U.S. State Department in 1954, promoting cultural exchange in locations throughout the world, including India, Iraq, Pakistan, Argentina, Liberia, Guyana, Surinam and Washington, DC. His life was rich with far flung adventures that included encounters with many historic figures and events. But his greatest adventure commenced during his first diplomatic posting to India, where he encountered a force of nature named Mabel, who was working as a member of the local staff. They were married in Madras, India in 1956, and enjoyed 49 years together until she passed away in 2005. After serving his country for 30 years, Cortez continued serving his local community for over 30 more. Following retirement to Belen, he worked as a public affairs officer with the First National Bank of Belen. He volunteered in numerous church and civic endeavors, including the Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque, the Valley Improvement Association, the Chamber of Commerce

and the Optimist Club. He graduated from Howard University in Washington, DC, with a bachelor's degree cum laude in Government. He completed postgraduate studies in international relations at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute and the National War College. Cortez was preceded in death by his wife, Mabel; his brother, Frank; and his parents, Stepney and Carolyn Kibble. He is survived by his son, Kumar; daughter-in-law, Laura; grandchildren, Savanna, Samantha and Christian; as well as his nephew, Frank Kibble, Jr. The Kibble family extends special thanks to Cortez's caregivers of six years, Maria and Enrique Aramburu. Cortez regarded them as family, and the feeling was mutual. A funeral service will be held at the Cathedral Church of St. John, 318 Silver Avenue SW, Albuquerque, NM at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of Cortez to the Outreach Program, The Cathedral Church of St. John, 318 Silver Avenue SW, P.O. Box 1246, Albuquerque, NM 87103. Please sign Cortez's online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhomenm.com](http://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com) Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St. Belen, NM.

# Tribute Wall

GC

“ George Cree lit a candle in memory of Stepney Cortez Kibble



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George Cree - July 12, 2022 at 11:05 PM

MU

“ Holding Cortez in the light. What a remarkable life!

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Mark Ungemach - September 27, 2016 at 11:29 AM

DV

“ Hello All, I wanted to take a minute to say how much I appreciated Mr & Mrs Kibble for the years we spent together. I was introduced to the Kibble's via the Salazar family, particularly Juan Diego. They were incredible people and I was blessed to have been taken under their wing. Sending thoughts and prayers! Danny Varela, Martin and Cora Varela

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Danny Varela - April 08, 2016 at 10:39 AM

PM

“Cortez did indeed steadfastly serve his family, church, country and community. We are fortunate to have been part of that community. He and Mabel became very important role models in our lives from the moment she began teaching piano to our son Nathaniel when he was six years old. Our "prince," as Mabel used to call him, will be 24 and is finishing his training as a United Express pilot after having graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. It was Mr. Kibble who encourage us to go that route, regardless of the cost of the investment. He would often tell me that my teaching style (strict, yet accommodating) reminded him of that of his mother. He loved her so, and we loved him. As we are unable to attend his service today, we will say a prayer in his honor at our nation's capital, which seems very fitting.

*James, Peggy, and  
Nathaniel McLoughlin*

*We were blessed to have enjoyed listening to Mr. Kibble's many diplomatic adventures over holiday meals throughout the years.*

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**peggy mcloughlin** - March 30, 2016 at 11:36 AM

RS

“We send our sympathy to the entire family of Cortez. He was a genuine gentleman always very willing to help in any community project. Truly a sincere man and very knowledgeable in many areas. A friend to many.

*Rudy and Margaret Sachs*

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**Rudy Sachs** - March 29, 2016 at 03:08 PM

JA

“Kumar, your parents were wonderful people. I wish I could be with you on Wednesday. I teach one day a week and, unfortunately, that day is Wednesday this semester. I remember your dad as always being welcoming, kind and interesting.  
Love, Judy Andrews

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**Judy Andrews** - March 28, 2016 at 03:13 PM

MK

“Cortez will be greatly missed. He was a good friend of mine and my late husband. His family is in my prayers and thoughts in their loss of a wonderful father and grandfather.  
Mary Kay Schmink

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**Mary Kay** - March 28, 2016 at 10:44 AM

AL

“What a pleasure it was, for over twenty years, to work with Cortez on the Small Business Advisory Board and to have him share his insights on local economic development and world affairs. Cortez believed in the transforming power of education and was a great supporter of the Valencia Campus. I will miss him both as a great friend and as a powerful community leader. Alice Letteney

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**Alice Letteney** - March 27, 2016 at 07:46 AM

BG

Cortez was a wonderful friend and neighbor, I will miss him. Betty Gutierrez

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**Betty Gutierrez** - March 28, 2016 at 11:08 PM

DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Stepney Cortez Kibble*



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**Dicky and Suzanne Romero** - March 26, 2016 at 12:43 PM