



## Steven M. Rayner

December 27, 1970 - June 22, 2016

1970-2016

Steven Mark Rayner, age 45, of Belen, New Mexico, passed away on Wednesday, June 22, 2016. He was gifted with many talents. He was an elite basketball player, in fact a State Champion with Frank Castillo's La Cueva Bears in high school. Steven was talented in almost everything he did: snow skiing, water skiing, softball, calligraphy, carpentry, welding, and music. Steven was such a source of pride in all his achievement. He was a kind and gentle soul to all he met.

Steven's life became a very personal struggle that led him to the very darkest side of our society but he never lost his kindness and humility. He fought his struggles with the help of the caring people of The Good Shepard and Cenikor but especially the unending support of his beloved mother, aunties, and his faith in God. Steven's struggle on this Earth is over but he is reunited in death with his loving grandparents, Abelino and Josephine Gabaldon. He is survived by the loves of his life his daughters, Lauren and Jacqueline; his mother, Dolores Gabaldon (Sam Espinosa); father, Kerry Rayner (Phaedra); brother, Kristopher Rayner; and grandfather, Ralph Rayner. Steven is also survived by his Torres Family: Martha, Michael, Rachel, Alesha, Carolyn, Keita, and Michael. Steven also leaves many loving aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. All services will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2016, at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. A Visitation will begin at 8:30 a.m., with a Rosary to be recited at 9:30 a.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Interment

will follow at Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens. Pallbearers are Gerard Giron, Vincent Giron, Barbara Michael, and Justine Griego. Honorary Pallbearers will be Tim Stevens and Shawn Ammons. Please sign Steven's online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhomenm.com](http://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com) 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

## Public Visitation

JUN 30. 8:30 AM (MT)

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

## Rosary

JUN 30. 9:30 AM (MT)

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

## Funeral Mass

JUN 30. 10:00 AM (MT)

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



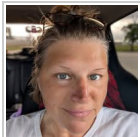
# Tribute Wall

Nicole  
Boozer

“ I went through Cenikor with Steve in Ft. Worth then when I became an intern he followed me to Baton Rouge. So, I got to know him pretty well. I know that he loved his family and always spoke highly of his daughters. His heart was so huge and all that he desired was to be close to his girls. My condolences to his family and friends.



Nicole Boozer - August 22, 2016 at 02:42 PM



“ I worked with Steven at Turner in Pasadena, TX. I am awestruck at this news. Steven Rayner is my friend. My heart breaks. My heart also goes out to his family...he talked sooo much about his Mom and 2 daughters! He would talk about their recent visit and show me pictures! I could see clearly how much he loved his family and how he longed to see them!...I send my love ❤️ -until we meet again...

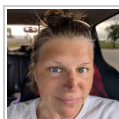
Crystal Crate Delacruz - July 05, 2016 at 01:05 AM

RT

“ Steven and Michael---Beautiful smile Steve :-)



Raymond Torres - July 02, 2016 at 11:10 AM



Precious

Crystal Crate Delacruz - July 05, 2016 at 12:40 AM

DM

“ *Darlene Montoya lit a candle in memory of Steven M. Rayner*



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**darlene montoya** - July 01, 2016 at 09:02 AM

DM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Love, Darlene Montoya*

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**darlene montoya** - July 01, 2016 at 09:00 AM



Edward  
Drangmeister

“ *Condolences to the family..he will be missed. Too many memories to list, but will miss getting into trouble with my man and our epic TP adventures. Love you brother! Drag*

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**Edward Drangmeister** - June 30, 2016 at 02:02 PM

SS

“ *Steven was a talented and gifted man. I remember going to see him play b-ball for La Cueva. My prayers are with the entire family. Dolores, The Lord will hold your hand and guide you. Russ and I spent many happy times with the family,times that will never be forgotten.*

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**Shirley Sturtzman** - June 30, 2016 at 11:53 AM

CS

“ Colette S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Steven M. Rayner.



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**Colette S.** - June 30, 2016 at 10:50 AM

CS

“ Dolores, Rick and I are so sorry to hear about Steven. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family. Steven was a great son! He was talented and had many accomplishments which will forever be in your heart. Know that you are in our prayers. Love, Rick and Colette Schneider, Kristee Maleski and Brindi Ekdall

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**Colette Schneider** - June 30, 2016 at 09:35 AM

BJ

“ Dodo,

*I just heard about your loss. I am sorry to hear, my thoughts & prayers are with you & the family. God Bless you & your family during this difficult time & always.*

*Beatrice Jojola  
(Uncle Fermin's daughter)*



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**Beatrice Jojola** - June 30, 2016 at 08:59 AM

AS

“ ALFRED&LINDA

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**Alfred&Linda Sanchez** - June 29, 2016 at 10:22 PM

AS

“ Alfred&Linda Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Steven M. Rayner



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Alfred&Linda Sanchez - June 29, 2016 at 10:21 PM

AS

“ God knows when it's our TIME to Shine an it definitely was Stevens ! Our Love Goes Out to the Familia

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Alfred&Linda Sanchez - June 29, 2016 at 10:16 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Steven M. Rayner.



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June 29, 2016 at 06:57 PM

TS

“ Coach calls the first ever basketball meeting at LaCueva...I'm nervous, and awkward, and scared; the 'cool kid' in the middle of the entire pack befriends me...Steve Rayner wants to hang out with me? Yes, and we were good buddies ever since. A year at LCHS, high school summers, our year playing college ball, and our now famous (Infamous? Rebellious? Stupid? Laughter-filled!) exploits sharing a tiny, one bedroom apartment, behind Mom's house on Schulte. Over the years, even without talking regularly, we never missed a beat when we did reconnect. I'm so bummed that you had such a tragic battle with an unfair life opponent, but in my heart, you'll always be a champion!

*I used to call Steve 'Pistol' because during the 1989 State Championship game, the tv announcer (yes, we watched it several times!!!) shouted to the tv audience, "Rayner's hotter than a pistol!" (He rattled off 15 straight points, or something like that, in a few minutes...it was unreal!) He didn't much care for the moniker as he was actually pretty humble, in spite of his immense gifts. Steve loved people, and we all loved him.*

*Please dont think about the person that struggled with his addiction. Remember #20, my friend/roommate/cool cat, as he was in those special moments--a brilliant, beaming light!*

*You now, at long last, have PEACE my friend. GOD SPEED.*

*Thank you again for taking the goofy, unathletic kid under your wing...you gave me the gumption to believe in myself, and that was an amazing, life-changing gift. I'm forever grateful!*

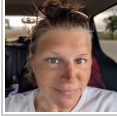
*I love you, bro. Then, now and always.*

*-Tim*





Tim Stevens - June 29, 2016 at 06:19 PM



<3...

Crystal Crate Delacruz - July 05, 2016 at 12:31 AM

SS

“ Shannon Leavitt Sauder purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Steven M. Rayner.



Shannon Leavitt Sauder - June 29, 2016 at 04:27 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Steven M. Rayner.



June 29, 2016 at 04:15 PM

DM

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and papers are with you and your family.

Love, Darlene Montoya

Darlene Montoya - June 29, 2016 at 03:19 PM

AC

“ Dodo,  
My prayers are with you and your family. Keep the memories with  
you always in your heart.  
Alice Cordova-Robinson (Eusebio and Anita Cordova's daughter)

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**Alice Cordova-Robinson** - June 29, 2016 at 02:03 PM

EC

“ Dodo, we are sorry for your loss and that we won't be able to attend  
services but we'll be praying for you and your family....  
Eusebio and Anita Cordova

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**Eusebio and Anita Cordova** - June 29, 2016 at 12:52 PM

VM

“ Vina Mendoza lit a candle in memory of  
Steven M. Rayner



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**Vina Mendoza** - June 29, 2016 at 12:28 PM

VM

Dolores, so sorry for your loss, you are in my thoughts and prayers.  
God Bless You and Your Family.

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**Vina Mendoza** - June 29, 2016 at 12:36 PM

ES

“ Dolores,  
We are sorry for your loss. Our condolences  
to you and your family. Your in our thoughts  
and prayers.  
Elaine, Johnny, and Jayde



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**Elaine Searles** - June 29, 2016 at 11:53 AM

DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Steven M. Rayner*



**Dicky and Suzanne Romero** - June 29, 2016 at 10:31 AM

JT

“ *John And Donna Thompson lit a candle in memory of Steven M. Rayner*



**John and Donna Thompson** - June 29, 2016 at 12:11 AM

JT

*John and Donnita*

**John and Donnita Thompson** - June 29, 2016 at 12:13 AM

EU

“ *I ask and pray that God receives Steven Rayner into His Heaven. Steven and I shared many years creating positive life choices. He was a man that wanted the best for others and gave his best to making this possible. He truly loved his mother, daughters and aunt with all his heart. May God bless them with mercy and grace during this time of loss. In all, he is my brother in recovery and will forever remain a Cenikor Graduate for life. Rest in Peace my brother and we will meet on the other side!*  
*To God Be the Glory!*

**Eugene** - June 28, 2016 at 09:46 PM

RT

“ Steven playing with his auntie Margaret at his Grandpa Torres' house-only six month difference in age. Beautiful boy.



Raymond Torres - June 28, 2016 at 09:44 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven M. Rayner.



June 28, 2016 at 05:55 PM

PA

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Peter Armstrong - June 28, 2016 at 05:38 PM

William Pruet

“ Steven was such a great person, that suffered from such a horrible addiction. I myself was in that position only a few years back, and he helped me every single day that I was in treatment. Steve taught me things that my father didnt, he taught me how to do the things that I make my living off of now, and more importantly he taught me how to be a man. I hope that you had the time you wanted with your girls and mom that you so longed for. I love you, buddy. May you find peace now.

William Pruet - June 28, 2016 at 04:27 PM

MF

“ Mike Torres and Family purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of Steven M. Rayner.



Mike Torres and Family - June 28, 2016 at 03:59 PM

LF

“ Love from NorthPointe /Homestead-U Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Steven M. Rayner.



Love from NorthPointe /Homestead-U Family - June 28, 2016 at 03:59 PM

NC

“ Your passing breaks my heart! I am so tired of this disease taking such amazing people like you, Steven! You were a big brother to all us ladies at Cenikor and I know you touched the hearts of every single one of us because of your kindness each and everyday. You will be missed by so many but I find comfort knowing your suffering is over. Heaven gained but here on earth, we lost! Rest in peace my friend. I know you are gone but never forgotten!!!

*David & Nicole Cappel  
Friends from Cenikor Baton Rouge*

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**Nicole Cappel** - June 28, 2016 at 02:57 PM

JA

“ Way back when 1990's ❤️



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**Jessica Aragon** - June 28, 2016 at 02:50 PM

JA

“ Always good times! Rest in peace Steve ❤️



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**Jessica Aragon** - June 28, 2016 at 02:47 PM

WS

“ Steve helped us survive opening La Cueva High School. Not just his amazing shooting in the 1989 state championship but, his goofy day to day happiness! He could always make you smile even when you didn't want to. He was an amazing athlete and could run a mile in 5 minutes without even training for it. When I think about basketball at La Cueva I never remember any of the scores. Going to practice with "Reindeer" for 3 years was something I won't forget. I know his teammates won't! It was that much fun.

Wayne Smith

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Wayne Smith - June 28, 2016 at 02:44 PM



“ Thank you for all of the friendship and support mi amigo. Having someone around from home helped me through money times in Fort Worth and Baton Rouge. I am so glad that you had the time with your beautiful girls. You are a good guy even when you and I were like fighting siblings. I wish I could make it to your service but I don't think I can. God bless you and your family. No more pain, no more sorrow.

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Jan Painter - June 28, 2016 at 02:23 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear about Steve. We've always called him Rayner. May our precious Lord keep the family strong. We will see him again. . .

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Cyndi Ortega - June 28, 2016 at 12:48 PM

JS

“ I love you Steven and Dodo. The world has suffered a loss but Steven has gained peace and all the love he so deserved and desired while with us.

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**Julie Steele** - June 28, 2016 at 12:02 PM

VC

“ Vivian Campbell lit a candle in memory of Steven M. Rayner



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**Vivian Campbell** - June 28, 2016 at 09:03 AM

BC

“ Ms. Gabaldon, Lauren, Jacqueline & family,

*Our deepest condolences go out to you.*

*May you find peace in now knowing at all times of the day and night Steve is at eternal rest. Your lives are without a doubt forever changed. A piece of your heart and soul always missing, but all of you, mostly Steve have a new found peace.*

*So sorry for your loss,  
Bernice Montoya & Estevan Chavez*



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**Bernice Montoya y Chavez** - June 27, 2016 at 11:31 PM

PC

*Steven stooped to see me on his way home. I was so happy to visit with him. He was so proud of his girls and the way he spoke of his mom just made me happy. He loved y'all so much and wanted to make you proud! Love and prayers to you all!*

*Patti Zamora Cooke* ❤️

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**patti Zamora Cooke** - June 28, 2016 at 12:03 AM

CS

“ *Please accept my sincere condolences in the passing of Steve. Although it had been nearly 20 years since I'd last seen him, my memories of him from my youth are fond ones. He was a charismatic person and many gravitated to his positive energy.*

*Carolyn Serafin-Abeyta*

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**Carolyn Serafin-Abeyta** - June 27, 2016 at 09:52 PM



“ *Steve was an amazing young man that I met when he and my son, Tim Stevens played basketball at La Cueva. I got to know him well because he and Tim spent great time together and even went to NMMI to play basketball. I got to know his heart, his kindness and his 'carino'. I am so saddened that he has left us as such a young age, but I know that he is finally at peace. He was certainly a gifted man and I will miss his beautiful smile. Con amor Steve.*

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**Carmen Armijo** - June 27, 2016 at 09:43 PM

GS

“ *My sincerest condolences to the family of Steve...May God give you all the strength to cope with your loss.*

*Mike, my thoughts and prayers are with you...*

*Sincerely,*

*Gilbert Serafin*

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**Gilbert Serafin** - June 27, 2016 at 09:17 PM

EU

*May God bless and comfort my good friend Steve's extended family members!! I pray that you will embrace Dolores,Loren,and Jackie with faith that your plan for Steve is bigger than we understand right now! May Steve's spirit remain and continue to watch over you from our fathers kingdom!! Let all who's life Steven touched support the families and close friends through their time of mourning! Farewell my friend,you will be missed!!*

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**Eric Ulivarri** - June 28, 2016 at 03:06 AM

LV

*Steve was a kind soul. It breaks my heart that he left this earth to soon, but it also gives me comfort that his suffering is over. I have many happy memories of him and my cousin Danny Sedillo that will bring a smile to my face and a warm feeling in my heart that I will treasure forever! May God bless Mrs. Gabaldon and family during this time and give you comfort.*

*Sincerely,*

*Lea Vera*

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**Lea R. Vera** - June 28, 2016 at 02:05 PM

PA

*Best wishes, prayers and blessings upon the many friends and family of Steve. I will remember Steve as a fun-loving teammate and friend from our time at La Cueva High School. Steve was a truly amazing basketball player and athlete. He was focused, talented and a great competitor. He was also a great friend off the court. Rest in peace, Steve*

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**Peter Armstrong** - June 28, 2016 at 05:26 PM

GA

*Dodo*

*My prayers and thoughts are with you and Stevens daughters this morning. In memory and in celebration of someone who made your world a brighter and better place. I was unable to make it for services but I will go visit when I'm in Los Chavez. May God Bless You and wrap his arms around you and yours during this most difficult time. RIP Steven!*

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**Geraldine Aguirre** - June 30, 2016 at 08:25 AM

SB

*Your pain and sorrow are shared by friends and family. May you find comfort in knowing so many care. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Dolores and family. Rest in peace Steven. Love,  
The Beltran Family*

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**Sal & Frances Beltran** - June 30, 2016 at 07:18 PM