



## Tony Garcia Baca

August 19, 1928 - December 5, 2023

1928 – 2023

Tony G Baca peacefully passed away at the age of 95 at his home in Belen surrounded by his wife and children on December 5, 2023. Services will take place on Friday, December 15, 2023, at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, beginning with a Public Viewing at 8:30 a.m., Rosary at 9:30 a.m. and Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. interment will follow at Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens. He is survived by his wife Sofie Baca who he was married to for 71 years and 11 children and their spouses, Cathy McCartney-Sachs (Greg Sachs), Louise Britton, Tiana Kaula, Arlene Gabaldon (Pete Gabaldon), Anthony Baca (Thiel Baca), Peter Baca (Teresa Baca), Sandra Baca, Raymond Baca (Michelle Baca), Audra D’Arcangeli, Melissa Reeves, Paulette Asplund (Mark Asplund), 25 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren and 5 great great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Margie Romero and his brother Eddie Baca, numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins. He is preceded in death by his daughter Rachael Kerby, his parents Tranquilino and Monica Baca, his brother Benny Baca, his sisters Eloisa Stephens and Elisa Montoya. Tony grew up in Casa Colorada and armed only with an 8th grade education enlisted in the United States Army at age 17 in 1946. He served in the Army until 1951 where he received the Overseas Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, the Army of Occupation Medal-Germany, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Army Good Conduct Medal. Before he left for the Army, he told his mom “I’m going to marry her!” “Her” in this instance was Sofie Trujillo, a young lady who lived nearby. After his service, he returned to Casa Colorada and married Sofie Trujillo on October 18, 1952. Tony and Sofie had a family of 12 children. Tony had always loved music and shortly after the first children were born, he decided to teach himself how to play music. He taught himself how to play drums, piano, guitar, trumpet, saxophone, bass guitar, and the clarinet. He also taught his children to play and dance and formed The Baca Family Band - Valencia County’s version of “The Partridge Family.” While he was teaching music to the kids, Sofie was busy sewing the costumes for their various performances. The “Baca Family Band” sang and played at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church services, performed at orphanages, hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, fiestas, and the NM State Fair as well as other events around the state. Tony and Sofie believed in

teaching their kids as many things as possible and that's where some learned to sew, ride horses, swim, weld, tend fields, and drive tractors. Tony really wanted them to know how to swim and so he built a 12-foot-deep pool so they could learn to swim and also to learn how to dive. The pool also became a popular hang out with many of their friends as well as extended family. Tony and Sofie's main emphasis were about learning and they really kept an eye on their kids' grades and how they were doing in school. Their parents taught them that life is a learning experience and that you should never stop learning. Tony always believed in being busy and that everyone should keep on learning whatever it is they like. Tony was always interested in helping anyone and continued to teach music and dancing into his 90's. He taught music and dancing and played regularly at the community center until his mid 80's and was always willing to lend an ear to anyone who wanted to talk, especially about music. Tony was well loved and will be sorely missed.

The family would like to thank the caregivers from Interim Health and from Bosque Trails but especially to Samantha Brown who was indispensable in providing loving care for Tony's last days. Also, to Dr. Garcia and the helpful staff at the VA hospital for being there when we needed them. A great big thank you to dad's 24/7 caregiving crew, Louise, Arlene, Sandra, Raymond, Missy, Paulette, Marshall, Petie, and Raegan, thanks also to the caregiving crew spouse's Pete, Michelle, and Mark; and to Tiana who provided 24-hour care for his last week. Special thanks to Sandra for managing the care for dad amongst the family and for being there for them to lean on for the last 38 years. And most importantly, thank you to his loving wife for being at his side through thick and thin. Please sign Tony's online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhomenm.com](http://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com) Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, NM.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **15.** 8:30 AM (MT)

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

## Rosary

DEC **15.** 9:30 AM (MT)

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

## Funeral Mass

DEC **15.** 10:00 AM (MT)

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

## Interment

DEC **15.** 11:00 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Belen Memorial Gardens  
101 N. 10th Street  
Belen, NM 87002

# Tribute Wall

CR

“ Cynthia Romero lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca



Cynthia Romero - January 01, 2024 at 10:19 PM

RC

“ Rest In Peace Uncle Tony, Rick Chavez (Cynthia)

Rick Chavez - December 28, 2023 at 06:22 AM

LU

“ Many blessings and much love to your family in your loss and always. Luanne, Melinda, Jaclyn and Brent Templeton and families

Luanne - December 27, 2023 at 10:21 AM

BC

“ Beverly Castillo lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca



Beverly Castillo - December 21, 2023 at 09:05 AM

MT

“ I am so very sorry to hear of your dad's passing. My deepest condolences and prayers goes out to the BACA family. God bless you all.  
Love and Hugs Marcia Torres and Ninfa Torres



Marcia Torres - December 19, 2023 at 06:39 PM

KD

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. God bless you all 🙏

Kathy Dorcas - December 15, 2023 at 12:15 PM

CC

“ Tony and his band played at my wedding in 1988. He always wanted to tap dance with me. Great memories going to Belen and spend the day with the family and going to many of the Baca Family performances. Prayers and love to all of you.  
Love  
Cheryl Otero Cardona

Cheryl Otero Cardona - December 14, 2023 at 10:45 PM

LG

“ We will always cherish and hold dear to our hearts the amazing and beautiful Baca family since our early days attending St. Marys School together. This family is so special for the immense love they have for one another and this Community. We will always remember Tony for his giving spirit in every endeavor of his life! Many Blessings to the entire family always and forever! Anthony and Lorraine Sachs Garcia

Lorraine Sachs Garcia - December 14, 2023 at 09:35 PM

EA

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Baca. He was one of our best customers at Stamps Music and Aragon Music. May he Rest in peace til we meet again.



Elaine Aragon - December 12, 2023 at 10:35 PM

AM

“ I never met this man but felt compelled to write a note here. I am so sorry for your loss. I was reading the paper today and by luck started to turn the page when I saw this mans face. I decided to read the article I started to tear up. What an amazing man he was! I wish I knew him!! He touched so many lives! WHAT A LEGACY HE HAS LEFT BEHIND!!! God bless you all and may his soul rest in peace for he surly deserves it.



Andy Meyer - December 12, 2023 at 01:21 PM

SB

Thank you Andy for that great comment I'm glad you enjoyed it. Our dad was truly the best, he will be greatly missed. 😞

sandra baca - December 16, 2023 at 03:31 PM

DS

“ I'm so sorry Cathy, my friend from St. Mary's. I was always in awe of your family with all your many talents. Here's hoping that you're comforted by your dad's long and accomplished life.

David Sanchez - December 12, 2023 at 11:07 AM

KS

“ Krystyne M Sweeney lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca



krystyne m sweeney - December 12, 2023 at 09:22 AM

AR

“ April & Bill Russell lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca



April & Bill Russell - December 11, 2023 at 10:52 PM

CB

“ My sincere condolences to all of the Baca family. Tony was a dear friend of mine. He was so talented patient and had a great sense of humor. He taught my son how to play the piano in Spanish and in English. He was a great dancer. God rest his Soul in heaven.

Connie Boyd - December 11, 2023 at 11:34 AM

BP

“ Brenda Penner lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca



Brenda Penner - December 10, 2023 at 10:49 PM

JL

“ June Anne Salazar De Landavazo lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca



June Anne Salazar de Landavazo - December 10, 2023 at 12:40 PM

RS

“Lit a candle In Memory of Tony Garcia Baca.” 🦋

Sofie & Baca Family, 🌸

My most sincere condolences on your Loss. Sending blessings & prayers to all of Tony's Family. Tony will be greatly missed by all who knew him. 🌹

Sincerely,  
Ruby Salas 🌸



Ruby Salas - December 10, 2023 at 12:26 PM

SG

“ My suegro my friend I will never forget my memories of you you always said to be smarter than what you're working for meaning you can do anything you want if you apply yourself my friend

Sachs Greg - December 09, 2023 at 10:02 PM

RO

“ Deepest condolences to the whole family



Ron & Debbie Ortega - December 09, 2023 at 04:38 PM

KJ

“ Our deepest condolences to Tony’s entire family and all his friends. His smile was contagious and his love for life and family was evident with every interaction I was fortunate enough to have with him. Praying for comfort and peace for all.

Kim & Jeremy Johnson

(Ernie Romero’s youngest daughter, Margie Romero’s granddaughter 💜)



Kim Johnson - December 09, 2023 at 02:08 PM

DS

“ Condolences to the Family. A special Family for sure.

Danny and Loretta Sachs - December 09, 2023 at 11:17 AM

KG

“ My sincere condolences to the Baca family. Your Dad was one of a kind, he always had a smile and was always ready with a quick and witty response. Before you guys were born I was his first experiment, he and his brother Eddie would take me and let me ride and feed the calves. They had a good time having me around. He and Sofie were so good to my Mom and Dad. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Kenny Griego - December 09, 2023 at 07:09 AM

TK

Thank you for that beautiful memory!!

Tiana Kaula - December 10, 2023 at 01:54 AM

SB

That is so cute Kenny!!!!

sandra baca - December 12, 2023 at 09:39 PM

AL

“ Armon Luna lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca



Armon Luna - December 08, 2023 at 10:42 PM

EH

“ *Eva Hogue lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca*



**Eva Hogue** - December 08, 2023 at 09:34 PM

EH

*My Deepest Condolences to Sofie, Sandra and the Baca Family. Primo May You Rest in Peace*

**Eva Hogue** - December 08, 2023 at 09:36 PM

RS

“ *I will miss my Uncle Tony. He was such an influence on my life. The most kind beautiful soul. A family man who loved his family so much and influenced all lives with his laughter and kindness. His influence on me, musically, can still be felt today. Thank you so much for being so kind to all of us.*

**robert stephens** - December 08, 2023 at 05:55 PM

SB

*You are so awesome Robert...he loved herring from you and loved your music.❤️*

**sandra baca** - December 08, 2023 at 08:21 PM

BR

“ *Barbara Rodriguez lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca*



**Barbara Rodriguez** - December 08, 2023 at 05:43 PM

BR

“ *My deepest sympathy for your loss. What a treasure of good memories you will have to console such a wonderful family. God bless you all.*

**Barbara Rodriguez** - December 08, 2023 at 05:43 PM

DR

“ *To the family of Paulette, 'Peanut' Baca, May God comfort you with loving memories of your loved one, Tony Baca. Rest in Peace Mr Baca.*

**Dora Rodriguez** - December 08, 2023 at 04:29 PM

AG

“ *Andrea Garcia lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca*



Andrea Garcia - December 08, 2023 at 02:33 PM

RG

“ *To the Baca Family,  
So sorry for your loss.. Mr. Baca taught me how to play the piano. He was such a great and caring person.. He will be greatly missed.. Prayers to all the family*

*Rosella Gonzales*

Rosella Gonzales - December 08, 2023 at 10:40 AM

AS

“ *Adela Sanchez lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca*



Adela Sanchez - December 08, 2023 at 09:52 AM

RC

“ *Uncle Tony was a good man! Rest in peace. Rick (Cynthia) Chavez*

Rick (Cynthia) Chavez - December 08, 2023 at 07:56 AM

GG

“ *I wish the beautiful Sofie and her family peace and acceptance. Thank you, Tony, for all you have done for this community. You leave a legacy of love and joy.*

Gilbert Garcia - December 08, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Dolores & Joe McDuffie lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca*



Dolores & Joe McDuffie - December 07, 2023 at 11:38 PM

MJ

“ *Marty & Beatrice Jojola lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca*



**Marty & Beatrice Jojola** - December 07, 2023 at 09:59 PM

DP

“ *Darlene Peña lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca*



**Darlene Peña** - December 07, 2023 at 08:39 PM

DU

“ *Diana Phillips Ulibarri lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca*



**Diana Phillips Ulibarri** - December 07, 2023 at 07:27 PM

RV

“ *Richard Vigil And Dolores Vigil lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca*



**Richard Vigil and Dolores Vigil** - December 07, 2023 at 06:19 PM

BF

“ *Sandra and Family, We are sorry for the loss of you Dad, May god watch over all of you and help you find peace, I watch all you guys love and care for your dad and mom all these years and saw all the love you all have for them both, What a wonderful life he had because of all of you.*



**Bertha M Flores** - December 07, 2023 at 06:06 PM

DF

“ *Davrie Flores lit a candle in memory of Tony Garcia Baca*



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**Davrie Flores** - December 07, 2023 at 06:05 PM

PT

*Sofiie and family. Sorry about your love one May he rest in peace.*

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**Peter and Gloria Torres** - December 10, 2023 at 02:45 PM