



Gov. David F. Cargo

January 13, 1929 - July 5, 2013

GOVERNOR DAVID F. CARGO

1929-2013

David F. Cargo of Albuquerque, NM passed away at age 84 on Friday, July 5, 2013. He was born in Dowagiac, Michigan, the eldest of three children born to Francis and Mary (Harton) Cargo. He earned his Bachelor's degree, Master of Public Administration and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan. He served two years in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and moved to New Mexico to practice law in 1957. He served as a member of the New Mexico House of Representatives from 1963 to 1966 before being elected as the state's youngest Governor at age 37 and served two terms between 1967-1971. As governor, Cargo "Lonesome Dave," started the first state film commission in the United States which has brought millions of dollars in revenue to the state of New Mexico. Cargo established ties to Hollywood and was even asked to appear in several films. In 1969, he made a cameo appearance in a Western "The Good Guys and the Bad Guys," and in 1971 appeared in "Bunny O'Hare" with Bette Davis and Ernest Borgnine. Cargo counted as accomplishments his creation of a Human Rights Commission and many libraries throughout the State of New Mexico. Survivors include five children, Veronica, David, Patrick, Elena and Eamon; as well as his five grandchildren, Kevin, Jordan Patrick, Reese, Maddie, and Kieran. He is also survived by his brother, Gerald Cargo, and wife, Barbara, of Syracuse, NY. He was preceded in death by his former wife, Ida Jo Anaya,

and brother, John Cargo.

Governor Cargo will lie in state in the Rotunda of the New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe on Thursday, July 11, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. A Memorial Service will follow in the Rotunda at 4:00 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, July 12, 2013, 10:00 a.m., at Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, 131 Cathedral Pl., Santa Fe. He will be laid to rest in Santa Fe National Cemetery following Mass. Memorial contributions may be made to the New Mexico Library Foundation, P.O. Box 30572, Albuquerque, NM 87109-0572 or "Friends of" your local library.

For those who wish, flowers need to be delivered to:

FRENCH - Wyoming

7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE

(505) 823-9400

Cemetery Details

Santa Fe National Cemetery

Santa Fe, NM

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL **12.** 10:00 AM (MT)

Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi
131 Cathedral Pl.
Santa Fe, NM

Tribute Wall



“ *French Funerals created a Tribute Video in memory of Gov. David F. Cargo*



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - July 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ *I was with David at a funeral, he spoke about the loss, one thing he said always stuck with me " When we lose someone, the world has lost a full library." We have lost so much more with the passing of this dear man. He gave so much of himself to all New Mexicans. Gods Speed my friend, till we meet again.*



Rita Lopez - July 15, 2013 at 10:00 AM

RL

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Rita Lopez - July 15, 2013 at 09:50 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Gov. David F. Cargo.



July 14, 2013 at 07:40 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Gov. David F. Cargo.



July 12, 2013 at 01:11 PM



“ Our condolences to the family of former Governor David Cargo. He was one of our favorite Govenors and played an important role in helping me when I was the first Mayor of Chama in starting the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad. Governor Cargo always said in many speeches in Chama "I love Eddie Vigil". He made frequent visits to Chama and long after we were both retired, he always stopped by to visit his friend Eddie. New Mexico has lost a champion for the state, but we will always remember how he helped Chama and what a best friend he was to me. He will be missed dearly. May Perpetual Light shine upon Governor Cargo.

Former Mayor and Mrs. Edward E. Vigil, Jr.
Chama, NM

Joan - July 12, 2013 at 11:17 AM

JT

“Glad I got to see the governor's casket in the Rotunda today - very dignified, very touching. I did this video to remember him:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88peTApeCow>

Jim Terr - July 11, 2013 at 09:27 PM

RL

Thank you for such a wonderful tribute. Rita Lopez

Rita Lopez - July 12, 2013 at 09:26 AM

 Perry Sanchez

“Our deepest sympathy to the Cargo family... Governor Cargo and my dad campaigned together in Rio Arriba... sometimes he would stop by the house to grab a bite before continuing on. My mom has many memories of him... Like taking his son Dave with him to Tierra Amarilla while on the campaign.



Perry Sanchez - July 11, 2013 at 11:43 AM

GP

“Gov. Cargo was very special to our ZIA FRW women. We extend our deepest sympathy to you and our prayers are with you. We enjoyed his attending our social events and helping us at the State Fair. He was always interested in the community and us. We will continue to miss him and talk about his legacy. Sincerely, Gwen J. Poe, member/past president, ZIA Federated Republican Women.

Gwen J. Poe - July 11, 2013 at 10:50 AM

KU

“ Kevin Ferrell, President, UMNNMSG purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Gov. David F. Cargo.



Kevin Ferrell, President, UMNNMSG - July 11, 2013 at 09:55 AM

KF

“ On behalf of the University of Michigan Northern New Mexico Spirit Group, we would like to thank Gov. Cargo for his years of service. We are proud to have him as one of our distinguished alumni and our hearts go out to family during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ferrell

President, The University of Michigan Northern New Mexico Spirit Group

Kevin Ferrell - July 11, 2013 at 09:49 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - July 11, 2013 at 08:33 AM

MR

“ We are all born weak & helpless; all lead the same short, troubled life. We grow & wither as quickly as flowers; we disappear like shadows... Job

God has prepared a special and wonderful place in His Kingdom for our precious David. I was blessed to know him.

To the Cargo Family: I am so sorry for your loss. I know that you are deeply saddened right now, but, please smile and know that our Lord has wrapped His arms around your Father, Brother, Uncle, Grandfather & Friend and He has lifted him to rest.

God Bless You, Maureen Rooney, RN

Maureen Rooney - July 10, 2013 at 06:10 PM


Deborah
Dirk-
Halley

“ My deepest heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Dave Cargo Family. Dave was a wonderful person. He was friendly and kind. He was a great speaker and I loved to hear him speak at my high school. I was very impressed with the way he spoke to so many people and he made you feel special just listening to him talk. A great loss for the state. He will be very much missed.

Deborah Dirk-Halley - July 10, 2013 at 05:41 PM

TC

“ Governor Cargo was a great New Mexican. We had numerous conversations through the years that I thoroughly enjoyed. Sometimes it was business and sometimes it was politics. Either way it was colorful and always my pleasure. I was able to get to know this kind and generous man when he became a customer of ours. He promoted local small business and was glad to do business with us because of that. We've lost a real champion! Rest in peace Governor. Tina Cordova

tina cordova - July 10, 2013 at 03:41 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - July 10, 2013 at 02:34 PM

HH

“ Sincere condolences to the Cargo Family. It was a pleasure knowing Dave & working out with him week day mornings at Defined Fitness. We shared stories around international travels; discussed current events; joked about "getting older". His memory will be honored through donations to NM Library Fd. . We know of his love for & dedication to developing libraries in NM especially in remote areas. PEACE ! Helen & Bill Hillman

HELEN & BILL HILLMAN - July 10, 2013 at 01:21 PM

KE

“ Our condolences to the Cargo family. I remember David Cargo as one of the good guys of New Mexico. We wish you peace. Kermit & Judy Frye

Kermit - July 10, 2013 at 12:04 PM

BM

“ Governor Cargo was a true gentleman and a man who had a vision that included treating individuals with respect. He was a man given to doing the best job for the people of New Mexico. He was a friend and a mentor. Bobby Martinez

Bobby Martinez - July 10, 2013 at 11:38 AM

FF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



FRENCH Funerals-Cremations - July 10, 2013 at 10:51 AM

TG

“ Dave was the best and always treated me as a friend in every political adventure we took together. Talks about the old days in Michigan often came up as I am also from there. A little ribbing from time to time since I graduated from MSU.

Beloved by everyone I ever met particularly in the North. A true champion of the native people up there and I remember well being with him in Taos as he was given praise for his work on Blue Lake. Dave will be missed by us all. Tom Greer, Tome, NM

Tom Greer - July 10, 2013 at 10:38 AM



“ 96 files added to the album Memories Album



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - July 10, 2013 at 10:15 AM

KC

“ My deepest sympathy to the Cargo family. My heart hurts for all of you. The Governor was a people's governor and his legacy will be just that. I will miss his sense of reality and humor. He would always introduce me as the girl "whose pigtails I used to dip in the ink wells". My favorite thing to do was to call him from the ABQ airport, and just talk. I loved hearing about all the things he was involved in; we would always discuss the trials and tribulations of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad-which was near and dear to both of our hearts. It's your turn to walk among angels, my friend. Walk on.

Kim Smith Casford - July 10, 2013 at 09:06 AM

NS

“ May the love of friends and family carry you through your grief. 2 Cor 1: 3, 4 or Psalms 37:9-11,29.

Nancy S - July 10, 2013 at 07:19 AM

SM

“ You cared enough to help a child. 50 Years ago while not studying for school my father handed me the phone. On the other line was a voice, "Steve this is the governor. Your father tells me your not doing your homework. You have to do your homework before you watch tv." I said, yes governor! I hit the books and I was the first in my family to graduate from college. Thank you-Adios-Vaya con dios.

Steve Meyer - July 10, 2013 at 05:48 AM

FP

“ *From Harding County, Rest In Peace lit a candle in memory of Gov. David F. Cargo*



From Harding County, Rest In Peace - July 10, 2013 at 04:45 AM

MI

“ *"It was truly an honor and also a joy to meet you, Mr. Cargo. Only good memories of a good friend, here in Prague. I will light a candle on July 12th in the Saint Vitus Cathedral."*

Miroslava Stilijanova, Prague, Czech Republic

miroslava - July 10, 2013 at 03:52 AM

LE

“ *Leslie lit a candle in memory of Gov. David F. Cargo*



Leslie - July 09, 2013 at 11:16 PM

LR

“ *Mr. Cargo will be terribly missed. I will treasure the times that I had working with him as his legal assistant. He was a great man, a terrific lawyer and an unbelievable politician. My deepest condolences to out to his children. Thank you so much for sharing your father with so many of us. New Mexico has lost a great man.*

Leslie (Martinez) Rodriguez & Family

Leslie Rodriguez - July 09, 2013 at 10:58 PM

EM

“ I had the pleasure of spending the last two years with Mr. Cargo. I remember our first encounter and how intimidated I felt having to evaluate the former Governor as part of my job. He was so down to earth and funny, he immediately put me at ease. It wasn't long afterwards that we became friends. I loved talking with him about politics, religion, and the current events unfolding in the news. He was always a weath of information and had the ability to give you the facts and keep you entertained in the process. To say I miss him wouldn't do my heart justice. I feel a void and loss of a good friend. I keep looking for him in all the places he'd hang out. He said in his autobiography he wanted people to remember him as Governor David Cargo. As fantastic and honorable as his many life accomplishments where, he had a way about him that was so real and genuine. He made you feel like a good friend. I feel fortunate I got to meet him in a non political atmosphere. I got to see such a amazing, beautiful soul. To me he was just "Dave", and I feel so honored to be able to say that.

My deepest condolences go out to his children. He loved you all so much and was so proud of all of you. Dave loved to tell stories about all of you as children. Sometimes he would get emotional, but most of the time he would laugh and smile. You could see in his face that having you as his children brought him so much happiness. Having witnessed how caring and loving you all where with Dave, its not hard to see he passed down those great qualities to you.

I pray when I leave this earth, I get to see Dave again and eat steak and drink beer until our bellies are content. Then laugh and tell jokes until our bellies hurt. I miss you Dave. Save some good stories for me until we see eachother again. And everytime something or someone makes me laugh so hard my face hurts from smiling, I will know you are there, laughing too.

Emily Melancon - July 09, 2013 at 10:12 PM

LW

“ I did not have an opportunity to know about Governor Cargo as I moved to New Mexico from Detroit, Michigan just last year. I too am a proud graduate of the University of Michigan (BA 96' MSW 98'). To the family of Governor Cargo my prayers and thoughts go out to each and every one of you. R.I.P. Governor....Linda C. Willis



Linda C. Willis - July 09, 2013 at 07:47 PM

AR

“ GO BLUE! All Michigan alums thank David for bringing his Michigan developed vision to the Land of Enchantment. Ann ReVelle, School of Ed. class of 1968, M.A. 1970

Ann ReVelle - July 09, 2013 at 06:18 PM

GE

“ As the Governor of New Mexico, David F. Cargo was also The Commander in Chief of The New Mexico National Guard. I was a Surgeon in the Guard and also was qualified to drive the M42 Duster Tank and was asked to take Governor Cargo for a ride in the desert at Fort Bliss. It was Great and He enjoyed it very much as did I. We have lost a wonderful Person who was also a Great Governor. He will be Missed.

George E. Evetts M.D
Brig Gen (MC) USA (Ret.)
Box 1128
Tucumcari, New Mexico 88401

George Evetts - July 09, 2013 at 05:49 PM

CY

“ I want to say how sorry I am of the loss of Gov. Cargo. He was one of many who inspired me to go into public administration. To his family my condolences. C. Padilla

Cyndee - July 09, 2013 at 04:08 PM

DS

“ Gov. CARGO WAS THE CONSUMMATE POLITICIAN AND A TACTICAL GENIUS. MANY OF HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS ABILITY TO WIN WHAT APPEARED TO THE EXPERTS TO BE WINNABLE. HE TRAVELED THE ENTIRE STATE IN ALL OF HIS STATEWIDE CAMPAIGNS MAKING NEW FOLLOWERS AT EVERY STOP. YOUR WINNING WAYS WILL BE MISSED AND I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU. David Sierra

David R. Sierra - July 09, 2013 at 03:56 PM

SS

“ I knew Gov. Cargo as a true supporter of libraries in New Mexico. He did so much to help rural communities offer a place for it's residents to have free access to information and computers. He will be missed but his legacy lives on. Libraries will continue to have his support when donations are made in his name to the New Mexico Library Foundation.

Many thanks, Governor Cargo.

Susan Sheldon - July 09, 2013 at 01:52 PM

DT

“*Dave was always a delight to me as a young legislator. He was a master at serving "The People" and not just a political party.*

*Don Tripp
New Mexico House*

Don Tripp - July 09, 2013 at 10:47 AM

CJ

“*Governor Cargo was a great Governor, a wonderful person and one of Carlsbad's best friends. Among his many accomplishments while he was Governor was helping to save the potash industry in Carlsbad and the creation of the states jewel in the park system, The Living Desert Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Governor Cargo had many close friends in Carlsbad and Southeast New Mexico and will be greatly missed.--Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway*

Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway - July 09, 2013 at 10:41 AM

JC

“*In 1965 my father invited Dave to speak at his Typographical Union 304 meeting and Dave announced his intention to run for Governor. He invited my parents to the Gov mansion a number of time and provided them with good memories. I met his Michigan Law classmate Roger Wilkins while living in Washington DC and when I brought them together their sharing of college memories was memorable. Six years ago Dave spoke at my father's funeral noting the importance of unions in our Democracy.*

John J. Cordova - July 09, 2013 at 10:12 AM

CP

“ When R.P. (Doc) Prince passed away in 69 in Texas, David sent a very nice letter to the family and he was appreciated over the years and we offer our Condolences to the Cargo family. I have kept that letter for years and often thought of his kindness. Cleve Prince in Socorro NM.

Cleve Prince - July 09, 2013 at 10:12 AM

BC

“ My husband Dean and I did not meet David until after we moved to NM in 1981. We met him as a caring and involved New Mexican and not a political leader. But...Leader he was and we got involved with him and his New Mexico Library Efforts by helping collect books for him. I remember one morning delivering a huge load of books in our Toyota 4-Runner to his home. He was so excited and it was like bringing a carload of toys to a little kid. David Cargo was truly a caring man of the people of New Mexico. Heaven will be the better for David Cargo's being there. Billie Jo Crouse

Billie Jo Crouse - July 09, 2013 at 10:09 AM



“ Dave was the kind of friend we all should have--energetic, dependable, creative, loyal, forward looking. On his own Dave was sponsoring activities for our University of Michigan group before there was a club. We will miss you, Dave. You were a blessing to us all. Robert and Bonnie Paine, University of Michigan Club of Northern New Mexico

Bonnie Paine - July 09, 2013 at 09:21 AM

DS

Governor Cargo was in a class of his own! He will be sorely missed by New Mexicans. My condolences to his family; you were his reason for laughter and life!

See you in heaven someday, Dave!

Dr. Babette Saenz - July 09, 2013 at 12:25 PM

ME

“ *It was an honor knowing David for the short time that I did. He was an amazing person and always so kind. He will be missed very much. Thoughts and prayers to the Cargo family.*

Martika Encinias - July 08, 2013 at 09:30 PM

RS

“ *Gov. Cargo was a great govenor and remarkable person. He never missed a special service at the church where I pastor in Albuquerque, He would always come and say that I was his favoritist pastor in the city. He helped me many time with many families in our community. Many times he would come and speak at the African American Ministers meetings.*

This will be a person that the African American Community will truly miss. He was the first govenor that ever appointed an African American to work at the State Captial in the govenors office.

God Bless his family

Rev. N. Darnell Smith

Rev. N. Darnell Smith - July 08, 2013 at 08:42 PM

WB

Our Lord has called our friend "Lonesome" Dave to come home and we will surely miss him. There are several things I know about Governor Cargo, he was a man of integrity whose word was his bond-- he was a real character a man who stood firm under any criticism and fought for what was right-- and "Lonesome" he was not. Governor Cargo loved people and they loved him back and he will be missed.

*Walter Bradley
Frm. Lt. Governor NM*

Walter Bradley - July 09, 2013 at 10:51 AM

JT

“ Such a rare man - all energy, love, curiosity, dedication to making everyone's life better and fairer. Back when labels didn't mean The Good Guys and The Bad Guys. What a remarkable career he had, even by age 41. He took me to lunch once, and I was honored, and amazed to see how gregarious he was, and how everybody knew him. Tribute song and video coming very soon - that's the least I can do. -Jim Terr, Las Vegas, NM

Jim Terr - July 08, 2013 at 07:54 PM

FM

“ On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.

Faith Miner - July 08, 2013 at 07:28 PM

KC

Thank you for the outstanding job you did! We. Also appreciate the whole team, especially the Fords who took good care of us in Santa fe. Karine Cargo

karine cargo - July 14, 2013 at 01:25 AM

KC

You did a beautiful job of honoring David!

karine cargo - July 14, 2013 at 01:27 AM