



Gregory F. Avila

November 16, 1946 - August 24, 2015

Gregory F. Avila passed away on Monday morning, August 24, 2015. He is survived by his mother, Gloria D. Shaw; Nancy K. Babecka-Avila, the mother of their two children; daughter, Dawn M. Montano; son, Mario J. Avila and wife Stephanie M. Avila; granddaughter, Jade E. Montano; sister, Jody L.

Contreras and husband Ralph M. Contreras; her two daughters Samantha M. Contreras and Stephanie M. Gardiner and husband Stephen Gardiner, two children, Gabriel and Leah Gardiner, as well as his aunt, Josepha Cruz.

Gregory was a Naval Combat Corpsman in Vietnam and served with the United States Marine Corps 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines at Quang Tri. After Vietnam, he came home to Albuquerque, New Mexico and joined the Albuquerque Police Department. While serving with APD, Gregory was shot twice in the line of duty, taking a total of six bullets – four in 1976 and two more in 1981.

He was a wonderful father and grandfather to his two children and granddaughter. He spent every moment possible with them – whether it was dance, cheer, numerous sporting activities, or simply being with those he loved most dearly. Gregory also loved to ride his Harley with his brothers from the Blue Knights, who had served with him in APD and various other law enforcement agencies. He could always be counted on to drop whatever he was doing and help his family and friends.

Gregory is also a devout Christian and has served in various categories at both the Catholic Church and later at Sagebrush Community Church, where

he most recently served in the Jail Ministry at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Albuquerque. Gregory's devotion to Christ has assured him his place in Heaven, where he is now with his father, Floyd Avila; his brother, Stephen Avila, son-in-law, Nathan Montano and many other family members and friends.

Please join the family in celebrating Gregory's wonderful and heroic life on Friday, August 28, 2015 with a public visitation at 10:30 a.m. at Sagebrush Community Church, 6440 Coors Blvd. NW, followed by Funeral Services at 11:30 a.m. Interment will be Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 11:15 a.m. at Santa Fe National Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Norm Montano, Anthony Kraemer, Klay Kraemer, John Hearn, Bob Coon, Scott Lopez, Stephen Gardiner and Robert Garcia.

FRENCH - Westside

9300 Golf Course Rd NW

505-897-0300

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 28. 10:30 AM (MT)

Sagebrush Community Church
6440 Coors Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 98120

Funeral Service

AUG 28. 11:30 AM (MT)

Sagebrush Community Church
6440 Coors Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 98120

Graveside Services

SEP 1. 11:15 AM (MT)

Santa Fe National Cemetery
Santa Fe, NM

Tribute Wall

AA

“ Greg, you never got to put cuffs on me (HA HA). You brighten my day there at the pumps ,it was always good too see you. Now you are in the biggest and best pd ever. See you soon and then you can put the cuffs on me ha ha .bye Tony J. Aragon

Anthony Aragon - August 28, 2015 at 09:27 PM

BG

“ Bill And Betty Guyre lit a candle in memory of Gregory F. Avila



Bill and Betty Guyre - August 28, 2015 at 10:54 AM

CR

“ Greg and I was classmates at APD 31st Academy class. He was a Great Police officer. A very caring person and a brave Marine who served in Vietnam. I pray for him and his family God Bless Chuck and Rita Rusell

chuck russell - August 28, 2015 at 08:43 AM

BW

“ Greg was one of the best Albuquerque Police Department has ever had to walk through their doors. Greg taught me a lot about life and police work. He also taught me how to 'man up' when things looked totally negative. He will be missed but not forgotten.

*Bruce Weaver
Motor #92
Dallas, Texas*

Bruce Weaver - August 27, 2015 at 02:08 PM

KK

“ Our hearts are heavy with this loss. Greg was like a brother to me and was always there for us. He never had to be asked if you needed help, he always said what can I do to help? The world has lost one of the truly good guys. He touched many, many people and this world is a better place thanks to Greg Avila. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Avila family and please know that we share your grief.

Klay & Laurel Kraemer

Klarence Kraemer - August 27, 2015 at 10:00 AM

CL

“ Catherine LoGrasso lit a candle in memory of Gregory F. Avila



Catherine LoGrasso - August 26, 2015 at 11:09 PM

GJ

“ As a young cop Greg had a real impact on me.... no matter what, he was always smiling and looking for the best in people and in every situation. He taught me that the vast majority of "non-cop" people were decent, good folk. I'll always fondly remember yelling "Gregory" at him when we would pass in the hallways of APD. Blessed in the sight of the LORD is the death of one of HIS saints. God's peace and mercies on you, his family. Praise God Greg is in His presence now!
Greg & Elizabeth Jones

GW Jones - August 26, 2015 at 04:44 PM

BH

“ Bill and Hope Heckendorn purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Gregory F. Avila.



Bill and Hope Heckendorn - August 26, 2015 at 04:25 PM

DG

“ Debbie Gurule lit a candle in memory of Gregory F. Avila



Debbie Gurule - August 26, 2015 at 03:27 PM

DG

Gloria, Jody, Mario, Dawn & Family my heartfelt condolences go out to you all. Greg was a great man of honor and I know he has his Golden Wings and is on Gods list of men who serve the Lord. My love to you all, as there are no words that can replace the loss of Greg. Know he is your special Angel and will be with you till we all met again. There so many wonderful stories of all of us growing up together that I will hold in my Heart forever. Greg loved his family and will always be shining down next to you. He was a true friend, and he would always give you wise words of wisdom to hold in your Heart. God Bless you all as your in my prayers. Debbie

Debbie Gurule - August 26, 2015 at 03:34 PM

BM

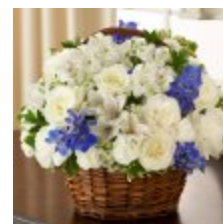
“ *Brandi Malcom lit a candle in memory of Gregory F. Avila*



Brandi Malcom - August 26, 2015 at 03:04 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Gregory F. Avila.*



August 26, 2015 at 02:24 PM

LB

“ Greg was a colleague of my father, Ron Ghion at APD, he was also a ever present presence in my sister and I 's childhood, and we loved him dearly. Greg was one of a handful of people my father called friend, he trusted, loved and respected him. My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to the family, as I understand the great loss of loosing a Good Man.

*Love and Prayers, Rest in Peace Greg
Laura (Ghion) Barnard*

Laura Barnard - August 26, 2015 at 12:49 PM

BC

“ I will always cherish the many good times Greg and I shared throughout our careers at APD. He was a true friend and one of the best co-workers anyone could ever ask for. He was always there for you whenever you needed help whether at work or in your personal life. The memories I have of our times together in the UC Project and later in Civil Litigation will last forever. He and Nancy produced two wonderful children in Dawn and Mario and our hearts go out to them during this sad time as well as to Gloria, his beautiful and lovely mother. I know that Greg's suffering is over as Jesus Christ welcomes him into His Glorious Kingdom of Heaven.

Bob and Mary Coon

Bob Coon - August 26, 2015 at 11:11 AM

JE

“ "They that mourn, will be comforted", Jesus said in Matthew 5.
Chaplain Johnnie Elms (APD 67-74),

John Elms - August 26, 2015 at 11:04 AM

CB

“ Greg was a wonderful person. I worked with him at two different businesses and thought the world of him. RIP Greg.
Cathy Billings

Cathy Billings - August 26, 2015 at 11:01 AM

GE

“ Greg will be deeply missed by so many friends and his beautiful family. Greg dedicated his life as an Albuquerque Police Department officer and detective to protect our community. I consider my life to be blessed to have known him and worked with him. After his retirement, I saw his passion and love for others as he spread the good news of Jesus. I will miss his smile and the joy he carried with him. God bless you Greg and you have blessed so many.

Gorden Eden - August 26, 2015 at 10:54 AM

BM

“ Benny and Cynthia Maestas purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Gregory F. Avila.



Benny and Cynthia Maestas - August 26, 2015 at 10:00 AM

 Nancy Babecka

“ Nancy Babecka lit a candle in memory of Gregory F. Avila



Nancy Babecka - August 26, 2015 at 09:07 AM

LM

“ I've never met such a fine man who sacrificed so much for his country and city. He raised one of my greatest friends, I'll be forever grateful for his character and personality. Love you brother.

Lonnie Mazuranich - August 26, 2015 at 04:46 AM

SD

“ I have nothing but the best memories of my uncle. The greatest is the love he had for his family. He will be missed greatly!!



stephanie deleon - August 25, 2015 at 10:29 PM

KA

“ Greg always loved God first and is family second. He talked a lot about his mother and his children often. He was always a positive joy to be around, so kind and so gentle. Greg was loved by all of his Christian family.

Kathy - August 25, 2015 at 05:15 PM

BC

“ Bobby, Norma, Chris, Jammy and Isabella Contreras purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Gregory F. Avila.



Bobby, Norma, Chris, Jammy and Isabella Contreras - August 25, 2015 at 04:45 PM

YF

“ *Your Aon Family purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Basket for the family of Gregory F. Avila.*



Your Aon Family - August 25, 2015 at 04:28 PM

GZ

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

Glenn Zachry - August 25, 2015 at 02:22 PM

GC

I had the privilege of working with Greg at APD. He always had a light that shown from within. I suspected what that light was, and now confirm that it was the Light that Jesus Christ provides to those that seek Him.

I know we will see Greg again soon, and I know he Heard his Master's voice say 'Well done, Good and faithful servant! Enter into the Joy of your Lord.(Matthew 25:21)

Blessing be upon The Greg Avila Family!

Gil Cadena

Gilbert J. Cadena - August 26, 2015 at 01:15 PM

FR

Greg was a true friend to all who knew him. My late wife was always fond of and had many great memories of her time spent with Greg and my Brother-in-law Klay. I remember Greg as a great cop who showed compassion and understanding toward all people while being street wise at the same time. My deepest condolences to the Avila family. we all lost someone with his passing.

Frank Raucci

Mt. Prospect, IL

Frank Raucci - August 28, 2015 at 01:50 PM