



## Joseph Samuel Cordova

November 17, 1930 - June 17, 2015

Joseph Samuel Cordova, 84, a longtime resident of Albuquerque passed away at home on 17 June 2015 with his loving wife of 58 years, Elaine, by his side. Joseph "Sam" Cordova was born in Fort Collins, CO, on 17 November 1930, the fifth of ten children born to Jose Dolores and Maria Refugio Cordova. He began his over 32 years of federal service during the Korean War as an Airman in the United States Air Force before serving the last 20 years as Albuquerque Regional Director of the Veterans Administration. As the patriarch of a large extended family, his charismatic presence served as a constant source of integrity, strength, and guidance for a countless number of nieces, nephews, family and friends. He is survived by his wife Elaine; three siblings, Moses Cordova, Mary Lucero, and Vi Esparza; a brother-in-law, Carl Hautzinger and a sister in-law, Audrey Steel; four children, John Cordova (wife Diane), Barbara Hurley (husband Lonny), Col Douglas Cordova (wife Amy), and Marikay Sullivan (husband Patrick); ten grandchildren, Katie, Kurt, Samantha, Joseph, Kimberly, P.J., Layne, Abigail, Steven, and Matthew, and one great-granddaughter, Hailey Ruth. A Rosary will be recited at Our Lady of Annunciation Parish, 2621 Vermont St. NE, on Saturday, 20 June 2015, at 0930, followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 1000. Mr. Cordova will be laid to rest at the Santa Fe National Cemetery at 0900 on Monday, 22 June 2015. A separate memorial celebrating his life will be held in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he was known as "Sam," at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the New Mexico State University Foundation,

in care of the Joseph S. Cordova Business Scholarship Fund, New Mexico  
State University, PO Box 3590, Las Cruces, NM, 88003-3590.

FRENCH – Wyoming  
7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE  
(505) 823-9400

# Cemetery Details

## Santa Fe National Cemetery

501 N. Guadalupe St.  
NM 87504

# Previous Events

## Rosary

JUN **20**. 9:30 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Annunciation Catholic Church  
2621 Vermont NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **20**. 10:00 AM (MT)

Our Lady of Annunciation Catholic Church  
2621 Vermont NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

# Tribute Wall

DO

“*Mrs. Cordova, John, Barb, Doug and MariKay,  
I was so sorry to read about Mr. Cordova's passing. I so wanted to  
attend the services but had another obligation at the same time.*

*I will always remember his contagious smile and his unfailing  
support of St. Pius, especially the football team.*

*Please know that you are all in my prayers as is Mr. Cordova  
though he is with our Lord.*

*Con Cariño,*

*Doddie Espinosa (de Ortega)*

---

**Doddie Espinosa de Ortega** - June 21, 2015 at 07:20 PM

KH

“Grandpa Joe was a great grandfather and an even better friend. Even in his last days, he did his best to make sure we all knew we were loved. I was so lucky to have 24 years of memories with his never-ending love and support, and he will be eternally missed.

To my mother Barbara, Uncle John, Uncle Doug, and Aunt Marikay, I am sure Grandpa Joe was so proud of you for raising us \*lovely\* grandchildren the way you did, and I am positive he knew how much you all love him, too.

And to my wonderful grandmother, Elaine, I love you so much and you know we will all do anything we can to help you through this difficult time.

I could not ask for a better family, and I love you all.

Kim

---

**Kimberly Hurley** - June 21, 2015 at 03:50 PM

AC

“Dear Cordova Family, We are so very sorry for your loss. We have thought highly of Mr. Cordova throughout the years, and have been so thankful for his assistance. We will keep him and all of you in our prayers. Sincerely, Leroy and Anne C'deBaca

---

**Anne C'deBaca** - June 19, 2015 at 06:49 PM

JV

“ *To Elaine, Children, and all other relatives and friends.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you for your loss of our "Good Friend" Joe.*

*Joe was a very hard and devoted worker for our Veteran population.*

*We know he will be missed by all, but most with how he lived life with great enthusiasm.*

*We will be purchasing a mass in his name for the repose of his soul.*

*Unfortunately, Jack will not be able to travel due to medical complications.*

*May God be with you at this time for comfort. God Bless my Buddy Joe.*

*Jack and Maggie Valencia and Family  
Las Cruces, NM*

---

**Jack Valencia** - June 19, 2015 at 12:47 PM

RS

“ *Rich, Cheri and Tod Snair purchased the Bountiful European Dish Garden for the family of Joseph Samuel Cordova.*



---

**Rich, Cheri and Tod Snair** - June 19, 2015 at 11:33 AM

JE

“Mr. Cordova was always smiling he had a joyful sprit, he also was a caring and thoughtful person. He will be remembered by us as a person who loved life and enjoyed it to the fullest. His family could not have asked for a better husband, father, grand father or great grand father. We will miss you Joe.  
John & Samantha Eckert

---

john eckert - June 19, 2015 at 08:04 AM

CZ

“Eleana and I will always remember the love and support provided by Mr. Cordova. He displayed the strongest characteristics of a loving husband and father to this family while directing us at the VA Regional Office (VARO). As a boss, Mr. Cordova was consistently fair and firm. He was dedicated to serving the management team and employees of the VARO while insisting compassionate and equitable treatment to the more than 190,000 New Mexico veterans in a timely and efficient manner. He mentored many of us into leadership positions and expected excellence in our private and public personas. To him, there was no glass ceiling. Mr. Cordova will remain our inspiration and role model.

Elaine, thank you for your friendship and for the many happy times we have shared. John, Barb, Doug, and Mary Kaye we saw you grow and develop into the productive image of your father and mother. As Mr. C would say: "Keep up the good work!"

Carolyn and Eleana Zamora

---

Carolyn Zamora - June 18, 2015 at 11:06 PM

JC

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

---

**Joel Chavez** - June 18, 2015 at 03:43 PM