



Mary R. Chato

April 7, 1923 - September 10, 2013

Age 90 years old, resident of Albuquerque since 1948, died on September 10, 2013. Mary was born into Ta'baaha (Waters Edge) for Todach'ii'ni (Bitter Water) in Tohatchi, NM. She is survived by her children, Sister Theresa Chato, SBS of Bensalem, PA, Genevieve K. Chato and husband, Edward Seaton of Kayenta, AZ, Joseph E. Chato and wife, Connie Bell of Santa Fe, NM, Bernadette Charlie and husband, Robert Charlie of Fairbanks, AK, B. Renee Chato and partner, Rick Tapia of Santa Fe, NM, and Michaela Fong and husband, Steve Fong of Tesuque, NM. Mary is survived by grandchildren, Maunelita Beck of Grand Prairie, TX, Joshua Chato of Chicago, IL, Luis Chato of New York, NY, Jeremy Chato of Albuquerque, NM, Edward Chato-Seaton of Tucson, AZ, William Fong of Socorro, NM and Corey Fong of Tesuque, NM. Mary is also survived by sister, Fannie Curtis; nephew, Allen Begay; cousin-sister, Ella Roanhorse; cousin-brother, Peter Sage; sisters-in-law, Jeannette Thomas, Sallie Johnny, Sadie Hardy and Ella Begay and numerous cousins and extended family. Mary was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Edgar Chato; parents, Manygoats Begay and Barbara Manuelito Binaali and maternal grandparents, Bob and Jos-bah Manuelito. Mary was born and raised on the Navajo reservation in Tohatchi, NM. She lived in Albuquerque from 1948 until her death. Mary attended Fort Wingate Boarding School, St. Catherine Indian School in Santa Fe, NM and Sacred Heart Cathedral High School in Gallup, NM. In her younger years, she wove Navajo rugs, herded sheep and farmed. She was also a jockey at local horse races

near her Tohatchi home. She was a stay at home mother who raised her six children in a Catholic household. She was a founding member of the Holy Ghost Parish in Albuquerque where all of her children attended grade school. After her children were older, Mary returned to work at Bell's Trading and Jewelry in Albuquerque and worked for twenty years at the Albuquerque Indian Health Hospital as a medical records technician until her retirement. In 2003, Mary moved to Las Colinas Village and lived there for seven years until her death. Mary was proud of her Navajo heritage. She was a founding member of the Navajo Club of Albuquerque through which she coordinated the Navajo Nation's Clothing Program for Navajos residing in Albuquerque. Every year she looked forward to the New Mexico State Fair and dedicated many years volunteering with her husband at the Navajo Club's food booth in the Indian Village. Mary never lost her love for farming and through most of her adult life, she gardened. Her favorite crops were Indian maize, what she called Anasazi beans, green chile, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, Navajo tea and peaches. Mary won several first place ribbons and Best of Show at the New Mexico State Fair for her peaches and squash. Mary loved telling stories, reminiscing about her years growing up, and sewing. Celebration of Mary's life will begin on Friday, September 13, 2013, 6:00 p.m. with visitation and rosary at FRENCH – Lomas. Funeral mass will be celebrated on Saturday, September 14, 2013, 10:00 a.m. at Holy Ghost Church, 833 Arizona St. SE, Albuquerque, NM. Interment will take place on Monday, September 16, 2013, 9:45 a.m. at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, Santa Fe, NM. Pallbearers are Joshua Chato, Luis Chato, Jeremy Chato, Edward Chato-Seaton, William Fong and Corey Fong. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, 1663 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA 19020 (215-244-9900) or a charity of your choice. The family expresses gratitude to the staff of Gentiva Hospice, the staff of Lovelace Downtown Hospital, the staff of Manzano del Sol Rehabilitation, and the staff of Lovelace Rehabilitation Hospital.

Cemetery Details

Santa Fe National Cemetery

Santa Fe, NM

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 13. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Lomas)

10500 Lomas Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87112

(505) 275-3500

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Rosary

SEP 13. 7:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Lomas)

10500 Lomas Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87112

(505) 275-3500

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Funeral Mass

SEP **14**. 10:00 AM (MT)

Holy Ghost Church
833 Arizona St. SE
Albuquerque, NM

Tribute Wall

VL

“ I know this is very late, but I only ran across this by accident when visiting Santa Fe this summer. I don't know if you remember me or not, we lived next door to you on E. Flora Place in Albuquerque when I was 4-6. That would have been in 1953-55. My parents, John and Joyce Newell, thought so highly of Mary and talked of her often throughout her life. I am happy to know she lived a long, fruitful life. My love to your family.

Virginia Newell Lusch

Virginia N Lusch - August 29, 2014 at 11:03 AM

BK

“ We feel so fortunate to have met Mary and her lovely daughters Theresa and Genevieve. We enjoyed our time together and will always remember her sweet smile and twinkling eyes. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the Chato family. Tom and Betty Kelley

betty kelley - September 14, 2013 at 02:01 PM

MS

“ (entered this wrong the first time around)

I love that sweet face on this web page. It is such a wonderful picture of Mom Chato. She was the quintessential Mom to all who came into her warm and loving home. Love and prayers to each and every one in the family. My heart is with you. Hugs to all, Marie Parker Strahan

Marie Parker Strahan - September 13, 2013 at 06:41 PM

OR

“ I love you Mary say hi to my mommie.love ollie

Ollie Garcia Robles - September 13, 2013 at 06:31 PM

DO

“ Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Chato family with Mary’s passing. Her energy of spirit and generosity were a part of Mary’s many special talents. She shared her Navajo culture with wonderful stories, instructing on the finer aspects of Navajo weaving, while always offering food, a loaf of oven bread and a bundle of Navajo Tea. She and Ed are no doubt reunited and will continue to bestow their blessings on everyone’s lives they touched and especially to your dear family. You all are in our thoughts and prayers, with love,
Debbie and Alan O’Brien, Collin and Caitlyn

Debbie O'Brien - September 13, 2013 at 01:37 PM

SS

“ Dear Sr. Theresa and family,

While I am sorry for your loss, we know that your mom, after a holy and fruitful life, is now enjoying heaven with your dad and other loved ones. We are praying for you all at this difficult time.
Love, Sr. Annette Marie O'Donnell, SBS

Sr. Annette Marie O'Donnell, SBS - September 13, 2013 at 09:13 AM

 Diana DeChilly

“ I remember being astonished that my Aunt Mary had Navajo tea in her backyard garden. I thought that was so cool.

Diana DeChilly - September 12, 2013 at 08:43 PM

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“ I remember being astonished that my Aunt Mary had Navajo tea in her backyard garden. I thought that was so cool.

Diana DeChilly - September 12, 2013 at 08:43 PM

RW

I so enjoyed being neighbor Mary and Eddie for several years and miss them both.

Rebecca Wardlaw - September 14, 2013 at 10:19 AM



“ *Classic Sympathy Basket Arrangement was purchased for the family of Mary R. Chato.*



September 12, 2013 at 02:56 PM

AM

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

Apollo Miller - September 12, 2013 at 01:33 PM

SC

To Mary R. Chato's dear family, children and relatives. You will miss the great treasure you had in your lives. Remember her spirit is with you, talk to her, ask her for blessings, she is ready to convey them to you. I love her picture. What a beautiful woman. Love and prayers to all of you, especially my dear friends Theresa and Genevieve! from Connie

Sr. Consolata - September 13, 2013 at 10:13 AM

RO

Sorry to hear of your loss sending prayers and love from Bethel, Alaska

Roberta - September 13, 2013 at 12:41 PM