



## Rafael Gutierrez

January 1, 1944 - August 22, 2013

Age 69, of Albuquerque, died Thursday morning August 22nd, 2013. Rafael was born to the late Johnny and Emma Gutierrez in Albuquerque, NM on January 1st, 1944 and began his colorful life shortly after. Rafael started his professional life as a bread delivery boy for Holsum Bread. He would eventually find jobs as electrician, banker, expert shoe salesman, and president of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center before leaving each and finally doing what he truly loved, being his own boss. He was very proud of Gammaceutics Corp, a company he co-founded that developed the IND, a standard of care in the treatment of thyroid cancer. With his free time, Rafael enjoyed being host and grand entertainer. Never far from the microphone or piano, he was always the center of attention, just how he liked it. His charisma carried him from large social gatherings, the Hispano Chamber of Commerce, to small dinner parties. As a master chef, his love of cooking was surpassed only by his love of eating. Although he found joy in even the smallest of life's pleasures, even a newly opened package of Oreos. Modesty was always a four-letter word – he loved extravagance. He also loved to travel the world and especially their many trips to Italy. A competitive bodybuilder and avid hiker, physical fitness was important to Rafael. He inspired those around him and only needed one conversation to make a friend. It has been said that Rafael never met a stranger. He spent time learning about the personal lives of all those he came into contact with, including the occasional telemarketer. He prided himself most on the close relationships he formed. His greatest joy was

being in a warm room with good food, surrounded by his family and friends, whom he loved. He is survived by his wife, Diana Barela; children, Debbie Gutierrez, Chris Gutierrez and Gina Gutierrez; grandchildren, Marcus Baca, Jeremy Baca, Marissa Baca and Ryan Gutierrez; brother, Dr. John Gutierrez and wife, Connie; sister, Dr. Anne Tafoya and husband, Norman and brother, Anthony Gutierrez and wife, Claudia along with 5 nephews and nieces, all of Albuquerque. He is also survived by many other beloved family and friends, too numerous to count. Rosary will be recited Thursday, August 29, 2013, 5:00 p.m. at FRENCH – Lomas. The Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated Friday, August 30, 2013, 11:00 a.m. at John XXIII Catholic Community Church, 4831 Tramway Ridge Dr NE with enticement to follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Calvary Cemetery

1900 Edith Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM

# Previous Events

## Rosary

AUG **29**. 5:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Lomas)  
10500 Lomas Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112  
(505) 275-3500  
<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

## Mass of Ressurrection

AUG **30**. 11:00 AM (MT)

John XXIII Catholic Community  
4831 Tramway Ridge Drive NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

# Tribute Wall



“ I am coming to ABQ this weekend and emailed Rafael. No answer so went online to find my friend had passed away. I am so sad. We worked together at airline and he was the most fun, caring, capable man. How could someone I cared so much about left this earth and I had no idea. My heartfelt sympathy to his wife, children and entire family. Miss you Rafael!

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**Sandy Zabinski** - July 15, 2015 at 11:49 PM

TE

“ One year ago we were eating breakfast and planning what we would do for the upcoming Hispano chamber event

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**tessie** - January 18, 2014 at 12:10 PM

 Darla Williams Aiken

“ I am so saddened to hear Raphael has passed. My condolence goes out to the entire family. He was a wonderful person and will be missed.

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**Darla Williams Aiken** - December 19, 2013 at 09:37 PM

DD

“ A bright light has gone out of our lives. I met Ralph about 37 years ago. He was my then, husband's brother-in-law. He was kind and always smiling. His rhythm physically was gentle and smooth. He was always on the go. My prayers continue to go up for all that are grieving. Hopefully, we will all keep our chins up and continue to be lights for others, as he was. Denelle DeFer

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**Denelle DeFer** - September 26, 2013 at 10:29 AM

MB

“ *Diane, My heart goes out to you. I know you loved each other very much. You are in my prayers. Marilyn Baldonado (from Durans Central Pharmacy). God Bless and Take care.*

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**Marilyn Baldonado** - August 30, 2013 at 07:01 PM

MB

“ *Diane, My heart goes out to you. I know you loved each other very much. You are in my prayers. Marilyn Baldonado (from Durans Central Pharmacy). God Bless and Take care.*

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**Marilyn Baldonado** - August 30, 2013 at 07:01 PM

TT

“ *I will always remember how full of life Rafael was he had a very colorful personality, very charming, always had a beautiful smile, my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Rafael will be missed. Tina Trujillo, Arvada, Colo*

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**Tina Trujillo** - August 29, 2013 at 07:43 PM

MR

“ *When I think of Rafael (alias Ralphy), I can only smile. You couldn't help it. He himself always had a smile on his face ready to enjoy the moment. Miguel and I shared quite a few moments with him over the years but what I remember most is our trip to New York on an AHCC Convention event. There we were the New Mexican Contingent, standing outside La Guardia Airport, doe-eyed and wondering how we were going get to our Manhattan Hotel. Then, right in front of us, parks the biggest limo I had ever seen. Out pops Rafael with his big smile saying "hop in guys, its all yours!"*

*Maria Estela de Rios*

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**Maria Estela de Rios** - August 29, 2013 at 04:57 PM

HB

“ *Helen & Lonnie Bamert purchased the Roses For Sympathy for the family of Rafael Gutierrez.*



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**Helen & Lonnie Bamert** - August 29, 2013 at 04:51 PM

HB

“ *Rafael was always the smiling face I would see in the morning on the treadmill at The Training Sensation gym. His smile and good humor was infectious. Once he was having a TSI party at his house and he learned it was my birthday. He turned his party into my birthday party. What a sweet man.*

*Lonnie and I are sorry for your loss. Rafael will be missed.*

*Helen and Lonnie Bamert*

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**Helen Bamert** - August 29, 2013 at 04:29 PM

RH

“ Dear Gutierrez Family:

*There are no words that can express how sorry we are for your loss of dear Rafael. We have prayed to God to provide you're family the strength and courage you'll need in order to handle this difficult journey. May the peace that comes from the memories of love shared comfort you now and in the days ahead.*



*Offering poem: Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. - Unknown*

*In honor and remembrance- Rick Hendren and Family*

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**Rick Hendren** - August 29, 2013 at 04:12 PM



“ Bountiful European Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Rafael Gutierrez.



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August 29, 2013 at 04:04 PM

TI

“ *Rafael was gold, from the first time I met him I could feel the warmth and Love radiate, I feel blessed to have known him.*  
*Ruben & Tina*



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**Tina** - August 29, 2013 at 02:54 PM

LN

“ Love, Paul Nassif purchased the White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Rafael Gutierrez.



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**Love, Paul Nassif** - August 29, 2013 at 02:52 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Rafael Gutierrez.



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August 29, 2013 at 02:38 PM

TB

“ Rafael was always the life of the party, whether you were at a party or not. He brought the party with him. He brought the cake, which he baked himself, and was always delicious. He brought or made the food. He was a master chef. He brought the energy and good cheer. He was my distant cousin and always called me Prima. I know he is with God getting a party going for everyone. I shall miss him very much. Judge Theresa Baca.

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**Theresa Baca** - August 29, 2013 at 01:26 PM

EC

“ I will never forget the great times we had together as members of the Board of Directors of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce. Rafael was always full of joy and dedicated to our tasks. Please accept my condolences. My wife Mary and I are praying for the entire family. God Bless you all.

*Eliseo (Cass) Casillas*

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**Eliseo Casillas** - August 29, 2013 at 11:08 AM

RA

“ On behalf of my Oldest brother, former Senator Manny M. Aragon and our family, I would like to give our deepest sympathy for the loss of a great friend and human being...you will be missed....Sincerely in our hearts, Richard M. Aragon...

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**Richard M. Aragon** - August 29, 2013 at 09:30 AM

BL

“ After my Mother passed away, I don't get back to Albuquerque very often, but every time I did, Rafael would make sure my brother Glen would take me to see him. I never met a man that was so outgoing and had unconditional friendship with everyone he knew. I know that every time I think of Rafael, or talk to anyone about him, it will only be loving thoughts and memories. Our prayers go out to his family and to his many friends. Albuquerque lost one of the finest ever.

*Boni and Milly Lucero  
and family*

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**Boni Lucero** - August 28, 2013 at 11:18 PM

HR

“ I always loved working out at the gym when Raphael was there. He trained hard with a smile on his face and joy in his heart and was contagious. I will always carry a sweet memory of a kind man who lived with great joy and playfulness.  
My condolences to the family.

*Heidi Rothenberg*

heidi Rothenberg - August 28, 2013 at 11:01 PM

DA

“ Daveene lit a candle in memory of Rafael Gutierrez



daveene - August 28, 2013 at 08:26 PM

BG

“ Bill And Diane Gonzales lit a candle in memory of Rafael Gutierrez



Bill and Diane Gonzales - August 28, 2013 at 03:33 PM

BG

*Rafael is my special compadre and I will miss him very much. Our condolences and prayers are will the Gutierrez family.*

Bill Gonzales - August 28, 2013 at 03:53 PM

CM

“ *Rafael was a great friend to our family over the years. Most memorable for me were the New Year Eve's parties we celebrated together with Rafael and DB in Grand Lake. We would laugh, dance, of course EAT until we couldn't. His wonderful sense of humor and contagious laugh were like no other. My condolences go to DB and the entire Gutierrez family during this difficult time.*

*Love,  
Claudia (Smaldone) Miller*

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**Claudia (Smaldone) Miller** - August 28, 2013 at 03:28 PM

ZA

“ *Zoe Ann Alvarez lit a candle in memory of Rafael Gutierrez*



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**Zoe Ann Alvarez** - August 27, 2013 at 08:26 PM

SB

“ *I was saddened to hear of Rafael's passing. I know that heaven's piano is big enough to allow both Rafael and Ed to sit together and play with both hands without pushing each other out of the way. My thoughts are with you DB and the rest of his loving family. Sending love your way, Sally Brown-Martinez*

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**Sally Brown-Martinez** - August 27, 2013 at 05:27 PM

DM

“ I cant find the words to express the sadness we have in our hearts for this loss.

*I will forever miss Rafael Gutierrez for the awesome person and uncle he was.*

*We will truly miss the trips to the cabin! ! Looking for that one legged chicken, listening for La Llorona and all the scary story's he told us that still scare me today! !*

*I will never forget you no matter where I am or what I'm doing. . . when you come to mind I will smile! !*

*I LOVE YOU ALWAYS! ! !*

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**Dionne Mares** - August 27, 2013 at 04:32 PM

CG

“ *Claudia Gutierrez lit a candle in memory of Rafael Gutierrez*



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**Claudia Gutierrez** - August 27, 2013 at 03:19 PM

CG

*Words cannot express my deep sadness for this loss; he was my brother-in-law and friend. Rafael was always the life of the party even when there was no party going on. His presence will most assuredly be felt missed.*

*I was fortunate to hear words of gratitude for the things he did by the many family and friends who came to visit him in the hospital; he was so loved by all.*

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**Claudia Gutierrez** - August 27, 2013 at 03:29 PM

ES

“ I remember Rafael from when I was young; Rafael, my brother and I were known as the “Salsa Brothers”! We would eat chips and hot salsa every time we were around each other and then always finished up with a box of Oreos! Rafael and Diana were very close to my family and we enjoyed their company...Words do not express how much my family and I will miss Rafael. Till we meet again Rafael, I will bring the salsa “brother”!



*With all of our love,*

*The Smaldones*

*Eric, Charisa, Addison, Fisher*

*<http://storage.lifetributes.com/Candles/new/candle-5.png>*

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**Eric Smaldone** - August 26, 2013 at 07:59 PM

CR

“ MY PRAYERS GO TO THE WHOLE GUTIERREZ FAMILY IT WAS MY HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR HUSBAND, FATHER, GRANDFATHER AND FRIEND. WE HAD HIM ON OUR UNIT FOR A FEW WEEKS AND I GOT TO KNOW RAFAEL AND ALL OF YOU. MY PRAYERS ARE AND WILL BE WITH ALL OF YOU DURNIG THIS TIME IN NEED. MAY RAFAEL SING AND DANCE UP IN HEAVEN WHILE WATCH OVER US...



*MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL,  
CHRISTINA ROUGEMONT*

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**CHRISTINA ROUGEMONT** - August 26, 2013 at 01:24 PM

AG

“ *" I would like to express my most sincere condolences to Rafael's family. Our prayers are with you."*

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**Armand J. Giannini** - August 26, 2013 at 11:29 AM

KB

“ *I too was among the lucky ones who called Rafael a friend. Didn't get to see him nearly enough the last few years, but am so thankful to have known this wonderful man. I'm so sorry for your loss Diana. You and your entire family are in my prayers.*

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**Karen Brown** - August 26, 2013 at 09:35 AM

BG

“ *Rest In Peace My Friend. To the Gutierrez family and DB, I'm so sorry for your loss. I've had some really great times with Rafael and and the rest of you all! Stay strong through this difficult time. We will keep you in our prayers.*  
*Bob Green*

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**Bob Green** - August 25, 2013 at 10:10 PM

JJ

“ *What a great photo of Rafael on the French page. He looks like someone you would want as a friend. My thoughts are with all of you. I know you will all miss him deeply.*  
*Judy Jennings*

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**Judy Jennings** - August 25, 2013 at 08:59 PM

EM

“ *To Ann Tafoya and Family:  
My deepest sympathy to all of you! May God be with you and bring  
you peace in all the wonderful memories you have of Rafael. May  
he rest in peace!!!  
Enedina Miller*

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**Enedina Miller** - August 25, 2013 at 01:06 AM

PP

“ *Turn out the lights, the party's over -- heaven has called home the  
razzmatazz piano man . . . My heart goes out to DB and family*

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**Peggy Prucha** - August 24, 2013 at 10:54 PM

JG

“ *To the Gutierrez family and my dear friend  
Rafael....He was a bright light that brought joy  
to many and he will truly be missed....his  
constant support, friendship, and smile was  
contagious....we were all blessed to have  
know him....He will be missed. Our prayers are with him and his  
family.  
John and Yolanda Garcia*



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**John Garcia** - August 24, 2013 at 10:02 PM

JG

“ Dear DB and Gutierrez Family: I was glad to see Rafael and catch up during his recent hospital stay. The traffic to and from his room and his inclination to want to entertain everyone was "so Rafael". He's making music in heaven now. I was truly blessed to know him and call him friend. We had a lot of laughs over the years and he will be dearly missed. I am keeping you in my prayers.

*Janet Green*

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**Janet Green** - August 24, 2013 at 05:41 PM

KG

“ Kristin Gutierrez lit a candle in memory of Rafael Gutierrez



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**Kristin Gutierrez** - August 24, 2013 at 12:49 PM

MR

“ Ralph was a great friend for many, many years. I will always remember the good times our families had camping, and all the new years eve parties we enjoyed together. More recently, I enjoyed his company while planning our 50th high school reunion(go Bulldogs), and seeing him almost daily at the gym. He always reminded of our youth and the good old days. I will sorely miss him. My condolences and prayers to his family. Miguel Robles.

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**miguel robles** - August 23, 2013 at 05:50 PM

RS

“ On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies we want to express to you our deepest condolences.

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**Richard Stewart** - August 23, 2013 at 04:38 PM