



Roberto Martinez

May 22, 1929 - January 3, 2013

MARTINEZ, ROBERTO On January 3, 2013, the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, Roberto Martinez was called home by Our Lord. Roberto was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, friend and mentor. Roberto was born on May 22, 1929 in the small New Mexico mountain village of Chacon in the Mora Valley. He attended school in Mora and was educated by the Sisters of Loretto. After graduating high school, Roberto joined the United States Air Force, serving a four year duty. Afterwards, he worked at the New Mexico State Hospital in Las Vegas, N.M. where he met his future wife, Ramona Salazar, also an employee at the facility. They soon married and the young couple moved to Denver, Colorado in 1952, where Roberto worked as a civil servant for the Federal Government. Always having a passion for Mexican music, he started singing and playing the guitar, performing at restaurants and bars throughout Denver. When the Martinez family moved to Albuquerque, N.M. in 1961, Roberto started performing as a mariachi musician, forming the legendary group, Los Reyes de Albuquerque, in 1962. He performed with his group throughout New Mexico and the United States for almost fifty years. Through those years, Roberto received many awards and accolades. These include the 2003 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship (awarded along with his son Lorenzo) for preserving and promoting New Mexican Hispanic Music and Culture, and recognition by the Smithsonian Institution as a Corridista, or composer of corridos, which are Mexican ballads. Roberto was

also a civil rights advocate, leading many causes and struggles for all minorities who experienced discrimination and racism in the 60s and 70s. When he retired from civil service, Roberto devoted his energies to establishing the Los Reyes de Albuquerque Foundation for the promotion of New Mexican Hispanic Music and Culture. For over two decades, senior centers, public schools, and children's centers throughout New Mexico were exposed to music and history Roberto and his band of musicians brought to young and old alike. He was also a devout parishioner at Our Lady of the Assumption in Albuquerque, where he lent his voice to the Spanish choir for decades. Roberto was the son of Maximiano Martinez and Rosa Lovato. He is preceded in death by his daughters Roberta Maxine and Deborah Susan. Roberto is survived by his wife, Ramona Elena Salazar, their daughter Doris, their sons Lorenzo and Robert Jr., and their grandchildren Bernadette, Darla, Manuel, Carlos, Sheila, and Larry; also, their great grandchildren Desiree, Antonio, Tino, Ramon, Carlos Jr., Damian, and Asia. A rosary will be held at our Lady of the Assumption, Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with a visitation one hour prior. The funeral Mass will be at our Lady of the Assumption Wednesday, January 9, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. followed by the burial at Gate of Heaven. Dame un momento de vida Para resarte un rosario Despues Madrecita mia Contento me voy contigo Give me one more moment of life To pray a rosary Then, Holy Mother Happily, I will go with you- Roberto Martinez El Corrido de Daniel Fernandez

Tribute Wall

CG

“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to all his family. We will all miss his beautiful Mariachi music; Roberto was not only a primo but a good friend of my brother, Sammy and our family so many years ago. May God bless you all.

Clara Sandoval Garcia - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ I would like to express my deepest condolences to your family. I hope you find comfort from God's word the bible during this time of grief. For he is near to those broken at heart. Ps 34:17,18 Also, note Jesus' words of comfort spoken to Martha, who had just lost her brother, at John 11:23-25, "Jesus said to her: "Your brother will rise. Martha said to him: "I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life."

A. Bell - January 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ Dear Martinez Family, I knew Roberta through the 10 o'clock choir at Our Lady of the Assumption. It was easy to see where she got her talent and hers and Mr. Martinezs gift of music will be sorely missed. God's blessings to all of you now and always. May God comfort all of you and give you His strength and peace.

Ramona Otero - January 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ My deepest condolences to the family. Roberto and my husband Gilbert Martinez worked at Kirtland AFB for some years. They became friends, when both retired they kept in touch. Gilbert admired and loved the Mariachi music that Roberto brought to so many. They will now be in heaven and can continue their friendship. God Blessings to all of the family.

Regina Martinez - January 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ On behalf of my father, William Gonzales, a cousin of Roberto, we offer our sympathies to Roberto's family. My father's mother, Beroniz Lovato Gonzales and Roberto's mother, Rosa, were first cousins. Because of Roberto's corrido of Daniel Fernandez, I was inspired to write my own corrido of a Colorado Hispanic, Jose P. Martinez, who received the Medal of Honor in WWII. . I wrote to Roberto and he gave me written permission to use his melody. I perform my corrido in schools and always mention Roberto's generosity, how he's related to me, and the kids learn what a corrido is. Thank you Roberto and Martinez family for leaving such a legacy. Mary Louise (Gonzales) Sanchez

Mary Louise (Gonzales) Sanchez - January 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

IC

“ God used my cousin Roberto to bring healing to my heart and showed me the love of a father that I didn't get to grow up with. I will miss him and love him for eternity. He has a beautiful family and the world will miss him very much! God bless you and thank you for telling me you were my surrogate daddy. What a blessing you were to so many, including me.

Iris sandy Lovato Carson - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ When I was having a hard time accepting some problems in my life, my cousin, Robert, comforted me. He said, "Patty, God has a plan for everybody. He has a plan for you." His faith helped me then as well as through the years. All of our love and prayers for Robert and Ramona and Family.

Patty and Sonny Martinez - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ My deepest sympathy regarding Roberto. May he rest in peace. He was a great singer and entertainer.

Evangeline Donkersley - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ May the peace of God be with the Martinez Family. Robert blessed our entire family with his love.

Jim and Marcia Hutton - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

IM

“ To: The Martinez Family... I am so sorry for your loss. I am the daughter of Frank Muller son of Fred and Rita Muller who lived across the street from your family on Lester Dr. My family sends their condolences prays the Lord will comfort you now and always. Mr. Martinez was a wonderful man, we all respected him and will always remember his kind voice. Isabel

Isabel Muller-Santillanes - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ Our community has lost a great treasure, yet what don Roberto Martinez gave us is ever lasting. We have all been so blessed by his life, by his wife and family and all that he and they gave and continue to contribute for the betterment of our culture and lives. We are most saddened to lose, but are confirmed in the belief he is in heaven singing with his family, we celebrate his life as we begin a New Year 2013. Blessings to all the family. Board of the NM Hispanic Culture Preservation League: Mel Montano, S. Pauline Anaya, Ricardo Quintana, Daniel Antonio Herrera, Orae Dominguez, Samuel Domiinguez.

NM Hispanic Culture Preservation League - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ Dear Robert and family of Roberto Martinez -- I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I heard him play his music often and know, Robert, that you and your brother will carry on. My sincere and heartfelt sympathy at this time. Please know that I will remember you Robert and the remainder of your family in my prayers this evening. -- Marina Ochoa

Marina Ochoa - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Dear Robert and the Martinez family, Sending sincere condolences with deepest sympathy on the passing of your beloved father. What a remarkable man and wonderful example for all that he crossed paths with! His legacy of love lives on in all of you and we Praise God for His Goodness Always! May he rest in peace and May Perpetual Light shine upon him! Our prayers are with you.

Cathy Salcido - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

YS

“ My Dear Martinez Family, My prayers are with you all in the passing of your sweet father. I have very fond memories of watching him and my Dad play for many years. There were times when us kids spent time with each other while gatherings took place or at events where Los Reyes was playing. I cherish those times! Once I moved away from Alb., it was a blessing when I came home and went to one of the places they played. Bobby was always very gracious and kind in his greeting. Our family will remember him fondly and I will miss his singing! Love, Yvonne Shuman (Flores)

Yvonne Shuman - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SQ

“ My sincere condolences to the Martinez family. Roberto lived an honorable and honored life. His service to family and community was of the highest order. May you find solace in his memory and example, which will continue for all of your lifetimes.

Steve Quintana - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FG

“ siento mucho no poder estar con la familia en este tiempo de dolor y lamento. Nuestros rezos estan con ustedes. Las historias de nuestro Hermano Roberto su ser querido vivera no solamente un sus CORAZONES pero tambien en los CORAZONES del Pueblo Hispano. Yo coomo muchos otros gozaamos sus canciones , inclusibes Corrido de Tierra Amarilla, Corrido de Daniel Fernanadez y muchos mas. Asi como ustedes el Pueblo llora por su pasar a mejor vida y lo echaremos mucho menos en muchas de nuestras Fiestas por todo Nuevo Mexico. Gracias a Dios y ustedes la Familia Martinez por prestarnos este HOMBRE que nos trajo tanto gozo al Pueblo Neo Mexicano , Que en Paz y con nuestro Tatita Dios Descanza; . su humilde Amigo EL COMANCHE

Francisco El Comanche Gonzales - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ When I retired from the Air Force in 1971 and moved to Albuquerque, Robert was one of the first persons I met through my wife, Priscilla , who also is from Mora and have remained good friends all these years. I became a commercial artist and one of my first jobs was when Robert commissioned me to design a LP Record Album for his daughter Debbie, La Chicanita, Martinez. Other albums followed for him and his son, Lorenzo. I have always considered Roberto a mentor who got me started in my very successful art career . We owe a great deal to our friend Roberto and his family. Mil gracias y Dios bendiga a toda la Familia Martinez.

L. Marty Martinez and Priscilla Trujillo Martinez - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Our thought and prayers are with the family. May he rest in peace and make beautiful music in heaven

Clyde and Lucy Salazar - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I am very sad to hear of the loss of Mr. Martinez. Although I did not know him, knowing his son Rob tells the tale of a man who did good in the world. He brought up his children to be good people, showing kindness to others and love of family and friends. Truly the most important things in life. My sincere condolences to the family. Rest in peace Roberto. You did well.

David Swift - January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ We are very sadden to hear the news of Robert's passing. We will be missing his smile and kindness which he shared with us. May God bless his soul. Robert and I shared many memorable years during our child hood. Our prayers and condolences to the entire Martinez family.

Manuel & Genevieve Alcon - January 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ I remember my Uncle Roberto as one of the greatest men I have ever known. Thank you for treating Crystal so wonderfully in her time of need. Roberto and Ramona were always wonderful to us kids when we were growing up. Some of my fondest childhood memories were of Los Reyes singing at the fiesta every 4th of July. I will never forget you, you will always be in my heart. God bless your family, you will be in my prayers.

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy "Leery" Gallegos - January 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Ramona, so sorry to hear about your loss of Primo Roberto I SURE HE IS VISITING WITH MY MOM GRACE AS SHE WENT WITH THE LORD ON 11/12/12. SHE WAS 91 AND WOULD HAVE BEEN 92 ON 12/31 MY CONDOLOCES AND GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND GIVE YOU HIS STRENGTH . IOVE HELEN , GABE AND FAMILY

Gabe/Helen Mondragon - January 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Thank you Roberto for sharing many years of music to all. and most of all to the Seniors at the Meal Sites that will miss you greatly as I too will.....Janie

Janie Macias - January 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MC

“Roberto Martinez was my mentor and one my best Amigos. Roberto, "Bobby" was New Mexico incarnate. He loved his land, he composed corridos to it's sons and daughters and did everything he could to promote and preserve our culture. He dedicated his life through its music and taught and led his children in that quest. But Roberto's greatest gift was his familia. Ramona, his wife, a beautiful woman, both outside and inside was who Roberto called his essence and truth. He children, Debbie and Roberta shared their talents with all of us, Lorenzo, Roberto, Doris and the grandchildren will not forget that Roberto was one of those "giants on whose shoulders we can stand on" and in whose life we can find joy. Otro corrido, Bobby. Hasta pronto, don't forget that in New Mexico, "manana doesn't mean tomorrow it just doesn't mean today" Hasta tomorrow, my friend. Margarita

Margarita Martinez Cannon - January 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

J(

“I've known the Martinez family for years. I was saddened to hear that Mr. Martinez passed away. My prayers & condolences to Mrs. Martinez and family.

Janet Schupp (Mendoza) - January 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VL

“Thoughts and prayers to the family.

Vicky Jaramillo and Robert Loeven - January 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Aunt Ramona and Family We greive with you and send you our prayers. Uncle Robert was a great influence in our lives and he gave me(Percy) my first guitar on which I learned to play on it. We are saddened that we can't be there with you now but the Lord knows, and is in charge of all of our lives and all that we do. May the Lord be with you every step of the way to hold you steady. We love you. God bless you. Mike and Percy

Miguel and Priscilla Mirabal(Mike and Percy) - January 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ Our families were intertwined my whole life. Roberto sang Las Mananitas for my Mother-in-law for her birthday Jan. 1, 1982. He and Ramona took time out of their busy lives and went to Bath, Maine to commission the USS John McCain in 1994 when my husband, Greg, was serving in the Navy. He was our rock and his wisdom will forever ring in our ears. He remains eternal in our hearts and in our prayers.

Greg and Debbie Jackson - January 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ May he rest in peace. Miss and love u all its.been awihle. May the good lord be with u in this moment my prayers are with you and the family

Juliette montoya sanchez - January 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FS

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

Francisco Delgado and the Lomas staff - January 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM