



Stephen E. Benavidez

October 8, 1958 - April 3, 2014

Age 55, Stephen unexpectedly passed away on Thursday, April 3, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Neva M. King of Albuquerque; mother, Eva M. Parker; children, Allison N. Parraz, Leslie S. Benavidez; grandchildren Dominic, Jude, Addison, and Ruby; siblings Bernadette Vadurro, Ben Benavidez, Annette Stephens, and Anthony Benavidez; many nieces, nephews and friends. Steve was preceded in death by his father, Nap Benavidez and nephew; Michael Ortiz. Steve proudly served as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force. He was a parishioner at Risen Savior Catholic Community and formerly a parishioner, lector, Eucharistic Minister, Scholarship Committee Member, and Youth Group Minister at Aquinas Newman Center. He was active in his profession as a Project Manager Team Leader for SW District, Trane, with an MM98 Mechanical Licensure. Steve was a former president of the NM Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers; member and scholarship chairman of ASHRAE; and served as a committee member at CNM. He selflessly donated 70+ gallons of blood in his lifetime to United Blood Services and during his military service. In addition, he gave one of his kidneys to his brother. Steve was a NAUI certified scuba diver since 1979. He was a competitive racquetball player, earning first place state titles in 2010 and 2011, and second place in 2013. He coached his two daughters in little league and coached/played competitive slow pitch softball, leading his team to an undefeated season (16-0). Always a loyal fan of the New Mexico Lobos Basketball team and the Dallas Cowboys, Steve loved sports throughout the

years. He was passionate about many facets of life. Since the age of 13 he walked 30+ years to Santuario de Chimayo, a 26 mile pilgrimage. He was known for his infectious laugh and humor. He always lit up a room with his smile. His kind and generous nature made him a leader by example. Steve was a very intelligent man who loved to read. Always a gentleman, he never missed an opportunity to cherish his wife, Neva, and his love for her was evident to all. Being a grandfather meant the world to him. He was his grandson Dominic's role model and he never missed an opportunity to show his love and support. The legacy Steve leaves behind is an enduring love for his wife, family and friends. Rosary will be recited Thursday, April 10, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at FRENCH – Wyoming. Friends may visit beginning at 5:00 p.m. Mass will be celebrated Friday, April 11, 2014, 10:00 a.m., at Risen Savior Catholic Community, 7701 Wyoming Blvd. NE. Interment will follow at 2:15 p.m. at Santa Fe National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Stephen E. Benavidez Scholarship for Energy Engineers. Checks may be mailed to Attn: NMAEE, 2600 American Rd. SE, Suite 360, Rio Rancho, NM 87124.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 10. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Wyoming)
7121 Wyoming Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 823-9400
<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Rosary

APR 10. 6:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Wyoming)
7121 Wyoming Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 823-9400
<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 11. 10:00 AM (MT)

Risen Savior Catholic Community
7701 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Graveside Services

APR 11. 2:15 PM (MT)

Santa Fe National Cemetery
501 N. Guadalupe St.
NM 87504

Tribute Wall

VB

“ I had the pleasure of working with Steve here at Trane, and what a wonderful person. Not a day went by that he did not speak of his family. Steve you will be greatly missed. Your smile, laughter and unfiltered personality will be missed by many. It was such a blessing to know you. My thoughts & prayers are with your family and all the lives you touched. God bless.

Valerie Benally - April 11, 2014 at 11:15 AM

LR

“ To my dear Cousin Eva...it is very difficult to lose a child...no matter what age..Stephen was your child. I only met him a couple times and had no knowledge of the marvelous and generous life he lived. How proud you must be for the works he accomplished in so few years..From your cousin and her family her in Canada...May Gods love be with you and ease your sorrow to joy for the life Stephen lived. Lynda Rathburn & family

Lynda T. Rathburn - April 10, 2014 at 07:28 PM

ZM

“ I had the honor of working with Steve at Johnson Controls in the late 90's. Steve was one of those people who always had a contagious smile and a joke. We enjoyed a lot of inter-service rivalry- him Air Force and me Navy. Steve enjoyed his profession and he loved people. Steve will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known him. He will never be forgotten. My deepest condolences to the Benavidez family....Zane Myers
PS...Steve- it really was the Air Force that invented liquid soap, not the Navy! I will expect your comeback next we meet!

Zane Myers - April 09, 2014 at 11:08 PM

SF

“ *Sheila Fox purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Stephen E. Benavidez.*



Sheila Fox - April 09, 2014 at 05:06 PM

SF

“ *I will always remember Steve as a very warm and caring person. He had such a great smile and warm bright eyes. I had hoped to reconnect now that I was moving back to Albuquerque. I know how much he loved Neva and talked so proudly and affectionately of his grandkids and daughters. He will truly be missed. My first memory of Steve was back in junior high school. He and Ben, (his brother and campaign manager) made up a slogan "Thrown Rocks at Fox" for fun..... my last name being Fox.... i did not find this amusing accept when Steve delivered the slogan in person to me with his warm smile and catching laugh, I had to laugh too! It was all in fun..... that was Steve.... warm and fun, sincere. He went on to win the race. Smart too! Love and Light to all the family. Sending you off to heaven Steve with the deepest of hearts.*

Sheila Fox

Sheila Fox - April 09, 2014 at 04:57 PM

DJ

“ *David and Michelle Jones purchased the Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy for the family of Stephen E. Benavidez.*



David and Michelle Jones - April 09, 2014 at 11:29 AM

KU

“ Steve had a wonderful buoyant spirit, and always brought happiness with him wherever he went. As his wife Neva’s niece, I was privileged to know Steve, and felt the warmth of his loving presence. He loved Neva with all his heart, and it was clear for all to see. My sincere condolences to the Benavidez family, we have all lost a loving soul. He will be in our hearts forever. -Kristen Ulwelling

Kristen Ulwelling - April 09, 2014 at 08:29 AM

SF

“ A true friend for many years, I will never forget Steve. I met him back in 1983 working at Western Refrigeration, and with that, a great friendship was born. I will always miss the infectious laughter and happiness that he carried. The thing I will remember most about Steve is how much he loved and talked about his daughters, grandchildren, and wife Neva; he was such a proud family man. I would like to express my deepest condolences to the Benavidez family. Steve was a good man. I know that his absence will be felt greatly in the lives of everyone who knew him. Until we meet again my friend..
God bless,
Shawn

Shawn Tillman and family - April 08, 2014 at 06:12 PM

VS

“ *To Family Benavidez,
I am so sorry for your loss and I am beyond words to express my disbelief at Stephen's death. Steve was a character so full of life and devotion to his family and friends. I admired Stephen's dedication to family, work, fun or whatever he set his heart to. I worked with Steve almost 28 years ago. May our Lord give Stephen eternal peace and may God continue to bless his family with loving memories of Stephen. Steve you silly man, God loved you so much he called you home in the middle of having fun. You are now an Angel.*

Simply, Valerie Shupe

Valerie Shupe - April 08, 2014 at 03:46 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Stephen E. Benavidez.*



April 08, 2014 at 11:34 AM

DN

“ *I know Steve will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Steve was a great guy and I enjoyed working with him at JCI. Our prayers go out to his family and friends.*

Dale Norris - April 07, 2014 at 08:08 PM

RR

Neva I never got the joy to meet Steve in person, but the Love and Joy that was on his face with you is incredible, you can tell you were the Love of his Life! We are left with the joy he left behind, but if we could see his face as he is held in Jesus arms we would feel so blessed. Please know I hold you and the family up to Jesus that through the grief you can find the Joy he left behind! God Bless all of you!
In Gods Love,
Roosa, Mark Radojits and family

Roosa & Mark Radojits - April 08, 2014 at 10:29 AM

NN

“ Keeping you and your family in my thoughts. I am so sorry for your loss.

Neva Newsom - April 07, 2014 at 05:38 PM

CW

“ Steve was truly a wonderful human being - a kind, generous man who radiated joy and brought a spark of happiness to everyone who knew him. In every memory I have of him he is flashing his bright smile and cracking jokes and making the whole room smile in return. I especially remember all of the many holiday celebrations at Eva's house where Steve's arrival would always amp up the festivities another notch. He was one of those rare individuals who was comfortable with himself, and with anyone who was around him. He will be missed by so many people. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends, especially Eva and Chuck, Ben, Berna, Anthony and Annette, his wife and children, and all of his many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. I'm so sorry for your loss. Thank God he was blessed with a good life, though it ended far too soon. I still can't quite believe he's gone. The world is a little dimmer with his passing.

Carolyn Wright

Carolyn Wright - April 07, 2014 at 04:22 PM



“ *Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.*

Michelle Cox-Jones - April 07, 2014 at 02:38 PM



“ *It is Unconscionable and inconceivable to believe that Steve had to leave his family and friends behind so soon. Heaven must have needed another angel.*

Cousin Steve could smile at you with his eyes he always had that beautiful sparkle in them. It will be hard not to hear him laugh with his mom Eva and my mom Lupe... that's how I'll remember him...

Steve had the best sense of humor, he was humble and kind. He was loved and will be missed by all that knew him.

My heart goes out to Eva, Neva, Leslie, Allison, Bernadette, Ben, Annette, Anthony and their families.

Thank god we are fortunate enough to have such a tight knit family to comfort each other in times like this...

*Much Love, <3 Tink
Paul, Theresa and Vincent Gomez*

Theresa Gomez - April 07, 2014 at 01:07 PM



“ *Steve,
I will miss you buddy. You always made me laugh and always had a smile on. We had some great laughs and stories together and I will never forget that. I know you are looking down on your friends and family and will continue to watch over them. Take care my man, I'll miss you. Joe Perea*

Joe Perea - April 07, 2014 at 12:17 PM

NE

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Neva - April 07, 2014 at 11:41 AM

CO

“ Steve, you were my closest, longest true friend. I was heartbroken when I heard of your passing. You taught me everything I know about this business and you were always there for me when I needed an answer or just an ear so I could vent. My heart pours out to Neva, the girls, and the rest of your family. There are no words to describe the emotions and the emptiness. I can't believe I won't ever see that amazing smile or hear that infectious laugh again..until I see you on the other side my friend. I love you, cheryl

cheryl oneill - April 07, 2014 at 09:17 AM

NK

HE LOVED YOU. There will be an opportunity to talk briefly. If you feel you might not be able to talk. Roger the officiant can read it.

Neva King - April 07, 2014 at 12:43 PM

DT

“ Deborah T. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Stephen E. Benavidez.



Deborah T. - April 07, 2014 at 09:12 AM

SG

“Wow, I am deeply saddened! I had hoped the obit. I read over the weekend in the paper was not the Steve B. I knew. We spent many, many hours on the basketball courts thru out ABQ., Hoop it Up, etc. over the years. Watching the girls grow into young adults as they watched their DAD play. My condolences to Benavidez family! I will miss him!

Scott Gray - April 07, 2014 at 09:10 AM



“Peaceful Wishes was purchased for the family of Stephen E. Benavidez.



April 06, 2014 at 07:52 PM

RG

“Our deepest sympathy on Steve's passing. Your in our thoughts and prayers!
Bodo and Rhonda Garcia

Rhonda Garcia - April 06, 2014 at 06:11 PM

FU

“Condolences and prayers from the Sandoval family. We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss.

Felicia Ulibarri - April 06, 2014 at 02:38 PM

LW

“ Norma Brewster, and the Scott and Laura Wallin family send our deepest sympathy to you and your family, Neva. We enjoyed meeting and getting to know Steve at some of our family gatherings. Prayers of healing and comfort at this difficult time are sent your way.

Laura Wallin - April 06, 2014 at 12:21 PM

NA

“ The Dennis and Nancy Armijo family want to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Steve. We have know Steve for many years through our daughters playing softball together (Daniella) and recently connected with Steve when we realized our Lobo basketball seats were right in front of him. Hearing his comments and laughter throughout the games made our evening so much better. He will be missed for sure.

Nancy Armijo - April 06, 2014 at 09:00 AM

JC

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

Joel Chavez - April 05, 2014 at 03:47 PM