



John Ray Martinez

December 23, 2020

John Ray Martinez, 72, of Pueblo, passed away on December 23, 2020. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Christopher Martinez; parents, Benjamin and Alicia Martinez; brother Ben Martinez Jr.; in-laws, Gregorio and Helen Huerta; brothers-in law, Ed Huerta, Frank Huerta, Jack Maloney, Lou Lazo, Jerry Vaughn, Joe Gallagher Sr., and Edmund Vallejo; numerous other family members. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Theresa; children, Valerie Martinez, Gina Martinez, David (Raine) Martinez, Amanda (Ric) Wildenberg; grandchildren, Dominic, Jason, Adrianna, Alita, Bria, Braden, JJ and Lola; Siblings, Frank (Martha) Martinez, Eppie (Ruth) Martinez, Alice (Bill) Bansberg, Gerard (Sharon) Martinez, Ramona (Anthony) Vigil; in-laws, Inez Gallagher, Felicitas Lazo, Gregoria Vallejo, Rose (Jim) Tafoya, Catherine Maloney, Pat Tomko, Martha (Frank) Martinez and Joe (Brenda) Huerta; godchildren, numerous nieces and nephews; extended family and friends. John was a Pueblo native, graduating as a proud Central Wildcat, with the class of 1966. Following high school, he enlisted in the United States Navy and proudly served during the Vietnam War, on the USS Forrestal. After completing his service, he worked as an auto body technician, for various local dealerships. In 1986, he changed careers to begin working for the Housing Authority of Pueblo, as a lead painter. During this time, he was honored to represent his peers, as their union President. He was a very faithful man, serving as a Eucharistic minister, at St. Joseph Parish. He was known and loved by many, who affectionately called him, "Papa John". John had a huge heart, and once he met you, you weren't just a friend, you were family. He was an avid Denver Broncos fan, enjoyed bowling with his wife and son, yearly camping trips to his beloved Colorado mountains, and especially cooking delicious food for family and catering ventures. Most of all he loved spending time with his family. He will be forever loved and deeply missed by all those who carry on his memory. Private Mass of Resurrection with Live stream through Facebook at Romero Family Funeral Home, Pueblo and YouTube at Romero Family Funeral Home Pueblo, 10:00 am, Tuesday. St. Joseph Church.

Events

JAN 12 **Live Stream - Facebook Romero Family Funeral Home** 10:00AM -
Pueblo 11:00AM

St. Joseph Catholic Church

1145 S. Aspen Road, Pueblo, CO, US, 81006

Comments



“ Ribbon of Remembrance-Sterling Pendant & Necklace was purchased for the family of John Ray Martinez.



January 19 at 10:59 AM



“ Too many memories....to little time! What can we say about this extraordinary man? To our family, he was a constant in our lives! He was consistent with his love, helpfulness, generosity, faith, love, compassion and humor! We all loved being around him whether it was just a quick visit, Sunday dinners, family celebrations, our six pack times, playing cards, road trips and our “night cap” visits. He fed us many wonderful meals including the Christmas Eve Prime Rib feast that we always looked forward to with our family. His handsome face always breaking out in a smile when ever he greeted family and friends.

Yes brother, you will be greatly missed but we know you are now at peace and free of the earthly afflictions that you so courageously faced with never a complaint. Wishing we could have grown old with together with you but we thank God for the time we had the privilege of spending with you. Know that you made a positive impact on all of us!

Theresa, you know we will always be here for you and the kids! We love you all and will help you get through this sad time in your lives. We are here with love and support!

To John, we love you so much and until we meet in Paradise...we will try not to be stuck on stupid! 🙏

XOXO

Brother Joe, Brenda Lou, Gregers, Lisa Marie and My Little Buddy Adam

Brenda Huerta - January 12 at 10:41 PM



“ Uncle John was always a ray of sunshine. His smile made you happy and his hugs were amazing. His last trip to Iowa was not easy, but like he said....he was going to make it to see Inez and family. That is what was important to him...Aunt Theresa and his family. He will be desperately missed and his memories will be treasured by Maury, me and our kids. Love to you all! Tina and Maury Gallagher family

Tina L Gallagher - January 12 at 04:21 PM



“ Val Jason I send my heartfelt condolences to your family at this time

Susan Yankton - January 12 at 03:37 PM



“ Dearest Sister Theresa, Val, Gina, David, Raine, Mandy, Ric and all the grandchildren,

We wish to extend Our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to each of you. “Letting go” of Our Loved Ones will always be one of life’s MOST difficult experiences.

On a personal note, I will forever be grateful to MY “Big Brother”, for always being there for me. As his “Little Sister” , he was the one who “opened” so many windows of opportunity for me. From the very beginning, as a senior in high school, I watched him sit at the kitchen table with my Mom and Dad, trying to “figure out” how to complete the mountain (and often confusing) mound of paperwork required for college. As a young, 18 yr old freshman, attending Southern Colorado State College (SCSC), he “planted that seed” and showed me the value, opportunities, and possibilities of continuing education. Later, while proudly serving in the United States Navy, his letters, postcards, pictures and gifts he sent us, opened those windows even higher, providing “glimpses” of stories of people, places and experiences, far beyond Pueblo, CO. Brother John’s FAITH and devotion to Our Heavenly Father, Our Blessed Mother, and a list of his Special Patron Saints, was built on a solid foundation. Over the years, as Brother was presented with one health challenge after another, his FAITH remained steadfast. He was my HERO before and reaffirmed those sentiments as I witnessed the EXTRAORDINARY and EXEMPLARY model of what it means, when Our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ invites us to “...lift up your cross and follow Me”. Never a complaint, only his ever-inspiring will ... to “continue moving forward” in FAITH, accepting the WILL of GOD and “to EMBRACE and carry HIS cross”. As the saying goes, Brother John’s “wings were ready to fly, but OUR hearts were not”, is so very true. His bigger than life personality, his humor, his amazing food (and one-of-a-kind recipes), his passion for the BRONCOS, his Love and anticipation for the annual Martínez camping trips, the annual Martínez “Little Christmas” celebrations and ALL future family and friend get togethers will NEVER be the same. However, they will be FOREVER richer because of the memories lived, shared and experienced with Our Amazing Brother. I will miss our Big Brother-Little Sister conventions, but I find comfort... that ALL those “gifts” will continue to live on and shine forth, through the lives of his children and grandchildren. Although we may not fully be able to understand the tragedies in life, our FAITH reminds us, we are ALWAYS in GOD’S hands. May each of you find comfort in GOD’S infinite Grace and Mercy, as we continue to pray that the glory and power of the HOLY SPIRIT, shower you with strength in the days ahead. FOREVER in Our Hearts....

with ALL Our LOVE, Al and Bill

Alice Martinez Bansberg - January 12 at 02:06 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Ray Martinez.



January 12 at 12:21 PM



“ Lucia Lopez lit a candle in memory of John Ray Martinez



Lucia Lopez - January 12 at 10:08 AM



“ Love, Frank, Martha and family. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Ray Martinez.



Love, Frank, Martha and family. - January 10 at 08:22 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Ray Martinez.



January 10 at 10:31 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Ray Martinez.



January 09 at 06:39 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of John Ray Martinez.



January 09 at 09:10 AM



“ My deepest condolences and my heart goes out to the family.. time doesn't heal the heart but the mind remember the greatest memories of love and joy.. the Ybarra and Nunez family send all of the condolences possible..



Monica Ybarra - January 08 at 08:45 PM



“ Midwest Ranch Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Ray Martinez.



Midwest Ranch Family - January 08 at 12:39 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Ray Martinez.



January 07 at 09:24 PM



“ We have many fond memories of John. From backyard barbecues, bowling, and family weddings and birthdays. He was a genuine, kind man. Always there to help when he was needed, all we had to do was ask. I hope he knew how much he was appreciated, and how much his friendship meant to us. Our Love and prayers are with the entire Martinez family.

Trenton and Karen Creed

Karen Creed - January 07 at 12:12 PM



“ From the first time I met the Martinez 's as Gina's teacher I was treated as family and John also treated me that way which was unusual for fathers. He greeted me with a hug and a smile, welcomed me to his home, celebrations, and cared about me in my sorrow. I am sorry for Theresa because I know how she will miss him, and the kids will also miss his guidance and cheer. My Prayers are with you all.



Linda Veltri - January 06 at 10:02 PM