



## David Ronald Valdez

May 2, 1959 - December 15, 2024

David Ronald Valdez, a beloved brother, uncle, and friend, passed away on December 15, 2024, at the age of 65. David was born into a military family in Tucson, AZ, and lived a life marked by both adventure and service. As a child, his family moved frequently due to his father's career in the U.S. Air Force, living in Roswell, NM, and Madrid, Spain, before returning to the U.S. to Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. After experiencing the profound loss of his mother, Emma Eleanor (Vigil) Valdez in 1970, the family moved to Colorado Springs and then finally settled in Pueblo, CO.

A proud U.S. Navy Veteran, David served from 1975 to 1982 aboard the USS Independence aircraft carrier, based out of Norfolk, Virginia. His service took him to many interesting international locations. After his military career, he found a home at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where he worked for several years, often alongside his siblings. It was during this time that David developed a deep love for the Colorado Buffaloes football team and participated in a recreational softball league with staff, faculty, and family members. Later in life David explored various ventures including running businesses in moving, vending and limousine services.

David was an avid sports fan, with a particular passion for the Colorado Rockies, the Denver Broncos, and the New York Yankees. His enthusiasm for the Rockies was unwavering, win or lose. He also found great joy in fishing,

camping, and playing golf. Beyond his interests, David was known for his sense of humor, quick wit, and vast knowledge of history — you wouldn't want to challenge him to a game of Trivial Pursuit! Although he appeared tough on the outside, those who knew him best recognized his gentle and generous heart.

David was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Elisabeth (Lis) Butler, whom he married in the early 1990's. Lis, a VA nurse, was the love of his life, and their time together in Broomfield, CO, was one of David's greatest joys. Lis passed away in 1995. He was also preceded by his parents, Emma and Octavian (Art) Valdez Jr., and siblings, Linda Valdez, Christina (Tina) Valdez Pineda, and Octavian (Art) Valdez III.

David leaves behind his surviving siblings: Loretta Negrete (Carlos) of Longmont, Duvie Martinez (Gary) of Pueblo West, and Ernie Valdez (Paula) of Longmont. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, including Jason, Kelli, and Matthew Valdez; Andy and Danielle (Muller) Negrete; Joseph, Judy (Acosta) and Suzie (Gennuso) Martinez; Stephanie Valdez; Jonathan (JC) and Alyssa (Rodarte) Pineda; and Colten Valdez.

A graveside service will be held at Fort Lyon National Cemetery, where we ask that in lieu of flowers, you honor David's memory in your hearts. His legacy of love, laughter, and service will live on in the many lives he touched.

# Cemetery Details

## **Fort Lyons National Cemetery**

15700 County Road HH  
Las Animas, CO 81054

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ *A very gentle man. Peace be with you all.*  
*Cheryl Brazeau*

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**Cheryl Brazeau** - December 23, 2024 at 06:46 PM

WR

“ *"FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS, SHIPMATE." Although we didn't serve together, you are still my "SHIPMATE"*

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**WALTER BEDLIEN MSCS/SS RET.** - December 23, 2024 at 12:13 PM

DA

“ *I will always remember David and his love for laughter which he shared with all those around him. He will be greatly missed. Darsi Engeman*

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**Darsi** - December 21, 2024 at 07:19 PM