



Felipe "Don" Donalddo Cruz

April 4, 1941 - November 28, 2024

Our beloved Don went home to be with the Lord on November 28, 2024. He left behind not only all of his loved ones, but an immeasurable number of memories to all that knew him. Don was born to Nick and Emma Cruz in Los Pinos, New Mexico on April 4, 1941, but had the pleasure and joy of growing up in Alamosa, Colorado with eight of his siblings. Don was born to Nick and Emma Cruz in Los Pinos, New Mexico on April 4, 1941, but had the pleasure and joy of growing up in Alamosa, Colorado with eight of his siblings. Don was forced to grow up fast, like most in that era, but as soon as he met Karen Ortega, he knew life was forever changed. Don and Karen were inseparable from the beginning. Even a Catholic school in New Mexico couldn't keep them apart, it only strengthened their love and dedication to each other. Throughout the years they would welcome four children to their family with love and excitement; Jeffrey, Valorie, Johnny and Brian. In the early years, Don and Karen lived in the mountains between Durango and Silverton where he had the thrilling position of clearing mountain passes like... Wolf Creek and The Million Dollar Highway. The story's Don would tell we're not only scary but exciting. Eventually, they moved back to their beloved Alamosa where they welcomed and raised four children: Jeffrey, Valorie, Johnny and Brian. Don was presented with opportunity to become a lineman, which he took very seriously and studied endlessly for. He was not only grateful but loved being a lineman throughout Alamosa and eventually the Denver area; until his retirement. Don was very active and loved being outside. Whether it be

camping, fishing, snow skiing, water skiing, bowling or dancing. Oh, how Don was known for his dancing! Everyone, family or friend, wanted the chance to dance with Don. Although spending most of his life in The Valley, Don and Karen moved into Denver where their children and grandchildren soon followed, but Alamosa never left his heart. Don and Karen were able to finish out amazing careers and establish themselves as city folk. Don quickly found new places to spend his time- like Blackhawk, GI Forum, The Columbine with Mel every Friday and many other fun places. Although a small-town boy, he adapted to Denver well and was often found calmly "cruising" the busy streets of Denver with his windows down. Once retirement came, Don was able to spend his time with Karen, friends and family. They now enjoyed more time with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Don always stayed busy whether out and about or tinkering in his garage. Life started to slow down, but that didn't stop him from enjoying his Sunday morning Mexican music, dancing and laughing at all the family gatherings, and appreciating the endless visits from friends and family. He would say "time sure gets us, but I'm still going, even if slower". The last several years Don spent all of his time by Karens side. He played a major role in her care and was there for her day and night, but not without some spicy words here and there. Ultimately, he wouldn't have her anywhere else but with him, no matter how hard it was. When the time came that Karen needed to be moved, he was still there by her side every day. He became a regular patron of the nursing home, stayed with her for hours, and would call multiple times a day to check in on her. The bond they shared was strong and irreplaceable. Don showed us a side most had never seen, a side filled with tenderness, affection and patience, all the way until the end. Don has proven to be a huge part of some many lives, offering many memories, whether good, bad or great, they are now ours to keep and treasure. Don was a force to be reckoned with, he was a spirited man filled with love, charisma and charm. All that knew him, truly loved him. Saying "goodbye" is always too soon, but we have comfort knowing you are in a better place now Pompo, where the slot machines run loose and the Mexican

and Honky Tonk music never stops. You're always with us and will never be forgotten... Until we meet again!

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 13. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Thrive Church
2720 W. 92nd Ave
Federal Heights, CO 80260

Tribute Wall

TC

“ Terrie, Bhrett & Carmen purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Felipe "Don" Donaldo Cruz.



Terrie, Bhrett & Carmen - December 13, 2024 at 02:57 AM

TC

“ Terrie, Bhrett & Carmen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Felipe "Don" Donaldo Cruz.

Terrie, Bhrett & Carmen - December 13, 2024 at 02:57 AM

RF

“ Rosemary Sandoval and Family. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Felipe "Don" Donaldo Cruz.



Rosemary Sandoval and Family. - December 12, 2024 at 05:36 PM

TM

“ Don & Karen were my padrinos and I loved him and Karen deeply. I have such great memories of them when I was a child. I loved going over their house with my Dad. My parents shared many memories with me about their fun times with Don & Karen when they were in their early 20s. Don was a great dancer and I loved his sense of humor, his love for music and old cars. Don will be missed and I hope him and my Dad are up there having a beer and watching over all of us. Rest in peace. 🙏 Love to Karen, Jeff, Valerie & Brian 💙



Traci Maestas - December 08, 2024 at 10:15 AM

AG

“ Don and I went to school together and ran a round together until our graduation day. He was one of the nicest persons that one could be privileged to be associated with. He and Karen made such a lovely couple and were blessed with a wonderful family. I will be attending his memorial service on Friday 13, 2024 (God willing) Anastacio Walter Gomez

Anastacio Walter Gomez - December 06, 2024 at 04:12 PM

SH

Don and Karen were our neighbors on Denver avenue for years they were such wonderful people I love them as neighbors and as parents to Jeff, Valerie, and Brian. I became very close to them when I had Jeff as a fourth grader at Boyd Elementary School. They were great neighbors and our neighborhood has since pretty much disappeared because so many people have left. God bless you Dawn may you rest in peace. Karen and family you're in my thoughts and prayers. Love you all and God bless you ❤️❤️❤️

Sandee Hay - December 07, 2024 at 12:53 PM

TM

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Traci Maestas - December 08, 2024 at 09:57 AM

MG

“ I will always remember Don and Karen at our wedding! They danced, laughed and encouraged us by Don saying “good luck Mike” and Karen smacking him and laughing! They were the longest married couple at our wedding and still able to joke with each other and have fun! He always made me laugh!

Margaret Garcia - December 06, 2024 at 09:17 AM

ML

“ To my beloved brother Don, I'm going to miss you very much. I will treasure my time we spent together. All the memories we shared. You are forever in my . Your sister Marcella



Marcella Cruz Lucero - December 05, 2024 at 11:53 PM

JL

I'll always remember you, Mr. Cruz when we would drive you to your Dr. Appointments and you would always greet me with "Jaunito". You will be missed so much. Until we meet again I'll see you later. Your brother in law John (Juanito) Lucero

John L Lucero - December 07, 2024 at 12:20 PM

KK

I worked with "Cruzer" at Rocky Mountain Arsenal. He was a true professional and a very pleasant man. I'm glad he experienced many years of retirement.

Ken Keller

Ken Keller - December 29, 2025 at 12:04 PM