



## José Esteban Eduardo Ortega

August 6, 1942 - November 5, 2018

José was a Chicano community activist, who loved his heritage, language, music and people. He honorably served as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corp during the Viet Nam war era. He was a founding member of La Gente por la Raza, providing community resources and advocating for Chicano rights. As a student of CU Boulder, José was the President of “UMAS” - United Mexican American Students - an organization developed to improve educational opportunities for 1400+ students. He was the CEO of La Clinica del Valle for the lower Arkansas Valley region and Director of La Cucaracha Newspaper, with a distribution throughout the entire SW region of the United States. José was the Director of the Pueblo Neighborhood Health Centers, which provided tens of thousands of low-income families with affordable health care services. He was a loving son, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He was loved by so many and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

# Previous Events

## **Rosary Service**

NOV **15**. 9:30 AM (MT)

St. Leander Catholic Church  
1438 E. 7th Street  
Pueblo, CO 81001

## **Mass of the Resurrection**

NOV **15**. 10:00 AM (MT)

St. Leander Catholic Church  
1438 E. 7th Street  
Pueblo, CO 81001

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ To the Ortega Family: Jose and I served with the same unit in the USMC for almost 3 years, (HqCo, ASDBn, 1st FSR,) at Camp Pendleton, California from 1961 until August of 1964 and we were best friends. We more or less went our separate ways after our military service was over and I assumed that Steve would stay in Southern California while I returned to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I tried to locate him for many years, in fact, when my wife and I came through Pueblo back in 2009 or 2010, we stayed in a motel in Pueblo and I got out the phone book and tried calling several Ortega's asking if they were related to Jose, but all I kept hearing was no, we don't have any Jose in our family. I more or less gave up searching, thinking that Jose was not in Pueblo. This morning, just by chance, I typed his name in a search, and the first thing that came up was his obituary. I was shocked to see this and I am so sorry for your loss. I fondly recall our days in our barracks at Camp Pendleton, Building 1205, when Steve would get out his guitar, along with several other Hispanic friends who also played the guitar, and the music and singing would begin. Because I played the accordion, Steve invited me to join in to play along with them, and I became an honorary member of the so called, "Latin Quarter." We shared so many great times and stories together. I am so glad that Jose returned to his home and became a leader as well as a community activist within the Hispanic community of Pueblo. From reading his obituary, he had a truly remarkable career in helping the less fortunate citizens of Pueblo. I'm sure if he were still with us today, he would be even more active in helping the families fleeing the problems of Mexico and Central America. Again, my sympathy goes out to Jose's entire family. Jose, rest in peace my dear friend. Semper Fi. Ron Schalig

*P.S. I would love to hear from anyone in the Ortega family. My email address is:*

*rschalig@wi.rr.com and my telephone number is 262-821-1001. My mailing address is: 19565 Cromwell Court, Brookfield, Wi 53045. I might be able to find some pictures of Jose and myself and if I can find them, I will send them to you on this web site.*

**Ron Schalig** - March 06, 2019 at 11:33 AM

LS

“ *Esteban was our 1st cousin, I enjoyed my Primo every time we visited Pueblo, we talked about our family history we shared information and remembrances. The entire family enjoy listening to the Ortegas music, Now Steve has joined Martin.. Prayers for all the Ortega Familia..*

*Y por Tu Preciosisima Sangre que alcansen el eterno descanso....  
Leo Webb and Sandy Montoya*

---

**Leo and Sandy** - November 14, 2018 at 07:54 PM

RW

“ *I went to Parkview with Steve that's what I knew him as. I also worked with him at the Post Office in 1966 lost track of him until now. was schocked to hear about this. We were friends for a long time. Roger Ward*

---

**Roger Ward** - November 13, 2018 at 02:54 PM