

Richard Joseph Avina

July 12, 1952 - July 11, 2025

Richard “Rip” Joseph Aviña passed away peacefully on July 11, 2025, just one day shy of his 73rd birthday. He was a beloved father, son, brother, uncle, partner, educator, and DJ whose life was marked by a deep love for family, music, and community. He was preceded in death by his father Joseph Isador Atencio, grandmother Concepcion Aviña, sister Lorraine Atencio Fields, and stepfather M.G. Salas. He is survived by his sons Russell (Nicole) Aviña and Adam Aviña; his mother Jennie Salas; siblings Robert (Ellen) Salas, Ronald Salas, Reuben (Phyllis) Salas, Ronald Atencio, Leonard (Kathy) Atencio, Annette (Jim) Atencio Bubak, and Trina (James) Atencio Cleveland; significant other Mary Ellen Trujillo; former wife Lorraine Aviña; and numerous nieces and nephews. Richard dedicated over 20 years to education, guiding and inspiring generations of students. He taught at Columbian Elementary School and retired from Pueblo Academy of Arts, mentor and father figure to many. Before that, he was a DJ known as “Rip” who filled rooms and hearts with music from the '70s through the 2000s. He never lost his passion for spinning vinyl, and his jam sessions were legendary among friends and family. A proud Colorado Rockies fan, Richard loved spending summer days at the ballpark and made it a goal to visit stadiums around the country. He was also a lifelong Broncos fan, proud CU Buff and Navy parent, always cheering loudly from the stands. Richard’s presence lit up every room. He never met a stranger and was known for his warmth, humor, and generosity. His memory will live on in the music he loved, the stories he told, and the lives he touched.

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 24. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (MT)

Romero Family Funeral Home
110 Cleveland St.
Pueblo, CO 81004
(719) 583-1313
romeroffh@live.com

Rosary

JUL 24. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1145 S. Aspen Road
Pueblo, CO 81006

Mass of the Resurrection

JUL 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1145 S. Aspen Road
Pueblo, CO 81006

Interment

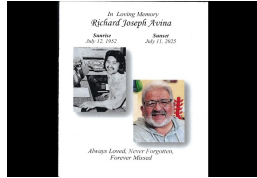
JUL 25. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Roselawn Cemetery
Pueblo, CO

Tribute Wall

RA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Russ Avina - July 28, 2025 at 11:48 AM

RC

“ Rip was a great guy. I grew up with Russell in middle school and high school and spent many days and nights over at his house with all our friends. Rip always made it feel like a second home. He was a kind and supportive and caring man and will greatly be missed. God bless the entire family during this difficult time.

Ramon Cordova - July 25, 2025 at 01:41 PM

SB

“ Rip was an amazing Father and friend. He was always a joy to be around when I visited his house and his sons. He will be greatly missed and remembered. I know he will watch over his family and all of us. He raised his son's the right way and he will never be forgotten. Thank you for all the great memories Mr. Avina

Steven Blackwell - July 24, 2025 at 09:28 PM

TF

“ The Atencio Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Joseph Avina.

The Atencio Family - July 24, 2025 at 01:19 AM

TF

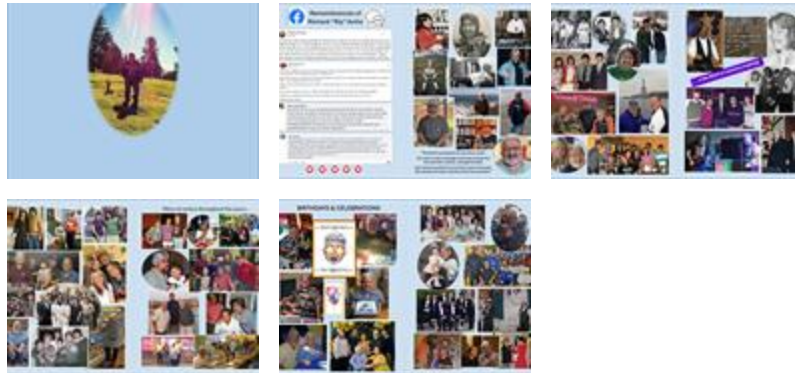
“ *The Atencio Family purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Richard Joseph Avina.*



The Atencio Family - July 24, 2025 at 01:19 AM

YG

“ *19 files added to the album Rip Avina*



Yolanda Lucero Grouell - July 23, 2025 at 01:28 PM

CM

“ *Rest in peace my friend. You were always our go to DJ for family celebrations. You and J Diamond never let us down. Thank you thank you. Play “Kansas City” one more time for Nana and Papa when you see them. You were the best.*

Carol and Les Morken - July 22, 2025 at 08:21 AM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph Avina.



July 21, 2025 at 08:11 PM



“ I remember growing up in Pueblo and listening to "Rip" Avina playing the good tunes and music on the KDZA radio station.

A Guerrero - July 21, 2025 at 08:13 AM



“ This is for Adam Avina. It's Mrs. Dougherty from when you were in my class in elementary school. Your Dad would call from the radio station to tell you "hello" and to do a good job in school. He let us say a few words on the air! You were such a cool cute smart kid and I really loved what your Dad did for you. He supported me as a teacher and taught you about the importance of education. He was funny and we really got a kick about him talking about us on the radio. I know you will miss him terribly and always will. My heart goes out to you and the family. Most sincerely, Christy Furman(Dougherty)

Jane Christine "Christy" Furman - July 20, 2025 at 08:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Joseph Avina.

July 20, 2025 at 01:29 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph Avina.*



July 20, 2025 at 01:29 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences to your family, rip was an absolute amazing guy, he will always be remembered as Pueblo's best DJ, a great friend, a man with a great sense of humor who truly had a huge impact on so many. Rest in peace my friend! Richard and Kim Wallace*

Richard Wallace - July 20, 2025 at 09:47 AM



“ *Thank you Rip for all you have done. I will cherish the memories I have of you. Rip was the kind of guy that always had your back. Love ya friend.*
Scott Butler

scott butler - July 19, 2025 at 06:56 PM

RA

“ 4 files added to the album Rip Avina



Russ Avina - July 19, 2025 at 02:52 PM

MH

“ Rip, you were truly loved and you will be truly missed by the Herrera Family. We have so many wonderful memories working together at parties and weddings Us behind the bar and you behind the music, it was bound to be a great time. R.I.P. Our sincere condolences to Mary Ellen and the entire Aviña family.

Marisa Herrera - July 19, 2025 at 01:00 PM

JW

“ Ripper...you are one of my all time favorites man. I will forever cherish the laughter and conversation over a cold beverage over the years. Your legacy will live on as an educator and also a great friend to many. As I write this I can hear your infectious laugh and see the sparkle in your eyes. Rest in paradise my friend.

Jon Warren - July 19, 2025 at 12:45 PM

ME

“ Mary Ellen purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Richard Joseph Avina.



Mary Ellen - July 18, 2025 at 10:51 PM

GG

“ I'll always remember rip Avina Always listen to KDZA 70s and 80s and 90s rest in peace your dynamite DJ my condolences to the family a true fan, Gloria J Martinez Garcia

Gloria J Martinez Garcia - July 18, 2025 at 10:38 PM

MO

“ I am so sorry for Russ and Adam-RIP was a good man and I'll never forget his voice on KDZA-my condolences to all of the family!

mary oreskovich - July 18, 2025 at 09:36 PM

PW

“ My deepest condolences. I was a neighbor of Rips for 45 years. I remember listening to him on the radio.

Peggy Westfall - July 18, 2025 at 05:17 PM

DR

My deepest condolences to Maryellen..Rips partner... everywhere together.....love cousin Diana

Diana Rivas - July 19, 2025 at 12:27 PM