



Donald Salazar

December 3, 1951 - October 1, 2024

Donald David Salazar

December 3, 1951 – October 1, 2024

Donald David Salazar, age 72, passed away peacefully on October 1, 2024, surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Born on December 3, 1951, Donald grew up in Antonito, Colorado, where he developed his love for the outdoors that would last throughout his life. He graduated from high school in 1969 and proudly served in the United States Navy from 1970 to 1974, specializing in interior communications and electronics.

After his military service, Donald attended Adams State College from 1974 to 1977, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Psychology. Following his undergraduate studies, he completed his Master of Science in Counseling at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He went on to work as a counselor for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation from 1983 to 2007, helping countless individuals improve their lives.

Donald was passionate about golfing, fishing, and cooking. He also cherished his annual trips to Green Lake. Donald's extensive network of friends were like family to him and he thrived on their support and companionship.

He was a proud member of the fraternal organization SPMDTU and took great pride in giving back to the community through the PACT Council. These commitments were a reflection of his dedication to service, unity, and community support.

Donald had his first child with his first wife Katy Jones. During his second marriage he had three children with Annette Sandoval. Donald is survived by his children: Bethany Salazar (Fabian Montoya), Esperanza Salazar (Adam Vanlwaarden), Alma Salazar (Kurt Lujan), and Domingo Salazar (Kayla Salazar).

Later in life, Donald met the love of his life, Marie Manzanares. He felt that the years they spent together were far too few, though they filled them with love and joy. He is also survived by his stepson Kenneth Lopez (Jaqueline Lopez). His grandchildren: Diego, Rico, Israel, Destiny, Theodore, Benjamin, Kaya, Sage, Charlie, Emma, Amaziah, Maria, Esperanza, Lynnea, and Armando. And his great-grandchildren: Rhowann, Alec, Vincent, Maelani, Emmanuel, Izabel, and Itzel.

He is also survived by his siblings: Ronnie, Janet, Martin, Trudy, Leslie, Karma, and Lisa. Donald was preceded in death by his parents, Gilbert and Ruth Salazar. Donald will be deeply missed by those who knew him, but his memory will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and all who were touched by his kind spirit.

A viewing will be held at Romero's Funeral Home on October 11th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The rosary will be held at 6:30 p.m. on October 11, 2024, and a funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on October 12, 2024, both at Sacred Heart Church in Alamosa, CO. Burial will follow at the Alamosa Cemetery, family and friends are welcome to join Donald's family at the Parish Hall after burial. Donations to support pancreatic cancer research in Donald's

name would be greatly appreciated by the family

Cemetery Details

Alamosa Cemetery

2200 State Ave
Alamosa, CO 81101
(719) 589-2105

Tribute Wall

RB

“ Donald and I played a lot of golf together. In fact, he was one of a group of golfers along with Rick Gallegos and Mike Garcia that were called the Burrito Brothers. He called himself the Supreme Burrito, and his humor and laughter were contagious. Looking at his face was like looking at El Greco's Portrait of a Young Knight. He was a very handsome man. He fought his battle with cancer courageously much like his golf game. The last time I saw him was on the tee box at hole 17 at Cattails Golf Course. He was walking along the dike with his girl friend when we made eye contact. He gave me that Salazar (young knight) smile and came over to the tee box. We laughed and talked a bit whereupon he asked me if I would loan him a ball and my driver to hit one down the fairway for old times sake apropos of the Burrito Brothers. I loaned him a ball and my club and he smacked one right down the fairway. He laughed and said it's just like riding a bicycle: you never forget how to do it! I will miss him and his flamboyant personality. What a great guy! I hope there is golf in heaven as I know he is there laughing and "spanking the whitey".

Regards,
Rick Baker

Rick Baker - October 18, 2024 at 01:21 PM

BM

“ Donald was an expert fisherman, he got me off bait fishing and introduced me to flies and lures. Best friend and fisherman I've ever known, a great sense of humor and a wonderful human being. See you on the other side, but hopefully not too soon (smile).

My sincere condolences to the family.
Bill Madrill

Brother Will Madrill - October 11, 2024 at 07:09 PM

AS

“ I love you guys with all my heart. I wish I could take all your pain away. My heart ache for you, Your dad and grandfather is not suffering anymore . He is in a wonderful place always taking care of you❤️❤️❤️MOM

Annette Sandoval - October 11, 2024 at 11:30 AM



“ White Funeral Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Salazar.



October 11, 2024 at 09:21 AM

JR

“ Joseph R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Salazar.

Joseph R. - October 11, 2024 at 09:21 AM

RG

“ Donald and I grew up together, played together, and as adults, we had the good fortune to work together for many years. We kept in touch after I left Colorado. He was a good man and good friend. I hope he has a cozy place in Heaven and lots of good fishing lakes and golf courses. My condolences to Marie and all members of his family, most of whom I remember from our growing up years in Antonito. Reginaldo ("Reg") G. Garcia

Reginaldo G Garcia - October 10, 2024 at 10:55 PM

CM

“ Domingo, Kayla, Emma and to the Salazar Family. My sincere condolences for your loss. May God comfort you through this difficult time. May Donald Rest in Peace. 🙏

Cheryl Montoya - October 10, 2024 at 12:27 PM

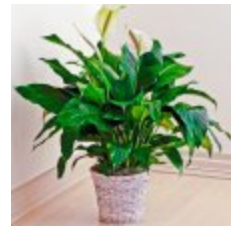
RS

“ I will always cherish the memories of the many times uncle Donald took me fishing when I spent the summers at Grandma and Grandpa house in Antonito.

Ron Salazar - October 09, 2024 at 06:54 PM

RF

“ Ron and Michelle Salazar and family purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Donald Salazar.



Ron and Michelle Salazar and family - October 09, 2024 at 06:36 PM

RF

“ Ron and Michelle Salazar and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Salazar.

Ron and Michelle Salazar and family - October 09, 2024 at 06:36 PM



“ *Shades of Purple* was purchased for the family of Donald Salazar.



October 09, 2024 at 05:30 PM



“ Arline LG (Guam) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Salazar.

Arline LG (Guam) - October 09, 2024 at 05:30 PM



“ Gerald/Kathi Tafoya , Cathy Altimier purchased the *Fields of Europe* for the family of Donald Salazar.



Gerald/Kathi Tafoya , Cathy Altimier - October 09, 2024 at 11:56 AM



“ Gerald/Kathi Tafoya , Cathy Altimier planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Salazar.

Gerald/Kathi Tafoya , Cathy Altimier - October 09, 2024 at 11:56 AM

EG

“ Elmer, Jen, Bella, Zach and Gianna purchased the *In Comfort and Peace* for the family of Donald Salazar.



Elmer, Jen, Bella, Zach and Gianna - October 09, 2024 at 10:47 AM

TL

“ Our Dearest Compadre, how do spell Warrior = D o n a l d! You had a very strong will for living! You fought a good fight! Thank you for including Tom and my self into your life! Which included, enjoying your great cooking and going to all the dances, Christmas, Valentines, New Years, Santana or just and you and Tom and the boys(committee) playing golf, and sharing meals at your favorite restaurant Golden Corral! A special memory is when I helped you cook for Julie and Sam’s wedding way up in the mountains! But one of our favorite memories is seeing how happy you would get with your duckies! Love you our Compadre and Rest in Peace! We will miss you! Like you would tell the golfers, The committee is ajorned! Love, your compadres, Tom and Stella Lopez

Tom and Stella Lopez - October 09, 2024 at 05:30 AM

MA

Donald...my life long friend, cousin, fellow SPMDTU Hermano and fishing companion...you will be missed but never forgotten. The best years of ice fishing, summer fishing together with Joy and laughter will be in my mind as some of the happiest years of my lifetime...you were surely Mother Nature's Son. Hope and I wish you Godspeed to your Bosque in the Sun ☀️ and look forward to our Reunion in Heaven where we can laugh and play once again...Fly Free Donald and thank you for the wonderful memories we enjoyed together...Peace and Love to you, I will never Forget You... Michael and Hope Atencio

Michael & Hope Atencio - October 09, 2024 at 07:46 AM

LM

“ I was lucky enough to become friends with Donald many years ago. He was such a wonderful person and dear friend. As I told him not long ago, he was my hero the way he bravely faced and battled cancer. even when he was really sick, the last couple years he would regularly beat the pants off of me at golf. He was so supportive of me after the untimely passing of my son as he would check on me regularly. I will miss you my friend. Rest in peace. 🙏
😭 Lee Medina

lee Medina - October 08, 2024 at 07:08 PM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Donald Salazar.



October 08, 2024 at 12:59 PM

JM

“ Judge Martín planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Salazar.

Judge Martín - October 08, 2024 at 12:59 PM

CI

“ Bob and I have wonderful memories of times with Donald, as he was Adam's father-in-law, plus we shared two wonderful grandsons, Teddy and Benjamin with Donald. We were also able to sample Donald spectacular cooking at times. We are praying for the family in their huge loss.

Carol Van Iwaarden - October 08, 2024 at 10:37 AM

NT

Our deepest condolences to you Marie and the family, Donald was a beautiful soul, since the day you introduced us to home, it felt like we were old friends, he was a wonderful guy and we were blessed to know him! It's a sad parting but we will rejoice when we meet again! Our love and prayers to you all!!❤️

Norma and Michael Trujillo - October 08, 2024 at 07:49 PM