



Ernesto "Ernie" Eliseo Mondragon

October 31, 1951 - March 16, 2022

Our beloved Ernesto "Ernie" Eliseo Mondragon or as many knew him by Coach Mondragon, took his eternal rest on March 16, 2022. He passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family. Ernie made his entrance into the world on October 30, 1951 in Alamosa, Colorado, the eldest child of Alfredo and Asuncionita (DeHerrera) Mondragon. Coach Mondragon was an educator in every form of the word, He was always one to lend a helping hand when needed, always had an ear to listen if you needed someone to talk to and always had his words of wisdom to pass down. Those of us who were lucky enough to have him as a teacher will always remember gym class with him, as those of us who had no upper body strength would dangle on his famous climbing rope we would hear him and his words of encouragement to keep going and not give up until you reached the top. We will also never forget the scooter races he liked to have his students participate in and how we would run over all our fingers and it did not ever phase us as we were focused on winning until after class when we struggled to do our school work for our other classes. He was a great friend and an exceptional mentor. When he had free time, Coach enjoyed being in the mountains with his family, going hunting and fishing and listening to Willie Nelson. He also enjoyed traveling. He will be dearly missed!

Survivors include his wife Jaime "Charli" Mondragon of Alamosa, CO; sons Clint (Kaylee) Mondragon of Monte Vista, CO; Edwin (Dani) Mondragon of Alamosa, CO; Corey (Rachael) Mays of Denver, CO; daughter Lauren Cook

of Alamosa, CO; 13 grandchildren, sisters Dolores Mondragon (Dale Martinez), Martha Mondragon (Leonard Quintana) both of Antonito, CO; Gloria (Andy) Medina of Alamosa, CO; Brother David (Angela) Mondragon of Antonito, CO. He is also survived by many other extended family members and friends.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Linda Mondragon and one infant brother Charles Mondragon

Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Mass will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 11:00 AM at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Conejos. Inurnment will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the American Heart Association at 1365 Garden of the Gods Road, Suite #100, Colorado springs, CO. 80907, Diabetes Research Institute 200 S. Park Road Suite #100, Hollywood, FL. 33021, as well as the American Cancer Society at 1600 E. Harvard Ave. Suite #400, Denver, Colorado 80231. To leave online condolence please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. Arrangements have been placed in care of Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

MAR **24**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
305 W 8th Ave
Antonito, CO 81120
(719) 376-5985

Tribute Wall



“ *Ernesto "Ernie" Eliseo Mondragon*

January 29, 2023 at 07:44 AM



“ *To Ed, Clint, and all of Ernie's wonderful family.
Your family is in our prayers and we pray God will comfort you and strengthen even more your family as you grieve the loss of Ernie. Ernie meant a lot to Greg and me and we have so many fun and happy memories of him as a teacher to our kids, a coach, and a good friend who was always willing to help with anything.
God bless you all,
Cindy Bervig*

Cindy Bervig - March 23, 2022 at 11:17 AM



“ *Ernie, thank you for all you've done and the great example you set for so many youth. You raised your kids right. I always looked up to Ed and you are a big reason he was and is such a great person. May you have and your family have peace.
Cole Sutak and family*

Cole Sutak - March 22, 2022 at 09:30 PM

DF

“ Prayers to your family. Ernie was a good friend and a great person and educator. We always remember our kids talking about PE class in Elementary School and how Mr. Mondragon always encouraged them to do the best they could. Thank you for always being a friend and impacting the lives of kids. RIP.

Dave, Sharon, Tiffany, Curt and Courtney Furukawa

Dave Furukawa - March 22, 2022 at 06:05 PM

AF

“ Adrian Absmeier, Shawnee Turner & family purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Ernesto "Ernie" Eliseo Mondragon.



Adrian Absmeier, Shawnee Turner & family - March 22, 2022 at 10:59 AM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Ernesto "Ernie" Eliseo Mondragon.



March 21, 2022 at 06:04 PM

AL

“ Erine,

You finally decided to join Jessie without me. Have a good breakfast.

Your former classmate and life long friend,

*Lena Espinoza-Lujan
Las Vegas, NV*

Adelina Lujan - March 21, 2022 at 04:58 PM

KR

“ *Heaven gained another angel, he had a heart of gold, always so kind to everyone! He loved his hats, when we rode the bus in grade school he would wear his cowboy hat, I can still see him that way! Thanks for the memories! Prayers for strength to the family.*

Kathy Ruybal - March 19, 2022 at 09:01 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Ernesto "Ernie" Eliseo Mondragon.*



March 19, 2022 at 06:46 PM

TJ

“ One day, in fourth grade, I was sitting in gym class with Mr. Mondragon when his wife arrived to bring him an absolute feast of food. He explained that it was his birthday and each year for his birthday, he would get all of this to eat throughout the day. I told him that October 30 also happened to be my birthday! Because he was such an amazing guy, he insisted that I share his birthday smorgasbord. It was the highlight of my birthday that year. Then, in fifth grade, when our birthdays came around, he remembered and once again invited me to share the feast.

He was a fantastic man who touched my heart and I obviously still carry memories of him with me now that I'm well into adulthood. What an example of how to live. I am so glad I got to share a piece of life (and birthdays) with him.

Tarryn Johnson - March 19, 2022 at 04:55 PM

KM

“ I can remember when I had the hardest time climbing ropes in gym class. To make up for the times we did that and I couldn't I'd bring him his favorite candy bar at the time, a Mars Bar. He was a neat man and will be missed!

Kristi Montoya - March 19, 2022 at 02:45 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Ernesto "Ernie" Eliseo Mondragon.



March 19, 2022 at 01:15 PM

DB

“ We both graduated from Antonito High School one year apart. His parents and my parents were neighbors. What a wonderful person he was. He leaves a great Legacy. His family should be super proud of him. David Broyles

David Broyles - March 19, 2022 at 01:02 PM

SS

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss! Ernie was very supportive when I was doing my student teaching, I appreciated him!
Sheri Shortridge

Sharon Shortridge - March 19, 2022 at 10:28 AM

FA

“ I met Ernie when I moved to Alamosa to open my business. My friend John Gardner introduced me to him and we became good friends. After I moved to Denver I would return to Alamosa and we would have a bite to eat and talk about many things. I will miss his sense of humor and his positive outlook on life. Adios mi amigo vaya con dios.
My condolences to the Mondragon family.

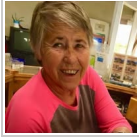
F. Bernie Arellano - March 18, 2022 at 10:55 PM

SM

“ Ernie, my heart is crying out to you. You are and will always be a great man. You had a heart of gold and a love for life. To me you was Uncle Ernie even tho we was not family. We won't be able to have that dinner that we said we would get together and have. But I know in my heart when we come back to the valley you will be setting there with us in spirit. Love you and miss you.

Scharlene Mix

Scharlene Mix - March 18, 2022 at 08:59 PM



“ Always looked forward to seeing Ernie when he would service our portables. So fun to talk to! We will miss him and his smile! Such a jewel. God got a good one this time!

Judy Messoline - March 18, 2022 at 07:45 PM

CE

“ Ernie was a regular customer at city market almost every day. Always with a smile he carried a conversation with every employee who crossed his path. He knew them all by name. He was a warm caring man. He will be greatly missed.

coty market employees - March 18, 2022 at 07:40 PM

JR

“ Sorry for your loss. Sending our love and prayers. Ricky and Janet Riddell and family

Janet and Ricky Riddell - March 18, 2022 at 07:37 PM

IS

“ Dear Primos:
Please accept my condolences. I am sorry to hear that my cousin Ernie passed on. I share in your grief in this difficult time. May the soul of Ernie rest in peace and may God continue to bless you all. I am praying for you and for the soul of Ernie.
Good memories of Ernie will sustain you. He was very kind and caring.
Sincerely with love,
Irene Singletary-Ruybal

Irene Singletary-Ruybal - March 18, 2022 at 07:25 PM

SB

“ I remember the first time I met Ernie. He had this big smile looking up at me. He grabbed my hand and shook it firmly while telling me what a huge admirer of my art he was. I was taken back for a moment not expecting him to have such a kind soft voice. I didn't get to spend a long period of time with Ernie.. but the time I did spend left a very warm impression on my heart. I would describe Ernie as kind, warm, gentle and a loving man. I am one of the lucky ones who got to shake his hand. Ernie --an angel to many.

SHELLYE BRYANT - March 18, 2022 at 06:52 PM

CS

Ernie always called me Grandma Squires and always asked about my kids and grandkids. He was a teacher to both of my kids and I later had the pleasure of working with him. He told me many years ago that the song "Keeper of the Stars" by Tracy Bryd always reminded him of Kevin and me. I never listened to that song again without thinking of Ernie. He was a good man with a huge heart. I hope he somehow knows now what an impact he had on my life, as well as countless others. He will be greatly missed. ~ Cindy & Kevin

Cindy Squires - March 18, 2022 at 07:19 PM



That was our song too

Charli Mays - March 18, 2022 at 09:42 PM