



Gilbert Wilbur Martinez

April 4, 1941 - May 6, 2019

Chama resident Gilbert Wilbur Martinez, 78, passed away May 6, 2019. Gilbert made his debut into the world on April 4, 1941 in San Luis, Colorado, the beloved son of Felipe Martinez and Fedelina Espinoza Martinez. Gilbert was a Veteran of the United States Marines and served during the Cuban Crisis. He was a member of the American Legion Council Post #142 and a life member of the V.F.W. Post #6101. On his free time Gilbert enjoyed gardening, going hunting, reading and doing word puzzles. His greatest joy in life came from the time he was able to spend with his children, grandchildren, family and friends. He was a remarkable and loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend who will be missed dearly. Survivors include his daughters Sheilani Romero of Denver, CO; Pamela (Ernest) Vigil of San Luis, CO; Kimberly (Brian) Carabelos of Brighton, CO; Krista Martinez of Sylmar, CA; Benita (Raymond) Gurule of San Luis, CO; son Gilbert (Merlita) Martinez Jr. of Fountain, CO; 13 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, sisters Jane Ruffan (Rudy Valdez) of Colorado Springs, CO; Eva (Leonard) Lopez of Pueblo, CO; Ella Cobos of Colorado Springs, CO; Julie (Arnold) Lopez of Denver, CO; Evelyn (Frank) Mondragon of Pueblo, CO; brother Jimmie (Pam) Romero of Taos, NM. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Gilbert was preceded in death by his parents Felipe and Fedelina Martinez, sisters Lisaida Gonzales, Agatha Ruybal, Julia Romero, brothers Fernando Martinez, Roy Martinez and one grandson Emilio Ortega.

A Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Sangre De Cristo Catholic Church in San Luis. A Memorial Mass will be held on Friday, May 10, 2019 at 11:00 AM at the Centennial High School Gymnasium. Inurnment will follow at the San Francisco Cemetery with full military honors.

Tribute Wall



“ *Gilbert Wilbur Martinez*

January 29, 2023 at 07:44 AM

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“ Today is Sept. 27,2019.I've been trying to reach Gilbert for several weeks. This morning I managed to contact a mutual friend who informed me of Gilbert's death. I am deeply saddened by his passing. I was actually hoping to see him this coming holiday week end. I was bringing him empty wine bottles that he requested the last time I talked to him for his home made wine.Which he was very proud of.

Gilbert befriended me many years ago. That I was an outsider from Denver didn't matter to him. Several times a year I would find an excuse to visit him. We would Hunt , pick pinion, or just go to lunch in San Luis,or splurge and go to dinner in Alamosa.

We would share our elk meat. I chose to bring mine home or he would process the whole thing into Slim Jims.

He was respectful of every one.As a Sheriff he was very patient.He was extremely proud of his job, and about being a Marine. That could be part of our bond, as it turned out we had both been stationed at El Toro, Calif. On his official trips to Denver we would meet for lunch.

He was 9 years older than me, but when we got into the hills I could never keep up with him. He would get to the top and wait quietly for me. I met members of his family and member of the community. Of course he knew everyone. I don't call many "Friend", but Gilbert was definitely on my friend list I will miss him and his subtle humor.

Thank you Gilbert for being my friend. I will miss you. But I think you, re at the top of the hill waiting for the rest of us.

My Wife and I offer our condolences and prayers to Gilbert and to all his family members. He often spoke fondly and with pride of all his children

Levi Ortiz

Lieutenant ,Denver Fire Dept. (Retired)

Levi Ortiz - August 27, 2019 at 03:10 PM