



Lawrence Candelaria

September 4, 1954 - January 24, 2026

Lawrence Eugene Candelaria, 71, of Capulin, Colorado, passed away on January 24, 2026.

Lawrence was born on September 4, 1954, in San Rafael, Colorado. He wanted to serve his country and joined the United States Marine Corps and received an honorable discharge. He lived his early years in Denver, Colorado, with his wife, Pauline, and they raised their 3 oldest children. He was a mechanic and welder by trade and enjoyed hunting and fishing. Many weekend nights he played poker with friends. He also won many pool tournaments.

He and Pauline moved to Capulin in 1994 with their 2 youngest children. He always loved motorcycles and proudly rode his Harley Davidson around the Valley with the oldies blasting on the radio. In retirement he often went for loads of wood and enjoyed the occasional trip to the casinos in Espanola, New Mexico. His favorite shows to watch on TV were old westerns and true crime stories with his companion, Tiny. Tiny was his best buddy and never left his side.

He was preceded in death by his father, Walter Candelaria, and brother, Leroy Candelaria. Lawrence is survived by his wife Pauline Gonzales; children Bobby (Melony) Gonzales, Greg Gonzales, Toni (Roy) Martinez, Alex Candelaria, and Jarrod Candelaria; mother Georgiana Candelaria; brother Anthony Candelaria; sisters Judy (Leslie) Salazar, Diana Gallegos, Patsy Large, Beverly Pacheco and Geri Candelaria. Lawrence adored his 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Services are being planned for a later date.

Lawrence will be remembered for his amicable and easy going nature. He helped anyone in need without expecting anything in return. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Friday, February 13, 2026

St. Joseph Parish, Capulin, Colorado

Rosary 9:30 am

Mass 10:00 am

Dinner reception to follow at the Knights of Columbus in La Jara, Colorado.

Tribute Wall



“ *I was the bad kid,lol. But eventually I turned out good because of my dad. We didn't see eye to eye much because I didn't understand tough love until I was a parent myself. He taught me mechanics, responsibility, respect & kindness. He was there for people before himself. Always keeping others rolling along the road. He definitely used to make us laugh as kids,remember days he was hungover & we would say BEER & he would fake throwing up, haha. I loved the cars/trucks he built, especially the candy apple red Chevy Chevelle. I remember being in it as crowds gathered around it, & the FallGuy truck he duplicated. I believe it grew up to be a good guy & great father because of him... Thank you Dad! for teaching me how to fix my own vehicles. My son didn't get to meet or know you but he will know who you were, I promise!. Relax & rest easy till we meet again. I LOVE YOU MORE THAN YOU KNOW & MORE THAN I SHOWED 🥹❤️*

Grizz Gonzales - February 01 at 07:30 PM



Beautifully written, bro!

Toni Martinez - February 01 at 08:27 PM

PL

“ *When I would see my brother Lawrence I know he would have a smile on his face I might not have hung out with him all the time but I know he enjoyed his fishing ,his motorcycle riding his hunting and his dancing and his music and his mechanic work , will always have him in my heart*

Patsy Large - January 31 at 05:52 AM



Thanks for sharing, Tia! ❤️

Toni Martinez - February 01 at 08:27 PM



“ Dad, I have so many wonderful memories of you. You always tried to make me laugh. And you succeeded, of course.

I loved playing Rummy with you, even though you won most of the time, waiting until you could play all the cards in your hand before going out. Or the time you tried to teach me how to drive your little Toyota truck on the backroads of Mogote. I almost put us in the ditch. You didn't get mad and still let me drive! And the time you came home a little drunk (and hungry) and wanted me to drive you to Taco Bell. I was probably only 14, no license or permit, and you wouldn't take no for an answer. So here we go to the Taco Bell drive thru in your lifted Chevy truck, jumping curbs and all! And criticizing my California stop on the way home lol! One of the things I'll miss most about you is how good you were with kids. You had a soft spot and loved to play with the little ones and make them laugh.

Thank you for teaching me the value of hard work, of being honest, and doing the right thing. I'll love you always. May your soul rest in peace.

Toni Martinez - January 29 at 04:07 PM