



Marguerite Lara Salazar

May 31, 1953 - November 1, 2022

In the early morning moments of November 1, 2022, Marguerite Lara Salazar, 69 of Alamosa, CO, left this earth at the speed of light, as she sped across the Rocky Mountains and made a right toward the Himalayas, a small voice could be heard whispering “go fast Nana”. Marguerite was born on May 31, 1953, to Max and Cordelia Lara. After graduating from Centauri High School in La Jara, CO in 1971 she went on to study Psychology at Colorado State University – Fort Collins and Adams State College – Alamosa, where she received a master’s degree.

While in college, she met Arnold Salazar and they wed in 1976, going on to have two children, Ursula and Max.

After graduation, she landed her first job as a therapist for the Mental Health Center in Alamosa before being appointed the president and CEO of Valley-Wide Health Systems where she would stay for 20 years. It was during this time she discovered the world of public service and found her respect for justice, and fought for access to healthcare, working with underserved populations. Outside of work she found a passion for working for the Democratic Party and continued to be involved until her passing. She was heavily involved in the landmark case Sanchez v. Colorado that ensured voting rights.

In 2010 President Barack Obama appointed her as the U.S. Health and Human Services Director for Region 8 where she continued to advocate for underserved populations which included 33 Federally Recognized Tribes in 6

states. One of her primary challenges was the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

In 2013, Governor John Hickenlooper appointed Marguerite to be the insurance commissioner for the Colorado Division of Insurance. She was immediately faced with managing the 2013 wildfire season. Then in 2017, she was appointed to direct the Department of Regulatory Agencies where she oversaw banking, securities, regulation and licensing, civil rights, real estate, and public utilities commission. She continued this work in the state of New Mexico under Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and included regulation of manufactured housing, alcohol, carnivals, Barbers and Cosmetology, MMA, and pushed for and was able to pass green energy codes which had not been updated in the past 20 years.

Throughout her life, she served as a public servant, the foundation for her extended family, and the population at large. Nothing made her happier than to have her family surrounding her at the Barn at La Manzanilla. Whether it be at public events or private parties, Marguerite could be found in the middle ensuring that everyone felt at home.

She was predeceased by her father Max Lara and mother Cordelia Lara. She is survived by her husband Arnold Salazar, son Max Salazar, daughter Ursula Salazar and her two grandchildren Marcos and Alicia Jacquez, sisters Vivian Araujo (Raul), Maxine Gomez (Placido), and Patti Lara, brothers Mark Lara (Marian) and Ray Lara (Diane), Mother-in-law Anna Maria Pacheco, Sisters in law Elizabeth Pacheco, Sarah Manzanares (Charles), Lillian Gomez (Pete), Isabelle (Carmel) Cordova, Christina Pacheco, Brothers in law Richard Pacheco, Alfred Pacheco (Nancy) Lawrence Pacheco (Tamara), many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial Service will be held November 12th, 2022, 11 AM at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Jara, Colorado. Reception to follow at The Barn at La Manzanilla, Alamosa Colorado. Funeral arrangements will be handled by Romero Funeral Home in Alamosa Colorado.

Cemetery Details

La Jara Cemetery

Tribute Wall



“ *Marguerite Lara Salazar*

January 29, 2023 at 07:44 AM



“ *My friend Marguerite (Peet),
Back in our senior year, at Centauri, I was fortunate to have been assigned as your lab partner in biology and as classmates in our journalism class. We became good friends enjoying silly chats, working on our yearbook and simply just being friends. A fond memory, of mine, was that last day when we wrapped up work on the yearbook. It was the end of the day the halls were empty and we walked the halls reminiscing and talking about our next journey in life. I felt that we were both excited and maybe a bit scared. Life took us on our own paths and the years seemed to go by to quickly but there were times that I did think about you and those school days. When you and your team were planning our 50th high school reunion Becky Rivera was able to find me and extended the invitation (thank you Becky). That reunion was one of the better moments in my life because I got to reconnect with you and other classmates. We had a wonderful short time catching up on our different life paths. I am sad that I will not be able to see you again in this life but it gives me great joy in knowing that you are in a better place with all of your family and friends that have gone there before you. Peet thank you for being my friend and the memories. To your family I extend my condolence. They are very lucky to have had you.*

Sam Sanchez

Sam Sanchez - November 12, 2022 at 12:30 PM

KF

“ Kathy, Greg and Van Gieson Families purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.



Kathy, Greg and Van Gieson Families - November 10, 2022 at 11:59 AM

CW

“ Arnold: So sorry to hear about Marguerite. She was a hero to so many for her commitment and passion for those who were often left behind and forgotten by others. May she Rest In Peace after a job well done.
Chris Wiant

Chris Wiant - November 10, 2022 at 11:18 AM



“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.



November 09, 2022 at 10:31 PM

TF

“ The Adella Manzanares family purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Yellow and White for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.



The Adella Manzanares family - November 09, 2022 at 02:58 PM



“ *Multicolor Pastel Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.*



November 09, 2022 at 10:16 AM



“ *Jay Cimino and Family purchased the Multicolor Pastel Sympathy Basket for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.*



Jay Cimino and Family - November 08, 2022 at 02:43 PM



“ *Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.*



November 08, 2022 at 11:47 AM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.*



November 08, 2022 at 04:37 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.



November 07, 2022 at 08:58 PM



“ Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.



November 07, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ Dear Arnold, Ursula and Max - I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you all. I had the great honor to work with Marguerite for 30 years on and off, and she holds a special place in my heart. The last time I texted with her, I told her she was my Shero! What she did during her career, positively impacted the lives of millions and millions of people, including mine. I will deeply miss her. Arnold - I'm sending you a big hug. Annette Kowal

Annette Kowal - November 07, 2022 at 02:47 PM

AF

“ *Annette Kowal and the whole CCHN family purchased the Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.*



Annette Kowal and the whole CCHN family - November 07, 2022 at 02:41 PM

JB

“ *John C Lopez (Marion Lara Brother) purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.*



John C Lopez (Marion Lara Brother) - November 06, 2022 at 01:25 PM



“ *Cremation / Memorial Floral Wreath was purchased for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.*



November 05, 2022 at 04:29 PM



“ *Multicolor Bright Standing Open Heart was purchased for the family of Marguerite Lara Salazar.*



November 05, 2022 at 04:24 PM

LC

“ I had the great pleasure of serving on the Board of Directors for many years, Under Marguerites great leadership. She was a true leader with a vision for quality health care for the community and especially for the underserved population. She was so humble and kind. I enjoyed her friendship and her fun sense of humor. Her great legacy will live on. She will be sadly missed. My heart felt condolences to her family and friends.

Lucy Cordova - November 05, 2022 at 01:51 PM

MM

“ I appreciate having been able to work with and learn from Marguerite, a leader and a woman leader courageously and elegantly facing down the isms of our times. Thank you, Marguerite, for what you showed me about leadership and working with people. May her family be comforted by the good memories.



Maureen Maxwell - November 04, 2022 at 12:29 PM

BE

“ Friends for 55 yrs and very proud to say I spent 21 year serving VWHS and the mission under Peet’s administration. I will always be proud of my positive experience working and learning the importance of health care for families of need. Thank you for giving me the Understanding of working for a “cause”. Love ya always and for ever Amiga!

BeckyRivera - November 04, 2022 at 11:25 AM

PM

“ Marguerite was such a kind, humble person. She was passionate about her community and her compassion for the undeserved was evident in her leadership at VWHS. I loved her sense of humor. She was a great friend and she will be missed.

Paula Montano Medina - November 03, 2022 at 11:34 PM

JM

“ So many memories of Marguerite. Each memory reminds me of her serenity no matter how great the tempest surrounding her. A good friend and icon to us all.
Judge Martín

Judge Martin - November 03, 2022 at 09:43 PM

JM

“ So many memories of Marguerite. Each memory reminds me of her serenity no matter how great the tempest surrounding her. A good friend and icon to us all.
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Judge Martin - November 03, 2022 at 09:43 PM