



## Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza

September 22, 1949 - March 2, 2024

Longtime Romeo resident Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza, 74, gained his angel wings on March 2, 2024. He passed away peacefully at his home under Hospice Care with his loving family by his side. Otto came into the world on September 22, 1949, the beloved son of Josephine (Mestas) Espinoza and Otoniel Espinoza. He graduated from Adams State College. Otto was well known and loved throughout the San Luis Valley. He was able to touch the lives of many as a teacher, administrator and rancher. He loved to be able to impact the life of his students and community and help anyone he could. In his free time, Otto loved ranching, watching sports, being outdoors and spending as much time as he could with his family and friends.

He will live on through his loving wife Sara Atencio-Espinoza, sons Otto J. Espinoza (James Greer) of Henderson, CO; Jason Espinoza (Bandy Clark) of Manassa, CO; siblings Nellie Valdez, Josephine Mendoza, Amabel Sanchez, Juanita Mandel, Amanda Rendon, Rosemarie Boyd, Ermalinda Saefeow, Norma Wolfley and Ricardo F. Espinoza. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Otto was preceded in death by his parents Otoniel and Josephine Espinoza, brother Michael Espinoza, sister Rebecca Wedge, nephews Andy Valdez, Gerard "Wardy" Valdez and Dominic Sanchez.

Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 1:30 PM and Mass of the Resurrection to follow at 2:00 PM at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Conejos. Inurnment will be held at Los

Cerritos Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Otto's name to the American Cancer Society. To leave the family online condolences please visit [romerofuneralhomes.com](http://romerofuneralhomes.com). The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

# Cemetery Details

**Los Cerritos**

Manassa, CO

# Tribute Wall

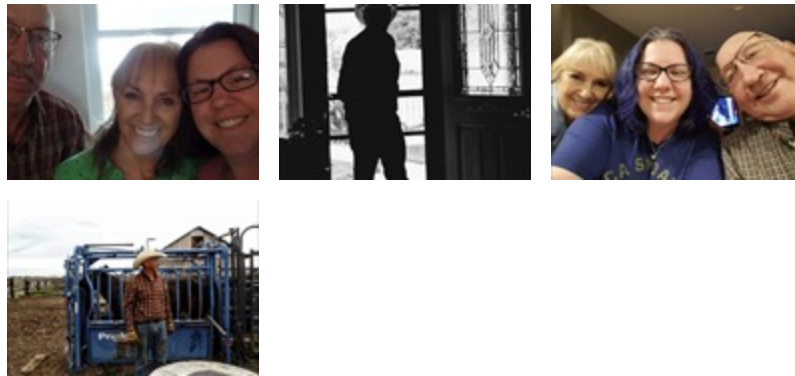
KG

“ My heart is broken and aches for you Queen Sara, Otto, and Jason! What a great Man! I will forever cherish our Breakfasts and Dinner. I am so so sorry for your loss. Sending you all Love and Light!

Klint Garcia - May 13, 2024 at 04:56 AM

CH

“ I will always cherish the memories I have visiting Uncle Otto and Auntie Sara in the Valley. Uncle Otto always tried to evade the camera but I always snuck a couple and he never told us "no" for a picture of all 3 of us. Love and miss him greatly ❤️



Charlotte Houk - March 09, 2024 at 01:12 PM

JM

“ Sara and family, my condolences. Otto was more than a math teacher and basketball coach to many. What meant more than academics was his kindness. RIP Otto. John Medina

John Medina - March 07, 2024 at 11:50 PM

KC

“ Otto and I worked closely together for many years at Centauri. I will be eternally grateful to Otto for helping me on numerous occasions by listening to me and helping me deal with the loss of our son Josh.  
Rest in peace Otto.

Kurt Cary - March 07, 2024 at 06:06 PM

BM

“ Our sincere condolences to everyone. Mr. Espinoza was always willing to give sound advice to a new teacher like me when I met him. I was very fortunate to have him as my Principal. He helped me grow tremendously as a teacher and later as an administrator!! I often think of him and his words of wisdom! Rest in Peace Mr. Espinoza and may your family find peace in the weeks/ months to come. Mr. Espinoza had a huge impact on a lot of people's lives.... everyone should strive to be like him! Wonderful. - Brenda, Murphy Martini and girls

Brenda Martini - March 07, 2024 at 01:06 PM

JB

“ Jeanne, Mark, Morgan, Ally and Brad purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza.



Jeanne, Mark, Morgan, Ally and Brad - March 06, 2024 at 08:08 PM

FL

“ My condolences to Sara, Otto Jr., Jason and extended family. Otto and I were childhood friends and school classmates. We would "hang out" together and have fun. After I moved to the Denver area I rarely saw him with the exception of running into him during visits to the valley (home). If he was driving by my dad's house on his way to or from one of his properties and saw I was there he would stop by and visit. I vividly remember our last visit (a few years ago) we were both retired, we visited few hours and caught up on our lives and headed towards memory lane. And although we did not see each other often we were happy to see each other when we did! Rest in peace my friend!

Frank Lopez

Frank Lopez - March 06, 2024 at 04:36 PM

KE

May the Lord be with you in his kingdom of Heaven. Rest in peace.  
Kenneth A. Espinosa

Kenneth A Espinosa - March 06, 2024 at 09:38 PM

NA

“ Nicholas A. purchased the White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza.



Nicholas A. - March 06, 2024 at 02:30 PM

LB

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Otto did touch many lives. You have our sympathy. Lee and Grace Bagwell

Lee Bagwell - March 06, 2024 at 10:36 AM

EE

“ First born son after nine daughters, no wonder my daddy could not put him down! Such a marvel he continued to be for his family. Newspaper delivery boy, on his bike, by my side, as we traversed the streets in Manassa. Milking the cow, weeding the garden, playing games far into the night. Making a pie in the snow and running, running, chasing one another. Digging in the sand, in the dirt, making log houses. And finding the best tree limbs to become horses which we galloped around our property at will. These were a few of our childhood ventures. You were forever a great guy. So blessed to have had you as my brother. Meet you on the other side. Say "Hello," to Daddy, Mother, Dr. Mike, and Rebbeca.

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**Ermalinda Saefkow de Espinoza** - March 05, 2024 at 07:38 PM

AT

“ Otto was a wonderful teacher. Sara, I'm so sorry about his passing. I think of you both often and miss you greatly. RIP Otto, you're the best. Love, Anna Trujillo

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**Anna Trujillo** - March 05, 2024 at 07:35 PM

PM

“ Sara and Family, Donna and I send our sincerest condolences to you all. Rest in Peace Otto!

*Pat and Donna Martinez*

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**Pat Martinez** - March 05, 2024 at 06:28 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza.*



March 05, 2024 at 06:00 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of the passing away of Otto Espinoza. May the Angels guide him home to rest. God Bless you Sara! Hugs hugs and more hugs to you and the boys.*

**Joleen Trujillo** - March 05, 2024 at 04:54 PM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza.*



March 05, 2024 at 03:03 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza.*



March 05, 2024 at 01:51 PM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza.*



March 05, 2024 at 01:44 PM



“ *Sarah and family members, my condolences to you. Otto was a valued friend and community member. He will be remembered.*  
*Judge Martín Gonzales*

**Martin Gonzales** - March 05, 2024 at 01:40 PM



*Condolences to all the family. Otto RIP 🙏 Steve and Lisa Atencio*

**Lisa and Steve Atencio** - March 05, 2024 at 05:36 PM



“ *Efraim A. purchased the European Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza.*



**Efraim A.** - March 05, 2024 at 01:17 PM



“ *Heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the family of Otto Espinoza, peer and fellow classmate at then Adams State College. Otto was always friendly, congenial and accommodating. I consider blessed to have had his presence in my life though it was just for a short while. May he now Rest In Eternal Peace.*

**AL CORDOVA** - March 05, 2024 at 12:25 PM

KC

“ *Kathee Maestas Cordova lit a candle in memory of Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza*



**Kathee Maestas Cordova** - March 05, 2024 at 11:50 AM

KC

“ *My sincere condolences to Otto's family and friends. I remember Otto during our attendance at Adams State in those days before university status. Such a sweet guy, personable and a gentleman. Persons as Otto touch one's heart. Rest in eternal peace Otto and peace and comfort to his family and friends.*

*Sincerely,  
Kathee Maestas Cordova  
Colorado Springs*

**Kathee Maestas Cordova** - March 05, 2024 at 11:49 AM

RC

“ *My prayers to Sara and the boys! Rest in peace my good buddy! You could tell the best jokes and you always had the best sense of humor! Lot of good memories my friend! I will miss your friendship!*

**Roxy Carleo** - March 05, 2024 at 10:41 AM

DS

“ *So incredibly sorry for your loss. Otto was an incredible man and we loved spending time with him at the ranch rodeos.*

**Dawn Sammons** - March 05, 2024 at 09:53 AM

LZ

“ Sarah and family members, my sincere condolences to you all. Otto was such a very friendly person and a mentor when I started my teaching career at Centauri. Always willing to give sound advice to a rookie like me. I enjoyed my basketball coaching years with him and learned so much. RIP my friend!

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**Larry Zaragoza** - March 05, 2024 at 09:13 AM

TS

“ So sorry to hear of Otto’s passing. He was always such a kind and happy person. My condolences to Sara who I met while teaching school in Antonito. May the Lord bless her and all of his family during this difficult time of loss. I’m Terry Smith and have so many great memories of growing up in Manassa and all the wonderful people who touched my life.

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**trrry smith** - March 05, 2024 at 07:27 AM

IR

“ Sara and family, my condolences on the passing of Otto into eternal life. He was always a nice person and a hard worker while we were in school. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon him.

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**Inez Muniz Ray** - March 04, 2024 at 11:20 PM

ST

“ More than 25 years ago, I had Otto, Mr. Espinoza, as a math teacher in high school. If I didn't understand something (which was often), I would go to him after class, at lunch or in between classes and he would take the time to explain it until I understood. It didn't matter if I was in his class or another math class, he always, always took the time. I've never forgotten that. He was one of the good guys. I am very sorry for your loss. I hope you can take some comfort in knowing he made a difference in many, many lives.

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ST - March 04, 2024 at 11:05 PM

CM

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Otto from when I was a little girl, growing up close to OJ and Jason we were always intertwined. His smile and his personality always made me feel loved and welcomed. He will be missed in so many ways. My prayers are with Sara and OJ and Jason and the whole family, when around them as a family you knew they loved each other so I very much. Good bye for now Otto love you rest in peace

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Camille Mestas - March 04, 2024 at 10:02 PM