



## Albert Cruz

November 1, 1954 - September 27, 2024

Albert Cruz

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Albert Cruz, 69, passed away peacefully on September 27, 2024, surrounded by his beloved family.

There will be a Visitation at Anderson Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory on Thursday, October 10, 2024, from 5pm to 7pm. A celebration of his life will be held on Friday, October 11, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, located at 506 S. Lincoln Ave, Roswell, NM. A Rosary will begin at 1:00 pm, followed by a Funeral Mass. The Graveside Service will take place immediately afterward at McBride Cemetery.

Born in Fabens, TX, on November 1, 1954, to Antonio and Sabina Cruz, Albert grew up in Roswell, NM, where he graduated from Roswell High School in 1973. On November 3, 1973, he married his high school sweetheart, Martha Salazar. Their love for each other spanned 51 beautiful years, and Albert cherished Martha deeply throughout their life together. Together, they built a wonderful life, raising two daughters, Angelica and Erica.

Albert's work ethic was evident from a young age. He started by selling

newspapers in Roswell and later worked at Furr's Cafeteria and Mrs. Arias Cafe while still in high school. He proudly served in the New Mexico National Guard and held positions at Glover Meat Packing and the TMC/Nova bus plant as the inventory supervisor. For the past 18 years, he was the Head Custodian at Mesa Middle School, where he loved working with both the staff and students. He was known for his dedication and genuine care for the school community, forming strong bonds with the people he worked alongside. As Communication Workers of America Unit Director, Albert was a tireless advocate for the custodial, maintenance, and security departments, ensuring employees' rights were protected.

Albert loved spending time with his family and dinners with friends were a cherished tradition. He also enjoyed traveling with his loved ones, creating memories that will last forever. As an avid sports fan, Albert never missed a chance to watch his favorite teams play. At home, he found joy in tending to his yard and garden, always ensuring they were beautifully maintained.

Albert's faith was a cornerstone of his life, and throughout his courageous fight with leukemia, his trust in our Lord Jesus Christ never wavered. He loved his family unconditionally and embodied the teachings of 1 John 4:16: "Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." If you knew Albert, you knew that God lived in him, shining through his kindness and love for others.

A devout member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Albert faithfully served as an usher for over 30 years, always greeting parishioners with a warm smile. He was also a member of the church's Finance Committee. Beyond his church service, Albert was a proud member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the American Legion Post 28.

Albert is survived by his devoted wife of 51 years, Martha Cruz; his daughter, Angelica Cruz-Chavez and her wife Lizeth; his daughter, Erica Flores and her

husband Wesley Jr.; his cherished granddaughter, Gabrielle Flores; and his sister, Guadalupe Garcia and her husband Raul. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Maria Salazar; sisters-in-law; brothers-in-law, numerous nieces, nephews and Godchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Antonio and Sabina Cruz; Father-in-law Merenciano Salazar; brothers-in-law Gabino Perez Ortega Noriega Jr. and Marcy Salazar; sister-in-law, Maria Elvira Rodriguez.

Pallbearers will be Wesley Flores Jr., Lizeth Cruz-Chavez, Bridgette Noriega, Gabino Noriega III, Orlando Vargas, and Gilbert Rivera. Honorary pallbearers include Pedro Salazar, Joe Chavez, Bennie Aranda, Wesley Flores Sr., and Luis Chavez Sr.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to MD Anderson Cancer Center and Hospice of the Valley Lund Home in Gilbert, AZ, and Dr. Reynaldo Martinez in Roswell, NM, for their compassionate care.

Albert's tribute was lovingly written by his family, who will forever cherish his memory, the profound love he gave them, and his unwavering faith.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **10**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory  
2609 South Main  
Roswell, NM 88203  
(575) 622-5888  
[abfh@andersonbethany.com](mailto:abfh@andersonbethany.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *My sincere condolences Martha. Prayers for you and the family.* ”



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**Irma Crawford** - October 13, 2024 at 04:17 PM



“ *Irma Crawford lit a candle in memory of Albert Cruz* ”



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**Irma Crawford** - October 11, 2024 at 07:48 PM



“ *Pablo and Dora Martinez and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Albert Cruz.* ”

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**Pablo and Dora Martinez and Family** - October 11, 2024 at 12:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Albert Cruz.* ”



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October 11, 2024 at 12:28 PM

JC

“ Joe and Margie Chavez purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Albert Cruz.



Joe and Margie Chavez - October 11, 2024 at 10:51 AM

OF

“ Oteros/Apodoca family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Albert Cruz.



Oteros/Apodoca family - October 10, 2024 at 01:03 PM

OF

“ Oteros/Apodoca family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Albert Cruz.

Oteros/Apodoca family - October 10, 2024 at 01:03 PM

FF

“ From the Prince and Colón Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Albert Cruz.



From the Prince and Colón Family - October 09, 2024 at 02:31 PM

RV

“ Rosie Vasquez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Albert Cruz.

Rosie Vasquez - October 08, 2024 at 10:20 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Albert Cruz.



October 08, 2024 at 10:20 AM

TA

“ Tina A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Albert Cruz.

Tina A. - October 07, 2024 at 10:15 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Albert Cruz.



October 07, 2024 at 09:08 PM

LA

“ Love, Luis, Josie, Bianca, Jose, Adrian purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Albert Cruz.



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**Love, Luis, Josie, Bianca, Jose, Adrian** - October 07, 2024 at 08:20 PM

KT

“ I have been at Mesa a bit longer than Albert, and I remember how happy we all were when he came here as Head Custodian, and how pleased and fortunate we have been to have known him all these years. He was such an important part of this school, and we shall miss him greatly. I will remember always his friendly smile and his kind and generous spirit.



*Kay Threlkeld  
Librarian, MMS*

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**Kay Threlkeld** - October 07, 2024 at 02:52 PM

AJ

“ Aurora Jimenez lit a candle in memory of Albert Cruz



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**Aurora Jimenez** - October 07, 2024 at 10:23 AM

MG

“ *Family is what we are Albert, Lupe and your parents made up our weekend parties, weekly get together so much fun  
We grew apart in distance but not in heart  
We will miss you but knowing that you won't be hurting will help us through  
RIP  
Our deepest condolences to your family  
Always in our hearts  
Maria Bejarano Garcia*

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**Maria b Garcia** - October 06, 2024 at 08:43 PM

EB

“ *Ericka Brady lit a candle in memory of Albert Cruz*



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**Ericka Brady** - October 06, 2024 at 05:02 PM

RU

“ *Albert and I worked 15 years together at Mesa Middle School, he took pride in the school wanting every details of his job to be the best. (That included putting me to work!) SMILE So my nickname for him was MUCHO TRABAJO my dear friend will deeply missed. OT meant a trip for Martha!!! Our memories at Mesa will not be forgotten. Praying for his family, Rudy Hunter*

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**Rudy** - October 05, 2024 at 01:55 PM

DM

“ I have known Albert (speedy) since Glovers, he was an excellent worker and one of the kindest men I have ever met. My condolences to the Cruz family.



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**donna mcway** - October 05, 2024 at 11:40 AM

TR

“ My heart hurts for Martha and the family. Albert was one of the happiest & kindest persons I have ever known. Keeping the family in my prayers.  
Teri Romero

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**Teri Romero** - October 05, 2024 at 11:32 AM

LM

“ Martha and family, I remember going to school with Albert. His family lived a few blocks from mine. He was such a nice person and he had a good life, especially after meeting you as his life long partner. I'm deeply saddened by knowing he has crossed over and I'm sure he awaits all of you God bless you all during this hard time. May his soul rest in peace. Please reach out to me if there is anything I can do for you. With all my love , take care of each other

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**Lupe Morales** - October 05, 2024 at 08:30 AM

RG

“ ROY AND Sylvia Gonzales lit a candle in memory of Albert Cruz



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**ROY AND Sylvia Gonzales** - October 04, 2024 at 07:16 PM

SA

“ I will always remember Albert and his warm greeting and smile. He was more than just a coworker, he was a friend. Since the first day I started at Mesa, he has always treated me well and helped me out. I remember the first time he forgot my name and he called me Jennifer, we just laughed and after that he would tease me sometimes and call me Jennifer. Albert, I happily awaited your return and am truly saddened by your departure. You have been and will continue to be missed everyday. RIP my friend. My deepest condolences to the Cruz family.

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**Stephanie Lori Del Angel** - October 04, 2024 at 06:46 PM

RO

“ My heartfelt condolences to Martha and family. It was always such a pleasure to work with Albert at church. My love and prayers 🙏 are with you all.

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**Rosa Oropesa** - October 04, 2024 at 05:23 PM