



## James Sedillo

May 7, 1939 - June 2, 2018

James Sedillo, 79, passed away on Saturday, June 2, 2018. He was born on May 7, 1939, in Hondo, NM to Petro and Idalia Sanchez Sedillo.

James grew up in Dexter, NM. In high school, he was recognized for his excellence in playing basketball. He is commemorated in the Dexter Demons Hall of Fame as a four-year letterman. James was awarded a basketball scholarship to Alan Military School in Bryon, Texas in 1959. At Alan he received the highest award in English for the entire school. His ambition at the time was to be a coach. He married Margaret Orosco in 1960. They were married for over 55 years until her passing in 2016. They had four children, Jamie, Selina, Bernadette and Jerome.

After starting a family, James decided to become a police officer. James became a member of the City of Artesia police force. His friend Melvin Miller was in the New Mexico State Police and encouraged him to apply. He applied and excelled in the academy. After the academy he had to wait four months before he became of age which was 23 at that time. James served faithfully in the New Mexico State Police for 23 years. Over the course of his law enforcement career he worked many different assignments including uniformed patrol, criminal investigations, and narcotics. He retired in 1985 as the commander in uniform for the Roswell District.

James loved playing handball, participating in and winning several tournaments. He had many handball playing friends with whom he maintained good close friendships. James also loved to play chess. Being self-taught, he

became very good, and spent many hours playing it.

James never discriminated against anybody and was always ready to help anyone who had a problem. Never forgetting where he came from, he always tried to help the little guy. James will be remembered by those who knew him for his great sense of humor.

Preceding James in death are his wife, Margaret Orosco Sedillo; a son, James (Jamie) Vincent Sedillo; a daughter, Selina Marie Sedillo; his parents: Petro and Idalia Sanchez Sedillo; and a sister, Della Sedillo.

Survivors left to remember James are Bernadette Sedillo, daughter, and Mike Sanchez, son-in-law, both of Las Cruces, NM; Matthew Alirez, grandson, of Roswell, NM; Jerome Sedillo, son, and Kim Sedillo, daughter-in-law, both of Denver, CO; Marissa Sedillo, granddaughter, of Las Vegas, NM; Jerome Sedillo, Jr., grandson, of Denver, Co; Donovan Sedillo, grandson, of Denver, CO; Selina Sedillo, granddaughter, of Denver, CO; Helen Padilla, sister, of Roswell, NM; Gilbert Sedillo, brother, and Bennie, sister-in-law, of Dexter, NM; Ruben Sedillo, brother, of Dexter, NM; Joe Sedillo, brother, and Helen, sister-in-law, of Roswell, NM; Cecilia Leyva, sister-in-law, of Artesia, NM; Jane Flores, sister-in-law, and Carlos Flores, brother-in-law, of Roswell, NM; Manuel Orosco, brother-in-law, and Paz, sister-in-law, of Carlsbad, NM; and Teresa Anstead, sister-in-law, and Michael Anstead, brother-in-law. James also had numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation for James will be on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Anderson Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory.

A Memorial service will be held for James on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, 7:00 PM at Anderson Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Peter's Catholic Church on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 10:00 AM. Burial will follow at South Park Cemetery.

Those chosen to serve as pallbearers are Robert Montoya, Hugh Taylor, Hank Wunch, Nick Padilla, Jerome Sedillo Jr., and Matthew Alirez. Honorary pallbearers are Thurman Babb, George Ulibarri, Nick Saiz, A.C. Rodriguez, Leo Martinez, Daniel Mendoza, Chano Mendoza, Greg Segovia, Tito Garcia,

Jessie Aranda, Herman Torres, and many more too numerous to list.  
Celebrate James' life by visiting [www.andersonbethany.com](http://www.andersonbethany.com) to offer a favorite  
memory or expression of sympathy for his family.

This Obituary Tribute was lovingly written by James' family.

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Sedillo*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *It is with great sadness I learned today of James passing in June. I was two years behind him in school and also a basketball player but not in the same league as James. His performance on court was beautiful to watch. Off the court he was intelligent and gracious. I looked up to him and admired him greatly. His success was no surprise to me and I was always pleased to hear of it and how well earned it was. My father was his High School Coach and teacher. He was very fond of James and admired not only his qualities as a player and student but his exemplary character as a student and later as a man.*

*I have thought of him often over the years and his family in Dexter and recall them all with great fondness and send them my greetings and sympathy for their loss of this good man.*

*Jack Lewis  
Walnut Creek, CA*

**Jack Lewis** - September 22, 2018 at 10:55 AM



“ *James was a great man. I always enjoyed our talks when we ran into each other in Roswell. So sorry to hear about him passing away. My condolences to the family.*

**Andy & Norma Sedillo** - June 16, 2018 at 02:08 PM

SD

“ *Shauna & Troey Daffern lit a candle in memory of James Sedillo*



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**Shauna & Troey Daffern** - June 13, 2018 at 06:01 PM

JS

“ *James was my cousin. His mother was my dad's sister. We would come every summer from California to visit family. We would go out to Dexter to visit my aunt and her family.*

*One summer James took me to the handball court and taught me how to play. He was very encouraging and told me that I picked up the game very quickly. He had a very distinctive walk and as a little kid I knew he was a very confident man. I felt very proud to be his little cousin.*

*Another time he took me out in his police car. We hide behind a building and he was using his radar gun to track speeders. He caught one and pulled him over. As he walk over to write the ticket, Elmo leaned forward and said "you know he is just showing off". We laughed.*

*These were important events for me. How do I know? Its been 50 years ago and I still remember as if they were yesterday...*

*God bless you James and God bless our family.*

*John Sanchez*

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**John Sanchez** - June 11, 2018 at 11:23 PM

RH

“ I grew up in Dexter. James was 2 years older than I. I looked up to him and admired him. I always experienced him, not only as talented and highly intelligent, but as an uncommonly kind, gentle guy. Although we didn't stay in touch in the years following, what I always heard about him, and from what I read in the obituary, that is the way he lived his life--in kindness and service to others. An exemplary life indeed! My warmest thoughts and condolences to the family of James Sedillo.

*Ron Henry*

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**Ron Henry** - June 11, 2018 at 01:29 PM



“ With all your accomplishments in. Life you were always nice to everyone. Your with your Love one now. Fly with the Angels my friend

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**Lupe Sanchez** - June 07, 2018 at 09:23 PM

LM

“ Prayers for the family. RIP James Sedillo.

*Linda Mendoza*

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**Linda Mendoza** - June 07, 2018 at 03:54 PM

LM

“ I know that my father, Melvin Miller, respected James and they were good friends. I do not remember not knowing James. My prayers are for you to find peace as you grieve.

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**Lyn Morris** - June 06, 2018 at 03:01 PM

CS

“ *Community Home Care Staff lit a candle in memory of James Sedillo*



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**Community Home Care Staff** - June 06, 2018 at 02:48 PM

LC

“ *We were so sorry to hear of James' passing. He and I were classmates at Dexter HS and played basketball for Coach Lewis. We will miss him at the 60th class reunion later this month. We will keep the family in our prayers. L.E. Cox*

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**Luther Cox** - June 06, 2018 at 11:06 AM

RH

“ *One of the finest men I have ever known. Ron Higginbotham*

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**Ron Higginbotham** - June 06, 2018 at 09:28 AM

BD

“ *I worked for ATSF railway out of Winslow, AZ. I crossed the NM AZ border a lot, with a travel trailer. My wife was a diabetic, therefor I carried insulin and syringes in my trailer. I was stopped at the port of entry one evening, and the man at the port wanted to know about the syringes. I tried to explain, but he would have none of my explanation. James happened to show up and told the guy I was on the up and up. Thanks to James I went on home that night without a trip to jail.*

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**Bennie Dennis** - June 05, 2018 at 07:34 PM

AS

“ Alicia, Michael, And Sofia lit a candle in memory of James Sedillo



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**Alicia, Michael, and Sofia** - June 05, 2018 at 04:39 PM

KW

“ Jim Sedillo was a policeman's Policeman. He was courageous, smart, and dedicated.

*He treated everyone with respect and compassion.*

*I feel honored to have served with him and to call him my friend.*

*Claim your rewards Jim, you have earned them.*

*Ken Wilson*

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**ken wilson** - June 05, 2018 at 01:27 PM

BS

“ Bill and I have know James and his family for quite some time, beginning when Bill and James both served on the Artesia Police Department, then both serving with the New Mexico State Police for a many years (they worked together out of the Roswell District. Rest in Peace our brother, you have earned your eternal reward. God's blessings on the family, friends and NMSP Brotherhood during this time of sadness. James was an outstanding man and officer.

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**Billy and Bennie Shaw** - June 04, 2018 at 08:40 PM

DZ

“ I will never forget Jimmie. He was like a brother to my father through almost 60 years of friendship. I loved his sense of humor. One time, I asked him how he stayed so positive when he often had so many challenges facing him at once. He looked at me, smiled and answered, "I just got really good at playing the hand I was dealt." I hope Bernie, Jerome, Matthew and the rest of the family can take comfort in knowing Jimmie's suffering has ended and that he was welcomed in Heaven by the loving arms of his beloved Margaret, Selina and Jamie (among others). Rest in peace, Jimmie. Thank you for all you did for my dad and me. We'll see you on the other side <3.

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**Dana Zambon** - June 04, 2018 at 07:10 PM