



## Josephine H. Sanchez

September 14, 1931 - January 17, 2021

### Obituary for Josephine H. Sanchez

A Funeral Service for “Josie” Sanchez, 89, of Roswell, will be held at 2:00 PM, at Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home on Friday, January 22, 2021. Burial will follow at South Park Cemetery. Please take a moment and share a kind thought or memory with Josie’s family at [www.andersonbethany.com](http://www.andersonbethany.com).

This beloved mother passed away Sunday, January 17, 2021, at her home surrounded by her family. As she heard singing of “How Great Thou Art,” she slowly and peacefully slipped away into glory. She left an imprint of love and example to live in this life! Her family and friends will miss her deeply.

Josie was born in Maxwell, New Mexico, on September 14, 1931, to Julian and Elena Hernandez. Soon afterward, they moved to Pueblo, Colorado, and remained there until her early adult life. She was blessed to have Christian parents who knew the transforming power of God through salvation! This transformed her family, thus, having a great impact on her life and future! Josie was a woman who grew with great dependence on the Lord. She prayed humbly and sought God for all her needs. Oftentimes, one could hear her praying for her family in the middle of the night or early in the morning.

There was always a sense of security, knowing that all will be alright because

momma prayed. In the face of opposition from others and in her challenging moments, she prayed for God to give her a right heart. Her children could hear her in her room softly seeking God. It is written that when we are weak, then we are strong. Strength is a dependence on God because of his greatness. Her family saw that she was not just religious but rather one that lived sincerely before God. She was the real thing and lived by faith.

As a young adult, when visiting her brother in Roswell, NM, she met her future husband in church. She and Eloy M. Sanchez were married on July 20, 1956, at the Spanish Methodist Church here in Roswell. They were blessed with 4 children. She worked at various places such as a company called the Electronics. She found much pleasure in sewing! She sewed many blankets for her grandchildren and did alterations.

Josie was especially a good cook! Both she and her husband opened a restaurant in Ruidoso Downs. They had such a hit with their green chile enchiladas in the 70s. Even restaurant owners and chefs from around would stop by to check out her food since the foods we enjoy today were not common in their businesses. Soon, restaurants were selling green chile enchiladas and other foods that they replicated from her food. Another popular meal was her famous green chile chunky burritos, made with savory pork and cheese. Her salsa was like no other during that time. Josie could make some of the most savory hot tamales. She was featured in the newspaper titled, "Mexican food is an art at Mom's Kitchen" (1983). She said that she put God in her cooking! Eventually, the family left the restaurant business and returned to Roswell.

Ministry was important to Josie. This mother did a lot of praying for her children to serve God throughout their years growing up, and never stopped. Two of her sons became ministers, and all serve the Lord. Through ups and downs, failings, or successes, she taught us that it is never too late to repent

and return to Jesus!

In this life, she was not immune to sorrow. Her husband of 75 years old left her as a widow, and later (2016), her youngest son Julian passed away at the age of 45. But Josie continued faithfully depending upon God. There were years when her phone would not stop ringing every day from people asking for prayer or dropping by. Many adopted her as their mother or called her Aunt Josie.

Her best legacy remains as one who pointed towards God. She loved singing as she worshipped the Lord. She set an example to serve God from the heart! She was not perfect. That is why her children were able to witness her victories and persistence! She fought with faith and love. She loved God's word and even attended church and revivals during the last few weeks of her life. Her last words to her grandchildren were to serve the Lord with all their hearts, as many of them surrounded her bed. She was proud of having 5 generations.

Josie was preceded in death by husband Eloy M. Sanchez and son Julian Sanchez. Most recently, her brother. Other siblings are Felix Hernandez, Severino Hernandez, Valentine Hernandez, Basillo Hernandez, Ernest Hernandez, Benjamin Hernandez, Erminia Fuentes, Tillie Hernandez, and Frances Ramirez.

Josie is survived by her children, Helen Sedillo and her husband, Joe of Roswell, Eloy Sanchez Jr. and his wife Petrita of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Lawrence Sanchez and his wife, Margie of Roswell.

Those left to cherish memories of Josie are her grandchildren: Carissa and husband Paul Vega, Jacob Sedillo, Isaac Montoya, Larry, and wife Sandra,

Vanessa Casey and husband Jonathon, Marissa Ramirez and husband Joel, Michelle Gomez and husband Fabian, Lauren Sanchez and Brandon, Elijah Sanchez and Kaylie, Joshua Sanchez, Esperanza Campbell and husband Matthew, Matthew Sanchez, Olivia Do and husband David, and Paul Sanchez; great-grandchildren: Breanne, Zayanna, Larry Jr., Andrew, Gilbert, Lilly, Mandy, Abigail, Ana, Jonathon, James, Ramiel, Nehemiah, Kalistah, Hadassah, Annmarie, April, Brandon Jr, Dominic, Eliana, Kharece, Elcey, Mila, Ezekiel, Anna, Violet, Gabriel Mestas, Drew Mestas, Johnathan Sedillo, Everette Sedillo, and Christian Sedillo; great-great-grandchildren: Andrew, Lalah, and Delilah; sisters: Petrita Hancock, Esther Valencia, and Margaret Osborne and husband Ron; numerous nieces, nephews, and close friends; as well as a special “daughter” to Josie, Estella Paquette.

Pallbearers: Those honored to serve at Pallbearers are Josie’s grandsons.

Josie’s family would like to extend a special “Thanks” to everyone who called, texted, or communicated in some way with the family. Also, a special “Thanks” to those who helped with food, finances, and their prayers.

2 Corinthians 5:8 “... to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”

Family and friends are encouraged to wear a mask and follow COVID guidelines.

Josie’s tribute was written in her honor by her family.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JAN 22. 2:00 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



“ *Josephine H. Sanchez*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *SOFIA Lucero lit a candle in memory of Josephine H. Sanchez*



**SOFIA lucero** - January 24, 2021 at 12:46 AM



*Love you Tia Josie ...*

**SOFIA lucero** - January 24, 2021 at 12:47 AM



“ *Dearest Lawrence and Sanchez family I send my heartfelt prayers and. Requests for Shalom healing in your hearts ...I will interceed for your loved ones. May the Holy Spirit loose untold comfort and blessed memories to you all in the days ahead. What a full crown of gems your precious mommy has to present to her Savior ....Gloria a Dios ( we were ordained on same day u both and i) Catherine zamora. S F , n m*

**Catherine Lorry Zamora** - January 23, 2021 at 10:39 AM



“ *Heart felt sympathy. Very fond memories of the the entire Sanchez family at Templo Heromosa. May the wings of eagles surround your families at this time*

**john mondy** - January 23, 2021 at 09:55 AM

HS

*Thank you John!*

**Helen Sedillo** - January 27, 2021 at 01:10 AM

AJ

“ *Aurora M Jimenez lit a candle in memory of Josephine H. Sanchez*



**Aurora M Jimenez** - January 22, 2021 at 10:23 AM

HS

*Thank you!*

**Helen Sedillo** - January 27, 2021 at 01:10 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Josephine H. Sanchez.*



January 22, 2021 at 09:45 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Josephine H. Sanchez.*



January 22, 2021 at 09:16 AM

LF

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. May the Lord comfort you and bring you peace knowing that your mother is in the arms of Jesus.*

*Luther and Vanessa Fisher*

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**Luther Fisher** - January 22, 2021 at 12:46 AM

HS

*Thank you Luther!*

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**Helen Sedillo** - January 27, 2021 at 01:11 AM

IM

*To the Dearest Sanchez Family. I will not forget the support she gave me and Anna while we were Youth Directors for the States of West Texas, New Mexico and Colorado. She was a true servant of God. My condolences to all of you. "God's finger touched her and now she sleeps." She closed her eyes here on earth, to awake up in a Heavenly place. Being welcomed by many of her family members in Heaven. She will always have a special place in my heart and mind. I will have Great Memories of Sister Sanchez. May God fill your void with His peace and love of your LOVING MOM. BLESSING TO YOU AND YOURS.*

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**Isaac Martinez** - February 01, 2021 at 05:23 PM

“ Cousins Helen, Eloy, Lawrence and Family, with heartfelt sympathy we wish to express our condolences in your loss of your Mother (Our Aunt) and let you know that our kindest thoughts are with you. May you find comfort in the word of God during this difficult time? Praying for you today and the days ahead.

*Those we love don't go away they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal." We know about these words because we have been where you are now recently. Today, Our Holy Father has the clock and Aunt Josie had all the time he would allow. She suffered until God finally said I have the right to assignment. Your mission on earth has been accomplished!*

*It was on a Monday, September 14, 1931, the place was Maxwell, New Mexico, that God sent a little bundle of life to Jose Julian and Elena M. Hernandez. She was the eleventh of 14 children, seven boys and seven girls to arrive and they called this latest bundle of joy, Josie (Josepha) Hernandez. She was the work of God's creation, and as beautifully as God created her to be.*

*Aunt Josie learned that we are shaped by the times in which we are born, that we all have a certain number of days to live and our joys and struggles are different. But in the end we all come to the place that is called death, and from that point we look back and see what happened during our lives. Who was this person that the world knew as Josie Sanchez?*

*She has completed her DASH here on earth and taken her first step into eternity; that cycle of birth, life, death and return to her Creator 32,635 days later, to the place that the Lord Jesus Christ has reserved for her good deeds. That dash between (September 14, 1931 – January 17, 2021) those years represent all the time she spent alive on earth and those who loved her know how much that line is worth.*

*Aunt Josie now stands before God, to give an account for the life that she lived, as we must all one day give an account. She touched*

*our lives in various special and unique ways.*

*She experienced the love of Christ in a way that motivated her to be a better woman and follower of Jesus. Her commitment was more than the love for her family. Her relationship she developed with God enriched her life and continued to keep her open to following God's call to make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ" and that is what Aunt Josie did until her last dying breath.*

*Aunt knew the joy of being a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother, a friend, and a gift to the world from God above. I am sure that all that knew Aunt Josie would agree that she has earned her merits of accountability to God. She had many friends and will be highly missed.*

*A famous writer once said "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give". If that is true, then Aunt Josie made a great life. She was our champion! Her Dash on this earth was outstanding from the beginning to the very end!*

*Aunt Josie enriched our lives in her own unique special way. And now the only thing that remains for us is to try to follow her example and to deserve the honor of being her legacy. We'll all miss her terribly.*

*May the Lord hold you in the palm of His hand. Farewell Aunt Josie, your work here on earth is done we know you are in a much better place, FOREVER REST IN PEACE!*

*THE FAMILY OF ERNIE AND PRISCILLA HERNANDEZ*

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**THE FAMILY OF ERNIE & LUCILLE HERNANDEZ** - January 21, 2021 at 08:39 PM

HS

*Ooooh my! What a tribute! Thank you cousin for these heartfelt thoughts written so elegantly and from a grand perspective!!*

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**Helen Sedillo** - January 21, 2021 at 11:50 PM

CD

“ Dear Sanchez Family,  
It so saddened me to read about the passing  
of your Mom and grandma.  
May God's Blessing and the memories you  
have of your Mom support you forever.  
My thoughts an and prayers are with you.

Corinne Duran  
(Fat's, the little store  
ur parents traded at.)



Corinne Duran - January 21, 2021 at 05:56 PM

HS

Awww, so nice of you to remember! Thank you! Those were the days  
when we would weekly go to the little store after church! We bought all  
our meats there. We miss those days!

Helen Sedillo - January 21, 2021 at 11:45 PM

CD

Your Mom is a beautiful lady...just like you!

Corinne Duran - January 23, 2021 at 08:12 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of  
Josephine H. Sanchez.



January 21, 2021 at 04:21 PM

CR

“ *Carmen Ramirez purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Josephine H. Sanchez.*



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**Carmen Ramirez** - January 21, 2021 at 03:21 PM

TM

“ *The Jordan Family (Laura, Mark, Krys and Mike) purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Josephine H. Sanchez.*



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**The Jordan Family (Laura, Mark, Krys and Mike)** - January 21, 2021 at 11:11 AM

EF

“ *Fond memories of Josie as I was growing up and always enjoyed visiting with her. She was a strong woman of faith, a devoted wife and mother and a lifelong friend. Blessings and condolences to her entire family and may she Rest In Peace.*

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**Elida Gonzales Flores** - January 21, 2021 at 10:38 AM

HS

*Thank you Elida for your sweet thoughts! We appreciate you!*

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**Helen Sedillo** - January 21, 2021 at 11:53 PM