



## Timothy Michael Raftery

February 15, 1950 - February 27, 2018

Timothy Michael Raftery passed away on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. There will be a Rosary at Anderson Bethany Funeral Home, 2609 South Main Street on Friday, March 2, 2018, 7:00 PM. On Saturday, March 3, 2018, there will be a Rosary at 11:20 AM at Assumption Church, 2808 North Kentucky Avenue, followed by a Mass Service at 12:00 PM. Celebrate Tim's life by visiting [www.andersonbethany.com](http://www.andersonbethany.com) to offer a memory or expression of sympathy for his family.

Tim was born on February 15, 1950, in Detroit, Michigan, to Colonel Paul H. Raftery and Norma Fry Raftery. Being a son of a Colonel in the army Tim lived in many US states and Europe. He graduated from Joliet Catholic High School and went on to the University of Illinois where he got a degree in Finance. Tim went on to travel in South America, visiting Machu Picchu in Peru, went down the Amazon, Columbia and landed in Brazil where he lived for 2 years. He got a job teaching English to Engineers building the Translitorânea Highway at the University. In addition to English, German, Spanish he learned Portuguese while in Rio.

He left South America and came to New Mexico for a short visit with his mother and stayed for the rest of his life. Tim went on to get his Master's degree and ED.D in Education from the University of New Mexico. He worked as a teacher, Principal and Superintendent in Mosquero, NM and Lake Arthur

NM.

Tim and Sonia met in 1981 and were married in 1985 in Maui Hawaii, they were married for 33 years. The family included two grown children Eliza and Hiram. Eliza married Michael Romero and they have two Children Adezra and Andrew. Hiram has a daughter, Amaya Morales. Tim came from a large family. He has a sister Sheila in Florida, a brother Patrick Raftery and wife Marjory, also in Florida. A sister Nora Whipple and husband Bob from Kentucky, a sister Norma and Son Brandon Ahlskog from Albuquerque and brother Michael Raftery from Albuquerque. He had a brother Paul Raftery from Washington DC who passed in the early 80's.

Tim was very active in many organizations: Democratic Party of Chaves County, Sertoma, AA, Down Syndrome Foundation and was a passionate member in all.

He was preceded in death by his father Colonel Paul Raftery, mother Norma Raftery, Brother Paul Raftery, and nephew Eric Ahlskog.

Tim's family lovingly wrote this tribute in his honor.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Timothy Michael Rafferty*

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December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *This was one of my favorite teachers & leaders of all time. I decided to look him up to write him a letter about all the ways he was so encouraging. He was my English teacher introducing me to The Great Gatsby. He loved coffee in the afternoon, Charlie Brown during the holidays, & when I was awarded a trip to Anaheim CA & we were on the plane & had landed, he sang Cheryl Crow-“this is LA”. He was one of my hero’s & made a way for me to have confidence in marketing, & life on our school trips! He inspired children.*

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**Robin Harris** - October 29, 2019 at 09:51 PM



“ *Sonia...Sorry to hear about your husband. May the memories you shared help ease the pain of his absence. N.L. Salas (Dexter)*

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**N.L.Salas** - March 18, 2018 at 05:01 PM



“ *I really liked Tim. I considered him my friend. When he worked at the Roswell Campus of ENMU, we would always joke about the harassment policy by saying, "Don't touch me", when we would see one another. He was a wonderful Registrar at the campus. My condolence to Sonia and the family. He and his sense of humor will be missed.*

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**Lloyd Chaves** - March 10, 2018 at 11:45 AM

JO

“ *Sonia, we were so saddened to hear of the passing of Tim. He will be missed by all that were blessed by knowing him. We considered him a true friend. Our sincere condolences to you and to your family. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless your family and give you the strength to deal with this very difficult situation.. May he rest in peace.*  
*Juan & Corrine Oropesa*

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**Juan Oropesa** - March 02, 2018 at 08:11 PM

DS

“ *Tim was my Roswell friend and helped me get and stay sober. We both graduated from the U of I and had a special bond. RIP Tim. Go Illini! Donald Shawler*

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**Donald Shawler** - March 02, 2018 at 07:13 PM



“ *Condolences to family and friends. I'll miss Tim, I'm glad I got to meet him and talk politics with him. You could always count on his smile to lift you up.*

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**George Peterson** - March 02, 2018 at 04:44 PM

TA

“ *Tom & Diana Acker purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Timothy Michael Raftery.*



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**Tom & Diana Acker** - March 02, 2018 at 03:27 PM



“ Karen Gober lit a candle in memory of Timothy Michael Raftery



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**Karen Gober** - March 02, 2018 at 03:05 PM



“ Tim would always come and visit my father, Tom Grady. Tim and my dad would talk for hours on politics, stories about New Mexico and Harding county. I could always see Tim's Love for New Mexico and education. He was a great man who touched everyone's life. He will be missed, but my dad now has someone to visit with. Tim and his Family are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Randy Grady** - March 02, 2018 at 02:09 PM



“ Cene Mendoza purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Timothy Michael Raftery.



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**Cene Mendoza** - March 02, 2018 at 11:38 AM

 Cene  
Mendoza

“ *Sonia,  
My heart cries for you and your family. My heart breaks to hear that Tim is no longer with us. As I think of Tim, all I can remember is his enthusiastic personality. He never failed to make us laugh at the Democratic Party, he was always doing everything and anything he could to help. I will miss him auctioning at the Christmas party and always making fun of me because I have 11\$ dollars, but mostly I will miss his welcoming smile that he has when anyone walks in the room. My heart and soul are with you Sonia in this very difficult time. I wish I was able to make his funeral. My heart hurts because I won't be able to go. I just want you to know that I am with you spiritually and I will be praying my heart out for you and Tim.  
Love always,  
Cene*

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**Cene Mendoza** - March 02, 2018 at 11:24 AM

BL

“ *Sonia and family our condolences to all of you may he rest in peace my friend.*

*Boni & Amy Luna-Lucero*



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**Boni & Amy Luna-Lucero** - March 02, 2018 at 09:59 AM

CE

“ *Thinking of the family, and so sorry to hear about Tim. Friend of his sister Norma, he was like a big brother to me when we were in our teens. He always put a smile on everyone's face. Prayers for all of the family & God bless you all.*

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**Cindy Evans** - March 01, 2018 at 10:16 PM

DV

“ *Sonia, thinking about you and very sorry to hear about Tim.*

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**Diane Ventura** - March 01, 2018 at 07:34 PM