

Albert J. Rivera (1927 - 2014)



Albert J. Rivera, 87, transcended from this life on Monday, Oct. 27th, 2014, in Alamogordo.

He was born on Aug 7, 1927, in Dawson, a coal mining community to which Alamogordo owes its founding.

His parents were Federico and Nephor Marianna Rivera. Albert was an attorney in New Mexico for more than 50 years. He served in the [U.S. Navy](#). After the war, he attended the University of New Mexico, and then served in Washington, D.C., as a policeman with the U.S. Capitol Police Force. He graduated from American University with a B.A. in Business Administration. He received his Juris Doctorate from George Washington University. He passed the Bar in Washington D.C.

He returned to New Mexico and obtained his law license and moved to Alamogordo in 1950. He served as an Assistant District Attorney and Federal Magistrate Judge. He was commissioned by the Governor to serve on the New Mexico State Parole Board and several other state committees, until 1958, when he opened his private practice. Members of the Bar may remember his courtroom antics, having a flare for the dramatic and using "Columbo" type tactics to draw attention away from his adversary.

As a young man, he served as altar boy in Dawson and was very active in Boy Scouts. He worked at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron and was honored with an Eagle Scout award, which has remained his most prized accomplishment. He was an avid reader and played basketball in high school. His high school basketball team won the state championship. Throughout his residency in Alamogordo he belonged to several civic organizations.

He was a complicated man who fought for the innocent and gave others a second chance. He led a colorful life and had affection for the ponies at the Downs. He will be missed.

Surviving members of family are his wife, Patricia J. Rivera; son, Marcos C. Rivera and his partner Sandra Cisneros; daughter, Tracy Rivera and her partner Jerry Taylor. He has three surviving sisters: Ramona Spicer, Marlene Miller and Anna Foland, and five surviving brothers: Marcel, Fred, Gregory, Anthony and Craig, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his son, Juan Lloyd Rivera. He is preceded in death by both parents, three sisters, Beatrice Roque, Valerie Sheehan and Marcelina Rivera; and two brothers, Ralph Rivera and Pantaleon Rivera.

The family is extremely grateful for the excellent care he received from his caregivers during the many years of his illness.

The family will greet friends from 5-6 p.m. at the Alamogordo Funeral Home, 2301 First St., Alamogordo, on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014. A vigil service with the Rosary will follow at 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, Nov. 7, 2014, at 11 a.m. at St. Jude Parish, 1404 College Ave., with Father Tom A. Hoffman, SJ., as celebrant. A reception will follow immediately after the service at the St. Jude Parish Hall. There will be a private inurnment at Monte Vista Cemetery.

The Rivera Family has entrusted their loved one to the care of Alamogordo Funeral Home to direct the funeral services. Cremation will take place at PCS.

Alamogordo Funeral Home

2301 1st Street Alamogordo, NM 88310

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