Steve F. Abeyta
10/1/39 to 1/17/10

It is with great sorrow that we share the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great friend due to complications associated with pulmonary fibrosis.

Steve was born on 10/1/39 in Tucumcari, NM to Jose Alcario and Amalia Otero Abeyta. He was the youngest of 13 children. He was raised in New Mexico where he enjoyed participating in athletics, fishing, hunting and spending time with his family. He graduated from Tucumcari High School in 1957. After high school, Steve attended Eastern New Mexico University, served his country in the US Army from 1961 – 1964, and eventually graduated with a BSBA from the University of Texas El Paso.

Steve's career started with Southern Pacific Railroad and ended 36 years later with the Union Pacific Railroad. His 36 years of continued service to the railroad family included positions of Clerk, Police Captain, Safety Officer, Trainmaster, and upon retirement, Manager of Border Relations. Steve's career was full of travel that allowed him to work with numerous people in many cities, at many government levels, and in different countries.

In addition, Steve served his community and made an impact on young lives. He was a coach, mentor, and father figure to the children and people with whom he came in contact. He was always firm but fair while being a neighborhood Dad. BBQ gatherings, U of A sports, Carne Asada, and joke telling were always a tradition. He never failed to deliver a quick witted line to lighten the mood, or have a story to tell.

After retirement, Steve helped his son launch Abeyta Painting where he enjoyed being social, monitoring the crews, and making a difference in young men's lives who needed guidance. He earned the nickname "El Jefe" and was respected by all.

Steve was a proud man who loved his wife, children, and grandchildren. He belonged to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. He was actively involved with the Knights of Columbus Roy Champeau Council 8077 where he served as Treasurer. He was a 4th degree member of Father Henry Miller Assembly 2308. He was also a lifetime Elks Lodge member. With his amazing personality, Steve made friends wherever he went. His optimism and positive attitude were conveyed to all who encountered him. He never put himself first and never complained, even until the end of his life. He was a self made man that was a true friend to all, and always led with his heart.

Many people walk in and out of your life; however if you ever met our Dad, he would have left a footprint in your heart. His mottos of "we will work through it"...."keep a knock'n"...."show him who you are", and most importantly...."be proud of who you are and where you came from....you are an Abeyta"..."don't ever forget your roots".

He will forever be remembered. Dios bendiga su alma.

He is survived by his wife Hope, of 46 years, his children, Terri (Steve) Vorholzer, Tim (Kellie) Abeyta & Garret (Kim) Abeyta, his beloved grandchildren, Kristin, Courtney, Rebecca, Hannah, Steven, Luke, Blake, Alexandria, and special daughter Tuni (Jeff) Flancer. He is also survived by the many family members and friends that he inspired.

Family visitation will be at 5:30pm at Carrillo's Tucson Mortuary 204 S. Stone Ave. with a Rosary service at 6:30pm. A Memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 23nd at 10:00am at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 8650 N. Shannon Dr.
Private Interment will be held at a later date. Memorial donations can be made to Knights of Columbus Council #8077 c/o St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 8650 N. Shannon Rd. Tucson, AZ 85742-9331.