

Richard Martinez

Richard Amado Martinez, 61, died Friday, Sept. 4, 2009 in his home. He was born Jan. 15, 1948, in New Mexico.

He moved to Barstow and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1967. In 1968 he enlisted as an Ammo Specialist E-4 in the U.S. Army with 14 months service in Vietnam until 1969. After returning, he moved to Pennsylvania where he worked as a heavy equipment operator at the steel mill. He then, on May 20, 1972, married his best friend, Sharon (Capece) Martinez. And in February of 1987, together with their five children, they moved back to Barstow. After 12 years he medically retired from being a heavy equipment operator at Fort Irwin.

Richard was a faithful member and assistant pastor of the Hinkley House of Faith and studying to become a pastor under the Free Methodist directive. He loved to play guitar, play pool, and share his undying faith with everyone he encountered, especially his Sunday school class.

Richard was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; daughter, Colleen Butler; sons, Jeremy (Trish), Gabriel (Felicia), Reuben (Joanna) and Adam (Ibeth) Martinez; grandchildren, Angel and Amia Butler, and Adam and Damien Martinez; brothers, Frank, Peter, Steve, and Julian Jr.; sisters, Dolores and Lorriane; parents, Julian and Corine Chavez; and many numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.