



## Joseph Edward Ruiz

October 24, 1945 - December 18, 2023

Joseph (Joe) Edward Ruiz, 78, of Odessa, TX, peacefully passed away on December 18th, 2023, in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his loved ones. He found his serenity in his warm bed, fulfilling his wish for a peaceful rest.

Joe is survived by his devoted and loving son Joseph Ruiz, daughter Melissa Beltran, daughter-in-law Maricela Ruiz, and cherished grandchildren: Jordan Ruiz, Brianna Ruiz, Daniel Beltran, Yleanna Beltran, and Amery Ruiz. He is also survived by his sister Isabella “Chavela” Padilla.

Born on October 24th, 1945, to Luis and Sally Ruiz in Lamont, California, Joe was the youngest among nine siblings. Raised in Lamont, California, he faced early hardships after losing his father at a young age, finding guidance and care from his brothers and sisters. The Ruiz family was known for their unity and strength. Joe’s resilience was evident from his early years, when he learned to navigate life's challenges with determination and, sometimes, his fists.

Following his graduation, Joe ventured into the Army and later the National Guard. His journey led him to ACME fabric and quilt in Bakersfield, California, where he met Margarita Ruiz, marking the beginning of a union that blessed them with a son and daughter, Joseph Ruiz Jr. and Melissa Ruiz. Joe’s career

path traversed cotton fields in Buttonwillow, California, before settling in Odessa, TX, in pursuit of opportunities in the oil fields. Despite the downturn in 1984, he persevered, working across various plants in Texas and New Mexico, steadfastly supporting his family from afar. His employment with Ref-Chem and Halliburton spanned until his retirement in 2007.

Joe was a man of strong demeanor—gruff yet generous, loyal, and courageous. Known for his unique way of greeting or bidding farewell with a raised middle finger, his character was marked by strength, stubbornness, and an unwavering loyalty to those he cared about. Despite his tough exterior, he had a generous spirit, extending support not only to his family but also to various charitable organizations, including Disabled Veterans of America, Wounded Warriors, St. Jude and various no-kill animal shelters.

His love for knowledge was insatiable, often engrossing himself in encyclopedias and classic literature. He was a master at crossword puzzles. He adored the works of Louis Lamour and held John Wayne and Mohamad Ali in high regard. Joe's interests ranged from boxing in his youth to engaging telemarketers in lively debates and reveling in Golden oldies music, especially Sam Cooke's resonant melodies. His profound love for Golden oldies showcased his unmatched music expertise—identifying singers, songs, and their release years with ease.

His determination for independence, seen in managing his appointments and medications, stemmed from a desire not to burden his family. Beneath his gruff exterior, Joe harbored compassion, expressing genuine care for not only his family and friends but for complete strangers, sometimes going out of his way to help the homeless by giving them a few dollars. His respect for his daughter-in-law was evident by his actions and meaningful conversations, showing a softer, caring side that many never witnessed.

A deep affection for his dog, affectionately named “Nugget” or “Rat,” reflected his capacity for friendship. He shared countless moments conversing and playing with his beloved dog. They were best friends.

Above all, his ultimate love in life was his grandchildren. Joe showcased affection by playfully teasing his grandchildren, demonstrating his unwavering and unconditional love for them. Their voices brought joy to his days, and he treasured every opportunity to connect, even if it meant purposefully getting under their skin and annoying them. His grandchildren were his reason for living.

His love for his family knew no bounds, always helping his son and daughter whenever possible. At family events and gatherings, his presence was a silent yet cherished comfort for everyone. His absence is evident as his normal spot on the couch is now empty.

Joe’s passing leaves a physical void, but his presence and impact remain. Though not the easiest to handle, Joe’s unyielding authenticity remained a constant, earning both love and respect. During one conversation he stated, “at my funeral just prop up my arm out of the casket and make sure my middle finger is up”. That was his way of saying goodbye.

Joe Ruiz was definitely one of a kind and he will be greatly missed.  
Rest in Peace. We love you.

A rosary and visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 27th, at 6 pm at American Heritage Funeral Home, 4100 FM 1788, Midland, TX. Mass will take place on Thursday, December 28th, at 1 pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 7601 N. Grandview Ave, Odessa, TX, followed by an intimate gathering at the West Texas Food Bank, 411 S. Pagewood Ave at 3pm or upon the conclusion of the service.

# Tribute Wall

BD

“ *Joey, our condolences and prayers for peace and comfort to you and your family. Dunstons*



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**B Dunston** - December 27, 2023 at 08:15 PM



“ *Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Joseph Edward Ruiz.*



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December 26, 2023 at 08:14 PM

PB

“ *My condolences to my cousins Joey & Melissa Ruiz, their families and all the Ruiz family. My memories with uncle Joe were unforgettable at my young age in Buttonwillow California, uncle Joe was very blunt and told it how it was! (Of course with his finger!) But, he was also a deep down inside a loving uncle. Rest in peace uncle Joe, you will be missed.*

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**Patricia Carrera Baeza** - December 23, 2023 at 10:07 AM

RC

*My condolences to my primos Joey and Melissa and all the Ruiz family, ya'll know we're here for ya'll whatever ya'll need..I'll never forget him calling us "heifers or cows "lol but we knew he loved us and most of all the love he had for my dad to the point to where he couldn't make my dad's funeral he made it a point to go to Chihuahua as soon as he could to make good on his promise to my dad to pour "beer"all over his grave..love you Tio Joe ☐*

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**Rosie Castañeda** - December 26, 2023 at 05:53 PM