



Donald E. Cortez

July 20, 1942 - February 3, 2026

With broken hearts we announce the passing of Donald E. Cortez, US Army Veteran, on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. He was the beloved husband of Sylvia. Loving father of John, Donald (Jeanne), Lisa (Michael) Grzelak, Lynette (Rich) Herrera, Monica (Louie) and Erica (Gary). Proud grandfather of Christina (Oscar), Alyssa, Julien, Manuel, Ricky, Andrea and Donald. Great grandfather of Cecilia and Claire. Cherished son of the late Juan Sebastian and Marie Cortez. Donald was preceded in death by all of his siblings and their spouses, Maxine (Santiago) Quiroz, Eleanor Cortez, Dorothy (Conrad) Gomez, Christine (Rigoberto) Navarro and Linda Cortez. He will be dearly remembered by his many nieces and nephews. Throughout his life, Donald embodied the values of hard work, honesty and compassion. He instilled in his children and grandchildren his qualities of kindness, integrity and generosity that they will carry with them forever. His absence is a silent grief, his life a beautiful memory. Donald was a member of Plumbers Local 130, since March of 1968 until his retirement in 2018. Dedicated member of Settlers SAC and the Mary McDowell Settlement Alumni Association (MMSAA). Visitation is Friday, February 6, 2026 from 4 PM to 8 PM at Foran Funeral Home, 7300 W. Archer Ave. (55th street just west of Harlem). Visitation at the funeral home on Saturday from 7:30 AM until time of Prayers at 8:45 AM. We will go in procession from the funeral home to Blessed Sacrament Church located at 3745 South Paulina, Chicago, IL. for a 9:30 AM Mass. Donald will be laid to rest at St. Mary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

87th Street & Hamlin Avenue
Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 6. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Foran Funeral Home - Summit
7300 West Archer Ave
Summit, IL 60501
(708) 458-0208
contactus@foranfuneralhome.com
<https://www.foranfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

FEB 7. 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM (CT)

Foran Funeral Home - Summit
7300 West Archer Ave
Summit, IL 60501
(708) 458-0208
contactus@foranfuneralhome.com
<https://www.foranfuneralhome.com/>

Prayers

FEB 7. 8:45 AM (CT)

Foran Funeral Home - Summit
7300 West Archer Ave
Summit, IL 60501
(708) 458-0208
contactus@foranfuneralhome.com
<https://www.foranfuneralhome.com/>

Mass

FEB 7. 9:30 AM (CT)

Blessed Sacrament Parish St. Peter St. Paul Catholic Church
3745 South Paulina Ave.

Tribute Wall



“ Foran Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald E. Cortez



Foran Funeral Home - February 06 at 03:38 PM

DF

“ Deborah F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald E. Cortez.

Deborah F. - February 06 at 08:08 PM



“ 204 files added to the album Life Tributes



Foran Funeral Home - February 06 at 01:31 PM

MK

“ Marcin, Alexa, Lana and Tessa Kania purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of Donald E. Cortez.



Marcin, Alexa, Lana and Tessa Kania - February 06 at 11:34 AM

LF

“ Laura F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald E. Cortez.

Laura F. - February 06 at 11:31 AM

RH

“ Dearest Sylvia, family members, and friends,
Sending our sincerest heartfelt condolences during this time of sadness and sorrow.
Don was that exciting and lovely chapter in your storybook of joy and happiness.
His legacy will now shine thru you. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, plz bring comfort to all.
Rick & Rose P.Holzmann
Schertz, Texas

Rick & Rose P. Holzmann - February 06 at 11:24 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Donald E. Cortez.



February 06 at 09:42 AM

MB

“ Don, Jeanne, Donny, Bubba, Katie, Cat. We are so sorry for the loss of your father/grandfather. Regardless of their age/our age, it is not easy to lose a parent. Our deepest sympathy to you.
Maurie and Carol

Maurie and Carol Bunyan - February 05 at 09:57 PM

GF

“ Gene Ledesma and family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Donald E. Cortez.



Gene Ledesma and family - February 05 at 07:07 PM

GF

“ Gene Ledesma and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald E. Cortez.

Gene Ledesma and family - February 05 at 07:07 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Donald E. Cortez.*



February 05 at 04:51 PM

SF

“ *Sanchez Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald E. Cortez.*

Sanchez Family - February 05 at 04:51 PM

TC

“ *Cortez family, John, don, Lisa.. sorry to hear about your great loss may God be with you at this time of sorrow..I had some great times on 50th/st....Tom c*

Thomas Collopy - February 05 at 04:34 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Donald E. Cortez.*



February 05 at 11:38 AM

TF

“ *The Louisville Grzelak family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald E. Cortez.*

The Louisville Grzelak family - February 05 at 11:38 AM

DG

“ *Diane G. purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Donald E. Cortez.*



Diane G. - February 05 at 09:00 AM

MP

“ *Prima Sylvia , Our sincere condolences. . Wish we lived Closer . We unite with you in prayers , share your sorrow. We are a phone call away . Lord hear our prayers , send comfort and strength to our family in Chicago. May Don RIP in the land of the Living ! Lots of hugs ! Love you Much ! Cona and Victor .*



Mary Magdalene Perales - February 05 at 12:12 AM

DB

“ *To my dear cousins,
Always enjoyed seeing Don at the family reunions. Such good and happy memories. My prayers are with you . Love you all.
Deborah Buckaloo
El Paso, Texas*

Deborah Buckaloo - February 04 at 08:24 PM

FB

“ *Felix & Cathy Benavidez sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald E. Cortez*



Felix & Cathy Benavidez - February 04 at 08:22 PM

NL

“ *My parents Pedro and Martina were very fond of Don! Once my dad heard that Sylvia was coming to town my dad would ask “ Is Don coming too”! Sylvia and family my condolences and prayers. 🙏🌸*

Norma Lamica - February 04 at 08:06 PM

MW

“ *Mike & Dawn White purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Donald E. Cortez.*



Mike & Dawn White - February 04 at 08:01 PM

SC

“ *Prima Sylvia and family. We we are sorry to hear about Dons passing. Our prayers are going out to you. We love you. ❤️🌸*

sarah cardenas - February 04 at 07:55 PM

BW

“ *Don when we joined your family you made us so comfortable. We will miss you so much.*

Tom and Barb Walsh

Barbara Walsh - February 04 at 07:13 PM

FB

We first met Don on our cousin trip to Spain. Memories of him never changed.He was always a gentleman who went an extra mile for others. May he rest in Peace.

Felix &:Cathy Benavidez - February 04 at 08:30 PM