



Joe Angel Martinez

December 3, 1936 - November 4, 2025

Joe was born on December 03, 1936, in Lamar, CO to Parents Andy & Rachel Martinez. Joe graduated from Lamar Union High School in 1956. He studied and played football two years at Pueblo Junior College where he was the first All American athlete for the College. He continued his football career and education at Colorado A&M which became Colorado State University. Joe graduated with a degree in Education K-12, and minors in Commercial Art, Spanish, and Physical Education. Joe taught Art, Crafts, Spanish, and coached football, basketball, track, girls softball and wrestling for 17 years at Junior High Schools in Scottsbluff, Nebraska and Cache la Poudre JH in LaPorte, CO. He taught 15 years at Cache la Poudre Elementary. He was a Master Teacher, caring coach and a loving husband and father. Joe received his Masters Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Northern CO. Joe taught for 32 years. He spent 30 summers working and teaching in the Migrant programs in NE and CO. Joe married Sandra Bruckner from Lamar. Together they raised four daughters. They were married for 70 years. He loved his family unconditionally. Joe spent time with family fishing, picnicking and attending all of his girls' school and sport activities, having chocolate

milkshakes after every musical concert.

Joe was an amazing multi-talented athlete. Joe was one of the best fast pitch pitchers in the State of Colorado.

He proudly pitched for 50 years, helping to win many tournaments in CO, NE, WY, TX, AZ and Mexico.

As you can imagine, his family grew up in ball parks, developing a ball team family bond that continues today.

Joe was inducted into the Colorado ASA Softball Hall of Fame in 1992, the Colorado Mexican American Hall of Fame in 1993.

He was honored at the 2020 CSU Pueblo Homecoming game, and at a celebration at the CSU Canvas Stadium for his 1957 All American Athlete recognition and his outstanding football career at both schools.

Joe is survived by his wife Sandra of Fort Collins, his children Beth (Mike) Martinez Humenik of Thornton, CO JoLynn Martinez Troudt of Fort Collins, CO, Kristi Martinez Rice of Fort Collins, CO, and Heidi L. (Greg) Block of Colorado Springs, CO. he is also survived by his sister Frances (Angel) Marquez of Pueblo, CO, grandchildren Nicole (Andre Ray) Troudt of Greeley, CO, Brandon Rice of Hilo, HI, Kirk (Melissa) of Eau Claire, WI, Aaron (Ria) Rice of Fort Collins, CO, and Heather (Sam) Krout of Wellington, CO, great grandchildren Arianna, Aliva Ray, Edith, Vivian and Benjamin Troudt, Emmaline, Hazel and Morgan Rice, Ellie Krout, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 21. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (MT)

Peacock Funeral Home
209 S 4th St
Lamar, CO 81052

Funeral Service

NOV 21. 10:00 AM (MT)

Peacock Funeral Home
209 S 4th St
Lamar, CO 81052

Interment

NOV 21.

Fairmount Cemetery
Lamar, CO

Following Service

Tribute Wall

AH

“ I was a student at CLPE and Mr. Martinez ignited my passion in art. I am 48 years old and I still remember the art projects we got to do still to this day. He was always so kind and encouraging when teaching art. Always eager to teach so you understood the why. I will never forget working with clay and him explaining to me why you use harsh marks to connect pieces of clay. Everytime I worked with clay from that day on I thought of Mr. Martinez.

Amber Hersh - March 25 at 09:53 PM

BR

“ Will always cherish the memories of going over to my grandparents house as kids. Papa Joe taught us grandkids how to tie flies for fishing, showed us how to become better artists, as the basement was pretty much an art studio. It was so cool! Truly can't count the awesome things Papa Joe had us kids doing, but there was never a dull moment.

Both him and my grandmother always showed up at our sporting events, and he always gave us pointers on how to improve. Papa Joe was also a fun sometimes goofy guy to be around, he always seemed to make you smile or laugh. He did sure have some phobias about snakes and sharks. Big spiders, Haha. I remember when my cousin Kirk and I were going on a senior class trip to Australia & New Zealand. Papa Joe had to inform us about all the deadly creatures in those parts, and there were lots haha! He was always looking out.

He cared deeply for his family, friends and community. Going to all the softball games on the 4th of July. Seeing him hanging out having a fun time with his pals. He will always be my Hero. I miss him very much. He was a great man. Thank you for all your teachings, Love and support Papa Jose. We never said goodbye when leaving my grandparents house, we always said Hasta luego. See you later. Love you.

Brandon

Brandon Rice - December 20, 2025 at 09:19 PM

DR

“ *Joe Jose Papa Joe!*
A life very well lived! A fantastic and loving Grandfather to our children. Respected in the educational community as well as the sporting world. Little known fact that Joe was very accomplished in the horticulture field. Who else plants cactus in the basement window wells of his home. Just saying!
Rest in Peace Papa Joe!
Doug Rice

Doug Rice - November 17, 2025 at 09:28 PM

JK

I was a pulling guard for Joe from Michigan on the single wing. He was our tailback. Small but what a heart. Rest in peace!

Jack Klein - December 10, 2025 at 01:36 PM

DG

“ *I am sorry to hear of Joe's passing. As said earlier in his obituary, Joe was a great fastpitch softball pitcher. But even more than that, he was a nice person. I was lucky to play softball with and against him for many years. Joe was a great mentor, and I always valued his advice. My condolences to Sandy and family.*
Dean Gebhardt

Dean Gebhardt - November 13, 2025 at 06:59 PM

MA

Nice to hear from familiar people my late Bud played with— over the years. My family and I also send our sympathies to Sandy & dear families.
Sincerely, Marilyn Anderson.

marilyn anderson - November 15, 2025 at 08:17 PM



To Sandy and girls. I remember Joe and family fondly. Those years traveling with the softball team are great memories. I am so sorry for your loss. Eileen Walters

Eileen Walters - November 22, 2025 at 06:52 PM