



## Benjamin Jesus Cortez

February 4, 1946 - August 9, 2020

Benjamin Jesus Cortez, 74, of Kingsville, TX passed away on August 9, 2020 in Kingsville, TX.

He was born on February 4, 1946 in Kingsville, TX to Lucio and Elena Cortez. He was a retired Educator, formerly employed with K.I.S.D. and surrounding areas. He was also a sponsor/coach for the Special Olympics for several decades.

He is preceded in death by his four brothers, Juan Cortez, Lucio Cortez II, Mario Cortez, Daniel Cortez; and two sisters, AnnaMaria Serrano, and Maria Lucia Rodriguez.

Survivors include one son, Benjamin Lucio (Alicia) Cortez of Albuquerque, New Mexico; one brother, Rolando Cortez of Houston; one sister, Maria Elena Cortez of Kingsville; three grandchildren; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Private Services are requested by family.

Arrangements under the direction of Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall



“ Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Benjamin Jesus Cortez



Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home - August 14, 2020 at 12:28 PM

ER

Beautiful memories a great man and a great friend rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon you! Siempre Amor!

Eugene Romero - August 14, 2020 at 01:02 PM



Thank you Gene.

Ben Cortez - September 03, 2020 at 05:23 PM



“ Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Benjamin Jesus Cortez



Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home - August 14, 2020 at 12:28 PM

OR

“ I met Ben when we both attended Highlands University. We took classes together and became friends. We had some good times when we went deer hunting together. I attended every football games to see you in action. You were an outstanding fullback! The Highlands University Cowboys were awesome at the time. After Highlands it was always so nice to see you and visit. You will never be forgotten. Rest in Peace my friend. I ask that Our Lord welcome you into the light of HIS face. Our sympathy to Benjamin Jr. and all of his family. Siempre con amor!

Ovidio and Aggie Romero  
Las Vegas, New Mexico

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**Ovidio Romero** - August 14, 2020 at 12:51 PM



Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Romero!

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**Ben Cortez** - September 03, 2020 at 05:21 PM

HS

“ You will be missed. Klke

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**Henry Saavedra** - August 14, 2020 at 12:26 PM

YG

“ *Benny was the nicest guy, he always had time for everyone and he always looked forward to getting together in Las Vegas, NM and Santa Fe, NM. He made a point of always talking to me and making me feel welcomed to this NMHU family.*

*He loved all of us!*

*Tom, my late husband, loved Benny and always had praise for him as a person and a player.*

*He definitely will be missed!*

*He's flying with the angels!*

*Rest In Peace Benny!*   

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**Yvanda Gillespie** - August 13, 2020 at 04:47 PM

JL

“ *Benny was a 100% effort football player on every snap of the ball. He was physically as tough and aggressive as any of his Cowboy teammates. Off the field, some of the things he did were quite colorful, such as "dressing" a deer in his and his roommates' dormitory shower! On the field his competitive spirit flowed through to his fellow teammates, and he was a large contributing factor in our team's success. He was certainly deserving of induction into the New Mexico Highlands "H" Club Hall of Fame. Most importantly, Benny was a true friend. He will be sadly missed by all.*

*Coach John Levra*

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**John Levra** - August 13, 2020 at 03:56 PM

SP

“ BEN is a member of the New Mexico Highlands University Hall of Fame. As a freshman he broke the single season record in scoring with 63 total points. Ben played in the same backfield with future NFL Rookie of the year, Carl Garrett. He was well respected as a player and teacher/coach. He was beloved by his teammates and anyone who was lucky enough to know him. Ben never forgot his roots in Kingsville or his Alma Mater. NM Highlands University will always remember “Choo-Choo” Cortez. Ben, HU will certainly be thinking of you & missing you at all future Football Homecomings. Syl Perez, & NMHU Athletic Alumni “H” Club.

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**Sylvester Perez** - August 13, 2020 at 02:36 PM

DR

“ First met Ben when we were both Freshmen at New Mexico Highlands University in 1965. I was a walk on and had to prove myself to get on the Football Team. First practice and most all practices included Defensive Backs vs Offensive Backs Tackling Drill. First man up I did really well and got Ralph down but next time around I wasn't as fortunate. I saw this guy in front of me that looked like a Bull ready to run over me. Whistle blew, Drill started and I went at him, got him down but man was it tough. I thought I had collided with a freight train!! That's when I was introduced to the "Best Fullback in Highlands History", MR BEN CORTEZ. What a Player, Great FREIND and Person. Will dearly miss you. David Robledo

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**David Robledo** - August 13, 2020 at 10:51 AM

FB

“ Ben's son and my son Bill were best friends in grade school. He impressed me as being a great father, an avid sports fan, and a man who wasn't afraid of hard work. I am sure that he passed these traits onto his son. Our deepest sympathies, may he rest in peace.

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**Fred Beckmann** - August 12, 2020 at 01:15 PM



*Thank you Fred. Hope you are well sir!*

**Ben Cortez** - August 13, 2020 at 09:47 AM

FF

“ *Our deepest sympathy to my uncle Ben's family in Texas. My uncle Ben was well known and cherished here in Las Vegas, New Mexico. His smile and his voice made you feel he cared and was truly a man who was always willing to help you with something. We would cook up anything and it was awesome, our most fond memories are when he brought shrimp from Texas and treat us to the best shrimp and of course his brisket. People ask for him to cater their party even now. Best we EVER had!! He will be missed here in las Vegas, New Mexico! Valla con dios tio! Until we meet again. We love you Francine, Frank, Antonio, Alicia and Francisco Arguello*

**Frank Arguello (sobrino) n family** - August 12, 2020 at 09:02 AM



*Thank you Beez, much Love!*

**Ben Cortez** - August 13, 2020 at 09:51 AM

MC

“ *Coach Cortez was on the Brahma coaching staff in the late 70's and early 80's. I recall that his main responsibilities were the receivers and Special Teams. Coach really seemed to enjoy being an educator. Every once and a while he would tell me a story about his glory days as a football player at New Mexico Highlands. Coach was a good man, may he Rest In Peace.*

**Martin Chapa** - August 10, 2020 at 08:30 PM

CF

*May he Rest In Peace , I knew Ben when we were in High School . He was a playing Football for Kingsville. My Sincere Condolences.  
Candy Quintanilla Foster .*

**Candy Quintanilla Foster** - August 11, 2020 at 06:11 AM

DC

*Such a great gentleman and true friend of my deceased brother Manuel Billy,they loved being Brahma football players. ONCE A BRAHMA ALWAYS A BRAHMA! Condolences to family and close friends.*

**Dalia Trevino Chavez** - August 11, 2020 at 08:53 PM

TA

*My condolences to the lost your brother Role and Helen, may he rest in peace. Tone Acuna*

**Tone Acuna** - August 12, 2020 at 12:10 AM

GA

*I was honor to be a friend, teammate, and classmate with benny during our High School and College years. He was one of the best athletes that came out of Kingsville, Texas. We will miss him and remember our teammate. Bless him and his Family. Go Cowboys No. 82*

**Gilbert Alvarez** - August 12, 2020 at 12:33 PM

Bural Etheredge

*Great player, great friend, great teammate but most of a great compassionate human being! It was an honor to be your teammate and roommate in college! God bless you!*

**Bural Etheredge** - August 13, 2020 at 03:01 PM

AS

*I played against Ben (Freight Train) Cortez when he played at Kingsville HS and I at Roy Miller HS. We knew then that he was a great football player. As fate would have it, we both ended up at NMHU. His contributions to the football team on and off the field were exemplary. It was known to those that knew him that these contributions continued throughout life as witnessed by his donation of time to the Special Olympics. As stated by Coach Levra, I recall walking into the dorm bathroom to witness Ben dressing a deer with the precision of a surgeon. My sincerest condolences to the family.*

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**Albert T Sheldon** - August 13, 2020 at 04:28 PM