



Mario M. Mejia

July 13, 1962 - April 11, 2025

Mario Mejia, 62 of Kearney passed away Friday, April 11, 2025 at Kearney Regional Medical Center in Kearney. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 19, 2025 at Countryside Christian Church in Kearney. Interment will follow at Riverside Cemetery in Gibbon. Visitation will be 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday, April 18, 2025 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

Mario M. Mejia, born on July 13, 1962, to Rev. Mario and Maria Elena Mejia, was the beloved only brother in a family of six siblings. After growing up in Minden, NE and graduating from Minden High School in 1981, he went on to pursue his passion for graphic design at Kearney State College.

A gifted artist, Mario had a talent for drawing cartoon animals, dragons and medieval knights, along with a flair for sculpting. His creative spirit was matched by his knack for fixing things, which ranged from radios and electronics to bikes and various gadgets — treasures often found at garage sales and thrift shops. He took pride in sharing his “finds” with his family, always with a playful, “I got it on sale!”

Mario’s love for animals was evident in his everyday life. He had a soft spot for all creatures and often found himself with a cat or dog curled up in his lap. He humorously claimed that the cats kept him warm during the chilly winter

nights, and he generously fed countless stray cats, dogs, possums, raccoons and even chickens throughout the neighborhood.

His unique sense of style was a reflection of his vibrant personality. Mario preferred wearing Guayaberas, Hawaiian shirts, utility pants, cargo shorts and accessorized with fedora and flat cap hats, always ensuring his belts and shoes were a perfect match for his outfits.

A true car enthusiast, Mario's high school years were marked by his lime green Challenger with mags. He loved “spinning kitties” and proudly cruised around town while blasting music from bands like The Cars, Supertramp and ELO. He had a particular fondness for Mustangs, Carmen Guias, Fiats and Subarus, low riders and hot rods. He never missed participating in Cruise Nite.

Mario was obsessed with sweets, food, coffee and Coke Zero. He cherished his sister Mary Ann's famous chocolate chip cookies, Dulce's chocolate fudge, Linda's Mexican rice, pan dulce and never turned down any kind of chocolate — which he referred to as his “medicine.” He often requested childhood meals from his sisters of tamales, frijoles and arroz.

As the beloved only brother, Mario was surrounded by the love of his sisters, who affectionately gave him nicknames such as “Yayo,” “El Baby,” “Feo,” “Burrrooo” and “Viejo.” His playful spirit shone through in his quirky sayings, from “What are you trying to do, kill me?!?,” “Put a bra on it!,” “I've got the perfect cat for you!,” “Let's go Pata de Perroing,” and “No seas Burro!” His teasing, ornery nature made it hard to find a picture of him with his siblings that didn't capture him making bunny ears behind them with a mischievous smirk.

On September 5, 1992, Mario married Rhoda Randel, and together they

welcomed four beautiful children: Victoria, Vanessa, Veronica and Maximus, along with countless fur babies. He was a proud father, deeply devoted to his children, sharing his passions for fishing, cars, wrist watches, art, music, pocketknives and multipurpose tools with them.

Mario dedicated over 35 years of his life as a caregiver, a role that truly reflected his generous heart. He most recently worked as a plasma processor, bringing kindness and compassion to everyone he encountered.

Mario was preceded in death by his daughter Vanessa, his parents Rev. Mario and Maria Elena Mejia, his sister Linda Manns, niece Miranda Manns, nephew Jon-Jon Sherman, great nieces Mary Elizabeth and Esther Ezra and brothers-in-law Kevin Sprague and Dr. Jeffrey Johnson.

Those left to cherish Mario's memory include wife Rhoda; children, Victoria Mejia (fiancé Anthony), Kearney, NE; Veronica Rasmussen-Mejia (Britney), Kearney, NE; Maximus, Kearney, NE. Sisters Rose Sprague (the late Kevin), Aurora, CO; Dulce Sherman (Allen), Omaha, NE; MaryAnn Johnson (the late Jeffrey), LaVista, NE; Esther Mejia (Jeneen Sagon), La Vista, NE; several nieces and nephews. Mother and Father-in-law Lena and Dwaine Randel, Kearney, NE, Rachel Bridges (Dan), Minden, NE, John Randel, Garland, NE, James Randel (Jodi), Miltonvale, KS, Becky Stoner (Rob), Axtell, NE, David Randel (Gwen), Gibbon, NE and Daniel Randel (Marie), Minden, NE.

Memorials are suggested to the family and can be sent to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home: 4115 N Ave, Kearney, 68847. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

His legacy of love, laughter and creativity will be cherished by all who knew

him.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

45400 85th Road
Gibbon, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Funeral Service

APR 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Countryside Christian Church
3203 8th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall

EF

“ *Elsa Flores lit a candle in memory of Mario M. Mejia*



Elsa Flores - April 17, 2025 at 09:57 PM

EF

“ *Rhoda I just now found out that Mario passed. I am so sorry. I loved Mario he was a great man. Last time I spoke with him we were both hunting for treasures at a local thrift store in Kearney. Imagine us at a thrift store. I will miss seeing him at garage sales or thrift stores. We always had fun when we worked together out at the Mission. I sure am gonna miss you amigo. Your amiga Elsa*

Elsa Flores - April 17, 2025 at 09:55 PM

KC

“ *Kamala Carlsen lit a candle in memory of Mario M. Mejia*



Kamala Carlsen - April 16, 2025 at 08:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mario M. Mejia.*



April 16, 2025 at 04:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mario M. Mejia.

April 16, 2025 at 04:29 PM



“ *Dulce & Allen Sherman families purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Mario M. Mejia.*



Dulce & Allen Sherman families - April 16, 2025 at 05:36 AM



“ *Dulce & Allen Sherman families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mario M. Mejia.*

Dulce & Allen Sherman families - April 16, 2025 at 05:36 AM

DS

“ Mario

I will always remember you as a loving and protective big brother. Always looking out for me and others. You were our peacekeeper and made it easy to talk to you about anything big brother. We bonded on many levels as kids and as adults and parents. I never expected you would leave us so soon because you conquered so many challenges in life.

My only salvation is that you are with our parents, our sister, my son, our niece, and brother in laws. Someday, I will see you again but will miss you. In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying your time, some good food and the beautiful view.

Love you forever, Dulce (your favorite hermana)

Dulce Sherman - April 16, 2025 at 04:46 AM

DF

“ Darleen M Farwell lit a candle in memory of Mario M. Mejia

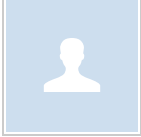


Darleen M Farwell - April 15, 2025 at 03:18 PM

RR

“ Mario's parents were our Pastors in Gibbon Assembly of God church and we the Mejia kids grew up together. We always had fun when they came over for Sunday dinner. Sending prayers to his family. Rachel Farias Riekenberg

Rachel Farias Riekenberg - April 14, 2025 at 10:02 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mario M. Mejia.* ”



April 14, 2025 at 01:17 PM