The farmworker community has suffered many losses throughout the country.

This symposium honors three local community members who were scheduled to participate in this symposium.
IN MEMORIAM

José A. García, 68, of Vado, NM entered to eternal life to be in the presence of God on December 15, 2020.

José García was born on September 16, 1952, to Martín García Barraza and Consuelo Antunes Robles in Canatlán, Durango, México. José met Genoveva Martínez at a young age, he fell in love instantly, and married her. They were lifelong partners since 1970. At the age of 17, José and his wife immigrated to the United States and had 10 children.

José was a force of nature, he was successful in everything he did, and he was determined to provide for his family and give them the life he felt they deserved. His family meant more to him than anything else in the world, something he often mentioned. He was able to build his own family home with his own hands for his wife and children. Anyone who knew José knew that he was the most loving father and spouse a family could ask for.

José had dedicated almost 50 years of his life to farm work. He was a hardworking and dedicated farmworker who could be found in "el rancho" de Cervantes Enterprises.

He had a passion for cultivating. He represented love, kindness, strength, and wisdom. He was full of joy and enjoyed music, dancing, joking, and loved living the "rancho" lifestyle.

He will be remembered as "El Gallo" which symbolizes bravery, fearlessness, and courage. He never let his guard down. Just like a "Gallo," his chant also announced the sunrise and the light that follows the night. When José walked down any path, everyone was taken back by his charisma. His legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone he interacted with.
IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Steven John Lane passed to eternal life on December 14, 2020.

Dr. Steven Lane dedicated his career to the service of inspiring students and helping them to reach their dreams. He was a teacher of literature, athletic coach, outstanding administrator, and a committed high school principal.

After he retired from the Texas educational system, he devoted his talents to the implementation of federal grants that focused on providing educational opportunities for the underprivileged.

One of the programs that Dr. Lane worked for, implemented literacy initiatives and programs to help migrant workers and their families obtain their GED. He also worked with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, was a member of the NMSU CAMP Advisory Council and served as the Chair for the Catholic Charities Board.

Dr. Lane believed, as Anthony Robbins states, “We all have dreams, we all want to believe deep down in our souls that we have a special gift, that we can make a difference, that we can touch others in a special way, and that we can make the world a better place.”
IN MEMORIAM

Francisco Uviña, Sr. passed to eternal life on February 3, 2021.

Francisco Uviña, Sr. was born on April 2, 1933 in San Luis del Cordero, Durango, México. As a child, he was trained as a blacksmith by his father, Severo Uviña, and had perfected this craft his entire life. Francisco, as a teenager had surpassed his father’s blacksmithing skills.

As a young man, Francisco was able to farm parcels of land issued to him by his local “Ejido” committee. In the mid 1950’s, like many young men, he emigrated to the US/Mexico Border where he enrolled in the Bracero Program. He was stationed in the Rio Vista Farms in Socorro, Texas where he mainly worked in picking cotton.

In 1967, Francisco married Bertha Contreras, originally from San Francisco del Oro, Chihuahua, México and they had four children. The family migrated to Sunland Park, New Mexico.

In the 1980’s, he was an active member in the community, forming part of the Concerned Citizens of Sunland Park, where they fought the removal of a polluting medical incinerator and a large commercial landfill. Mr. Uviña led a fulfilling family life and continues to inform the new generations about the struggles and the contributions of immigrants in the United States.

Francisco leaves behind his daughter Maria Magdalena (Maya) and sons, Francisco Jr., Pedro Alberto and Rafael Guadalupe (Lupe), and seven grandchildren that will miss him forever.