



## Samuel Otis Herrera

*December 11, 1950 - June 2, 2026*

Albuquerque, New Mexico

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Samuel Otis Herrera died in Albuquerque on June 2, 2026. He was seventy-five. Born there on December 11, 1950, he grew up in the South Valley when the river still felt closer to the houses, and he learned engines the way other boys learned baseball statistics. A car, he believed, was a set of honest problems. People were harder, but he liked them anyway.

He ran a two-bay shop off Isleta for most of his adult life. He did not advertise. He did not need to. Word moved along the ditch banks and through the parish: Sam will tell you if you do not need the part. He kept a handwritten ledger and a jar of extra fuses. He hired a neighbor's kid every summer and taught him that a torque wrench is not a suggestion. When the big chains arrived with televisions in the waiting rooms, he kept the radio on an AM station and a pot of coffee that was never quite fresh and never empty.

He married Teresa Herrera in 1974. They raised two sons and a daughter who all learned to check oil before they learned to parallel park. Teresa kept the books until the numbers got too friendly with the discounts Sam handed out. They argued about that the way some couples argue about the thermostat, which is to say forever and without much heat. He roasted chile in the driveway in September and considered that a civic duty.

Customers remember a man who wiped his hands before he shook yours, who would jump a battery at dusk without calling it a favor, and who could diagnose a knock from the curb. He liked the Sandias at evening, a green chile cheeseburger on a Saturday, and a Mass he stood through in the back because his knees had opinions. He died in Albuquerque, the high dry city that had always been home. The shop sign is down. A lot of cars in the valley still run because he was stubborn about a job.

## Services

A rosary and burial in Albuquerque. The family welcomes stories in the hall, and a contribution to a youth trades program if you insist on doing something extra.

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