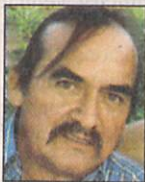


Granillo, ex-Tigua governor, dies at 59

By Alex Hinojosa
EL PASO TIMES

Julian Granillo, a former Ysleta del Sur Pueblo governor who pushed for unity among his people and worked toward the establishment of Speaking Rock Casino, died Sunday. He was 59.

Granillo worked to unite the Tigua Tribe, which was split after the tribal council examined its roster and the genealogy of its members in 1992. In doing so, discrepancies were found, and 140 names were removed from the tribal rolls.



Granillo

Granillo was elected governor of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo in 1993. Soon after his election, he announced that he would push for unity and high-stakes bingo on the reservation. The result was Speaking Rock Casino.

"1992 was a year of change, a year of misunderstandings and rumors, which led to some divisions within our tribe," Granillo said after he was elected according to the El Paso Times archives. "My goal is to unite my people. 1992 is history. The future is now."

Granillo called the casino "an opportunity for the tribe" and a "better future for our people. And it's a good thing in general for the city of El Paso." Speaking Rock Casino opened in 1993.

Friends and family said Granillo had a passion for life, his family and the Dallas Cowboys.

He is survived by his wife, Guadalupe Hernandez Granillo, and his sons, Julian Tomas Granillo Jr., Isaac Granillo, Juan Joel Granillo, Omar Hernandez, Edgar Hernandez, Israel Gonzalez, and Abel Gonzalez.

He is also survived by his daughters, Sandra Velasquez, Ruby Terrazas and Alondra Hernandez. He is also survived by 16 grandchildren; his brother, Leo Paiz; and his sisters, Elovia Silvas, Amelia Ruacho, Petra Paiz, Irma Velasquez and Tonia Luna.

Visitation was Thursday. The funeral will be at 10 a.m., today at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, 131 S. Zaragoza. Information: Hillcrest Funeral Homes at 598-3332.

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