



## Sal Ray Valencia

December 11, 1940 - November 14, 2023

Salome Ray James Valencia was born December 11, 1940, in Ignacio, Colorado, and later moved to Fruita, Colorado where he was raised. He was born to Joe and Ruth Valencia and had 6 brothers and 2 sisters. Sal tried to join the Marines in 1960, but was denied due to a heart murmur, he was then drafted into the Army two years later in 1963 and was honorably discharged in 1965. He was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Fort Huachuca, Arizona. In 1964 he married the love of his life Rosemarie Troy in Winnemucca, Nevada. They moved to Alsea in 1968, shortly after, welcomed their sons and raised them in the small tight-knit community.

Sal loved his family and friends more than anything. He jumped at the chance to do anything with his kids or to help his friends. He was always up for any type of fishing or hunting trip, he would always say, "just let me know when I need to get in the pickup". When his grandkids came along, he was the best Papa they could ask for. He never missed a game, concert, performance, or any activity the kids were involved in. He was seen (and heard!) at almost every sporting event held in Alsea, cheering on kids of all ages. Sal was famous for many things in Alsea, he was the auctioneer for the senior auctions for years, he held down the bench at John Boys visiting with friends and strangers. He started a prolific crafting hobby of making jewelry, knives, hat racks and walking sticks/canes. He always had a pocket full of his jewelry so he'd have it on hand to give to anyone he might meet. He was probably

most famous for his trusty sidekick Coco and could be seen (and again HEARD) coming on his 4-wheeler, if someone just driving through town saw them, they might find it funny, in fact many people stopped in the middle of the rode and took their pictures, but to Alsea, it was just the everyday norm with Sal and Coco.

We were blessed to know him and be loved by him. His sense of humor and zest for life will stay with us forever. Services will be held at Alsea School, December 16th at 2:00pm.

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at [www.McHenryFuneralHome.com](http://www.McHenryFuneralHome.com).

# Tribute Wall

BG

“ My dad Curtis Gilmore was good friends with Sal and he was so funny and he would just light up anyone’s day. Unfortunately I had no idea he passed. My dad had passed in 2020. Miss them both! I bet they are cracking jokes in heaven together ❤️

brandi gilmore - February 24, 2025 at 01:04 AM

JE

“ As far back as I can remember Sal was always part of the community. My favorite memories of him was over the years at the games he would always come up and say there’s my girlfriend and give a big ol bear hug. He loved all the kids in the community and all the people as well. He and Rosie are some of my favorite people and I’m not sure I will ever quite fully believe that I won’t see Sal cruising down the road with his little dog as I drive through town. In my mind and memories he will always be there. He was loved and is very missed.  
Jamie Edgmand and Family

Jamie Edgmand - December 09, 2023 at 04:19 PM

AM

“ Uncle Sal, you were that Uncle that was so proud of us. When we would come visit you always took us to the hatchery or had us outside helping with something. When my mom and I came to visit in 1998 you made a point to share stories. You shared those same stories( some far fetched) with my oldest son and treasured loving on my brand new baby at the time. We always enjoyed visits with you and Aunt Rosie. I will always have the fondest memories of you! Please take care of mom and grandma for us! You are greatly missed  
Love Angie

Angie Michael - December 08, 2023 at 05:42 PM

JD

“ There is so much to say about Sal, but the one thing that keeps coming to my mind is that he was ALWAYS there. Whether it was at an Alsea football, basketball or volleyball game, he was there. Helping my brother with the hay after our dad died, he was there. Cruising around town on his four wheeler with Coco and later Dolly, he was there. Quite a few times of week in my front yard honking his horn for us to come outside and visit, he was there. Sal was one of a kind and we were so lucky to have called him family.  
Dion and Jill DeWolfe

---

**jill dewolfe** - November 24, 2023 at 11:57 AM

NW

Sal was one of the first people we met soon after we moved here a few years ago, and we really enjoyed seeing him driving around with Coco and waving at us and everyone. He was a great example of the delightfulness of this town, and will be remembered.  
Nancy and Rick Winters

---

**Nancy Winters** - December 08, 2023 at 05:31 PM