



Thomas "Tom" Florez Sr.

September 22, 1932 - June 30, 2021

Thomas "Tom" Florez Sr, age 88 of Fredonia, KS, passed away Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at his home.

Tom was born September 22, 1932 in Fredonia, KS, to Juan and Epitacia (Pacheco) Florez. He was born in one of four boxcars on 3rd street. There was a family in each one and there was tar paper on these cars to give them insulation from the cold. Tom's dad and his 2 brothers had come to America in 1916 to get away from Poncho Villa, as they were going to have to go with his group, or die.

Tom's mother passed away when he was only 14 years old, and his father raised him alongside 6 siblings, making sure all of his children were first generation citizens. He also made sure they all received an education, sending them all to Fredonia schools.

In 1952 Tom met a young lady named Pauline Lopez DeLaTorre at a Christian Youth Organization dance in Parsons. Later that year, on December 13th, they were married in Kansas City. Together, they raised 5 children, and enjoyed over 68 years together. They lived in Kansas City where Tom worked for Macy's department store as a window trimmer. That job didn't pay enough, so he went to work for a metal die company for a time before the young couple moved back to Fredonia in the mid 50's. He went to work for Bunches Florist

and Blankenship Mum Farm northwest of Fredonia before going to work for Kennedy Printing Company in 1957, which later became LaDow and Spohn Stationary, retiring from there in 1997 after 40 years.

Tom enjoyed many things in life like taking his kids to the mum farm with him while he worked and letting them just play, or taking his sons fishing with him. Later in life, he enjoyed making his rounds around town to all the convenience stores to just visit with people. He would buy lottery tickets while he was there. He loved sitting on his front porch watching people go by and would often mow other peoples yards for the fun of it because he just loved to mow. He also enjoyed working with wood and would make things like benches and toys. He was a collector of many toys and enjoyed making enchiladas with Pauline and the great-grandkids. He and Pauline enjoyed an occasional trip to the casino and cherished the family dinners they would have. Tom was an onery man that loved to play tricks on others.

He was a member of the Sacred Heart Parish and the Knights of Columbus. He loved sports, especially the Kansas City Chiefs and the Kansas City Royals. He loved his family and friends with all his heart. He was proud to be a dad and grandpa and was even still known as grandpa by grown kids that were in Pauline's daycare years ago.

Tom is survived by his wife, Pauline

Children:

Teresa Apollo and husband Logan of Fredonia

Elizabeth Cox and husband Timothy of lola

Thomas Florez, Jr and wife Melissa of Fredonia

John Florez of Fredonia

Ann Huser and husband Roger of Fredonia

19 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren

Brother, Chris Florez of Fredonia and Sister, Valentina Zacharias of Pittsburg

He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings, Juanita Garcia, Daria Baker, Eulalia Wilson, Joe Florez and grandson Camron Huser

Visitation will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at Countryside Funeral Home, Fredonia, KS

Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fredonia. Rosary will be recited at 10:00 AM prior to service

Inurnment will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Fredonia

Memorial contributions can be made to Fredonia Hometown Healthcare and Hospice and can be mailed to or left with the funeral home.

Services entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home, 420 S. 20th, PO Box 247, Fredonia, KS 66736

Cemetery Details

Sacred Heart Cemetery

Fredonia, KS 66736

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Fredonia
420 S. 20th St.
P.O. Box 247
Fredonia, KS 66736
(620) 378-2882

Rosary

JUL 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1201 Madison
Fredonia, KS 66736
(620) 378-3658

Service

JUL 7. 10:30 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1201 Madison
Fredonia, KS 66736
(620) 378-3658

Tribute Wall



“ Tom will be greatly missed. He would come to Johnson’s when I worked there to walk me to the dumpsters when my uncle couldn’t make it. He always wanted to make sure I was safe and wasn’t out there alone being only 18 at the time.



Heather Gallegos-Paine - July 09, 2021 at 08:33 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
---Virginia Wheaton

Virginia Wheaton - July 08, 2021 at 10:37 PM



“ Love and condolences to all the family. He was a good man. RIP

Florrie McGinnis - July 07, 2021 at 01:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Florez Sr..



July 06, 2021 at 10:57 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Florez Sr..*



July 05, 2021 at 08:53 PM



“ *Lisa Chism lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Florez Sr.*



Lisa Chism - July 05, 2021 at 07:39 PM



“ *Tom Florez has been a pillar of the church, and a man who made this world a better place. He and Pauline made a huge difference in so many lives. He will be missed.*

Carl Edwards - July 04, 2021 at 04:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Florez Sr..*



July 02, 2021 at 02:22 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Florez Sr..*



July 02, 2021 at 11:40 AM



“ *Tom was my father-in-law and an awesome man. He had a great sense of humor and we loved watching Benny Hill and All My Children. He loved listening to my sister Beth play the 12 string guitar. I will always respect him and I will miss him as well. R I P Tom. You've earned it.*

DOROTHY CULBERTSON - July 02, 2021 at 03:32 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Florez Sr..*



July 01, 2021 at 11:05 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Mr. Florez was always a very nice and polite gentleman. My thoughts and prayers for all of you. God has gained a wonderful angel. HUGS*

Paula Kidd Lee - July 01, 2021 at 01:21 PM