

Biography of Jacob “Buddy” Chavez

Jacob “Buddy” Chavez was born on July 6, 1937 to Mariano and Minnie Chavez in St. Johns, Arizona. He passed away on April 30, 2018 surrounded by his family and friends.

Jacob “Buddy” Chavez considered himself to be an educator and rancher. He held many positions in education. Including the following: Apache County Superintendent, Principal of Landmark School, Alfredo Garcia School, Round Valley Consolidated, Springerville Elementary School, and Puerco Elementary School.

He was the first Latino Principal and Apache County Superintendent in the White Mountains of Arizona. He also was awarded the Arizona School Administrators Lifetime Achievement Award and was Chairman of the Northern Council of Governments. During his Chairmanship he was invited to meet with President Carter to discuss Latino educational opportunities.

Jacob learned the ranching business from his father Mariano and older siblings. Rancho Chavez ran Herford and Black Angus cattle. During this timeframe he donated a yearling steer to help fund the Dr. Alejandro Perez Scholarship. This particular scholarship continues to thrive and support doctoral candidates.

Jacob believed in the “American Dream” and loved to hear about success stories. He made it very clear that hard work and a good education would provide a fulfilling occupation. He believed educators should provide a positive influence to all students to succeed academically so that they, in turn, will influence others in a positive manner.

His motivational words live on today through his students, nephews/nieces, and sons.

The Jacob “Buddy” Chavez Scholarship began in March of 2019 to continue the “American Dream” of a college education.