



David Leal

May 8, 2013

David Leal, 72 of Hot Springs passed away on May 8, 2013 in National Park Medical Center. He was born on September 7, 1940 in Nixon, Texas. He was the eldest of five brothers and three sisters born to Navor Leal and Guadalupe Mendez Leal. At a young age, the family moved to Portales, New Mexico, where he grew up. At age 15 he began his career as a jockey, riding mostly out west at Ruidoso Downs, Sunland Park and Turf Paradise. In the mid 1970s he was in a riding accident, afterwards becoming an owner and trainer for awhile then until 1992 became an assistant and rider for J.R. Smith, Frankie Brothers, Jim O'Bryant and Tom Amoss to name a few. He was an excellent horseman. In 1993 he began Leals' Refinishing and operated that business until January 2006. At that time he retired and became very active at Mercy Senior Center and actually was King in 2012 and 2013. He was a very active member of St. Mary's of the Spring Catholic Church.

He leaves behind, his three sisters and five brothers and sons, Lyle Michael Leal of Hot Springs, Holly Leal- Boonstra of Michigan, Paul Joseph Leal of Kansas, Donny Leal of Montana, seven grandchildren, his best friend, Jeanne White and the love of his life his yorkie, Gaylee.

His wishes were to have his body donated for research to Genesis.

Memorial services will be Friday at 11:00 A.M. at St. Mary's of the Springs Catholic Church with a reception to follow.

Honorary pallbearers are Orville "Brew" Harrison, Raymond "Turtle" Sanchez, John Caldwell, Kelly Mitchell and members of the Senior Center and the staff

of ICU at National Park Medical Center.

Memorials may be made to Paws and Claws or any animal rescue of your choice.