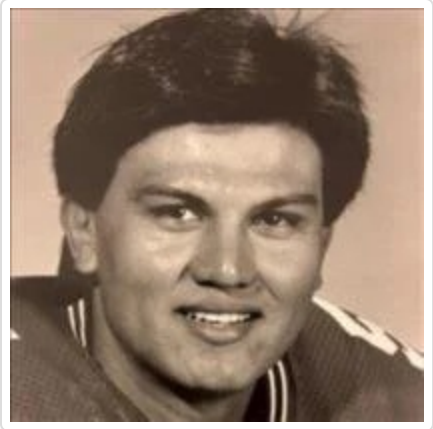

# Ruben Angel Rodriguez

March 3, 1965 - February 3, 2026

Ruben Angel Rodriguez, 60 of Woodlake, California, died on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, in Hanford, California. Ruben was born to Salvador Rodriguez Jr. and Rita Rivera on March 3, 1965 in Visalia, California.

Ruben was a natural athlete, and while he was good in any sport he tried, he excelled in baseball and football. After graduating from Woodlake High School in 1983, Ruben competed at College of the Sequoias as a pitcher, a quarterback and a punter. Ruben would go on to play football in 1985 for the University of Arizona as a punter, earning 2nd Team All-PAC 10 honors.

In 1987, Ruben was drafted in the fifth round by the Seattle Seahawks, and also married Mary Kay Jensen. They made their home in Bellevue, Washington, and divorced in 1991.

Ruben played a partial season for the Denver Broncos in 1992, finishing out the year with the New York Giants, in what turned out to be the final season of his NFL career.
After football, Ruben lived in Visalia and worked at Dairyman's and in various construction jobs, built fences, poured concrete for the dairy industry, and worked on ranches.

Ruben married Darlene Norris in 1996 and they made their home in Visalia.

They welcomed their daughter, McKayla Rodriguez, in 1998. They divorced in 2001.
Ruben is survived by his parents, Salvador and Rita, his brothers, Tony and Salvador III, his daughter, McKayla Rodriguez, his godchildren, Amanda Castillo, Ashley McNeely and Jesse Mesa, and numerous beloved aunts, uncles and cousins. He also leaves behind hundreds of friends/teammates from his slow pitch softball days to cherish his memory.

Memorial services will be held 11:00 AM Friday, February 13th, 2026 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

# Previous Events

## Memorial

FEB **13**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

# Tribute Wall

*Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Ruben Angel Rodriguez*

**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - February 13 at 11:10 AM

DV

*Beautiful tribute to Ruben with lovely memories in his lifetime. Loving thoughts and prayers to the family. Fly with the angels cousin Ruben.*

**Debbie Ortiz Vigil** - February 13 at 03:03 PM

*Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Ruben Angel Rodriguez*

**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - February 12 at 06:30 PM

DR

*You will truly be missed we didn't get to go on our fishing trip but your in a better place brother I will see you when I get there tell my Mijo hello*

**David Ruiz** - February 12 at 08:23 PM

BD

*Rest in peace Ruben. So much love and prayers for your beautiful family.*

**Brenda Dodd.Brenda** - February 12 at 09:44 PM

LO

*Our deepest condolences Sal and Rita. Love, Louie & Virginia Luna. May Ruben RIP.*

**Louie** - February 12 at 10:16 PM

CC

*Cecil (CEC) Castillo lit a candle in memory of Ruben Rodriguez*

**Cecil (CEC) Castillo** - February 18 at 12:24 PM

CC

*Prayers to the Rodriguez Family (Sal & Tony)*
*Cherishing all the great memories we had on the softball field.*

*Rest In Peace Ruben*✝️

*Cecil and Sandra Castillo*

**Cecil (CEC) Castillo** - February 18 at 12:21 PM

TP

*2 files added to the album Friends*

**Todd Peltzer** - February 16 at 03:08 PM

TP

*Ruben and I knew each other since elementary school. We went through Little League, High School and Junior College together. I was his catcher in baseball and his wide receiver in football. He threw it, I caught it. We stayed close up until we went our separate ways to pursue our football careers at the next level. R.I.P. my ol' friend! You will be missed! Peltz*

**Todd Peltzer** - February 16 at 07:10 PM

*Hey, Todd. Long time. Ruben and I became very close friends after high school and his NFL career. He was like a brother. He reached out a couple of years ago on Facebook, but I hadn't heard much from him since then. I would like to know what eventually happened. If you get this, call or text me at 559-697-3383. Hope all is well.*

*Jim Fishinghawk*

**Jim Fishinghawk** - March 03 at 01:37 PM

BJ

*My deepest condolences to the parents and family of my dear friend Ruben A Rodriguez . Gone but never forgotten. We shared countless memories growing up-from playing sports in the neighborhood to watching him live out his dream in the NFL. Ruben was more than just a talented athlete; he was a loyal friend and a genuine soul who touched everyone around him . His legacy and the memories we built together will live on in all of us who knew him . Rest in peace my brother.*

**Benjamin E.G Varela Jr** - February 15 at 02:39 PM

DV

*Debbie Ortiz Vigil lit a candle in memory of Ruben Rodriguez*

**Debbie Ortiz Vigil** - February 13 at 02:59 PM

FC

*Our sincerest condolences on the loss of your beloved son. I Know Ruben's memory will live on through his many accomplishments and the lives he touched. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. May he rest in eternal peace. Freddy De La Cruz and Family.*

**Freddy De La Cruz** - February 13 at 12:54 AM

SS

*Sending my condolences to my Tio Sal, Tia Rita, Tony, Sal Jr and family! Prayers for all during this difficult time. Love, Sonia Villegas-Smalley and family.* ❤️🙏

**Sonia Smalley** - February 13 at 12:40 PM

JM

*Ruben may you rest in peace. Joe & Rachel Mesa*

**Joe Mesa** - February 12 at 07:35 PM

ML

*Pretual light shines upon you*
*Ruben and may you rest in peace*🕊️🕊️🕊️
*Sal and Rita, my sincere condolences for your loss* 🙏🙏🕊️🕊️

**Margaret C. Luna** - February 12 at 10:39 PM