
A memorial service was held Thursday, Oct. 7, at Grinnell Christian Church. Piano music was by Laura Lang and vocal music by Roger Kendall. Burial will take place at a later date. Memorials may be made to Grinnell Regional Hospice or to Oasis of Love of Cornerstone Church in West Des Moines and sent to Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell IA 50112.

He was born Aug. 10, 1940, in Guadalajara, Mexico, to Manuel and Marie Francisca Topete Barrera. He was raised and educated in Guadalajara and moved to the United States in 1970, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1976. He was married to Cynthia Wilcox in San Antonio, on July 4, 1970. They moved to Grinnell in November, 1972, and he was employed in various jobs and became a member of Grinnell Christian Church.

In 1994 he moved to Des Moines and worked in a variety of positions as a social service provider. He also taught Spanish in local churches and Sunday school classes. He was involved in the homeless ministry of the Cornerstone Church in West Des Moines. He attended the Lutheran Church of Hope, the First Assembly of God and Cornerstone Church while he resided in Des Moines.

He is survived by his companion, Cynthia Barrera of Grinnell; one daughter Sarah Bailey of Grinnell; two grandchildren; two brothers, Carlos Barrera and Eduardo Barrera, both of Guadalajara, Mexico; two sisters, Alicia Mendivil of Navojoa Sonora, Mexico, and Graciela Barrera Topete of Guadalajara. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Christina Barrera Topete.