



Martin Johnell Chavez "Cholo"

July 1, 1993 - September 29, 2025

Martin Johnell Chavez (32), also known as Cholo, passed away Monday, September 29, 2025 after a hard fought battle with cancer. In his 32 years he filled our lives with laughter, love, and so many unforgettable memories.

Cholo was the kind of person who threw himself fully into the things he loved. He was passionate about paintball and pickleball, could talk endlessly about Pokémon and One Piece, and never missed a chance to cheer for the Cowboys or Manchester United. He loved sneakers and built an impressive collection, proudly showed off the computer he built himself, and could spend hours gaming.

He also loved food—especially Korean BBQ—and would happily share a meal (and probably order too much). Some of the sweetest moments were the simple ones, like watching cooking shows with our mom, blasting Kid Cudi, or laughing with friends.

But more than anything, Cholo loved being an uncle to Malakai. Spoiling his nephew was one of his greatest joys, and the bond they shared was something truly special. He will always be Malakai's Tio ChoCho.

Cholo spent his last week at home on hospice, which was what he wanted most. He was surrounded by family and friends who love him deeply, and his

home was filled with the laughter, comfort, and connection that defined his life.

Cholo leaves behind his family: Martin Chavez and Jacqueline Chavez, his parents; Brigitte Chavez and Ely Denebja, his sister and brother-in-law; and Malakai Denebja, his nephew, and many friends who will miss him more than words can say. Cholo's life was too short, but it was lived fully, and the love he gave will stay with us always.

A celebration of Cholo's life will be held at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315, Saturday, October 18, 2025, 11AM.

Previous Events

Gathering

OCT 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Dr
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516
(703) 971-7400

Celebration of Life

OCT 18. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Dr
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516
(703) 971-7400

Reception

OCT 18. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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5755 Castlewellan Dr
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516
(703) 971-7400

Tribute Wall



“ Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Martin Johnell Chavez "Cholo"



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - October 03, 2025 at 10:02 AM

SP

What a beautiful service! Brigitte and Aaron did an amazing job❤️ I loved all the stories about Cholo especially the ones about dance and his love for food:)

Cholo, you will be forever missed. Gone way too soon. Sending our prayers to Jackie, Martine and Brigitte during this most difficult time. We love you, love Shalet and Ms. Terry

Shalet Peyton - October 18, 2025 at 01:31 PM

LM

“ *Martin was wonderful to work with....always eager to help and tenacious in solving problems. He worked at EYA through Kstreet for some time and we adored him. Thank you for bringing a wonderful man into this world...we were blessed to know him. We wish you peace in love in this most difficult time. Lisa Montenegro from EYA*

Lisa Montenegro - October 21, 2025 at 05:04 PM

RI

“ Jackie, Martin and Bridgette, I have no words to express how saddened I am with Cholo's passing. I remember taking care of him as a baby, going out for lunch and dinner with the whole family, enjoying both of his grandmothers and so many other events. I have a special place in my heart for Cholo! Lots of love, hugs and prayers. Rita

Rita - October 04, 2025 at 07:45 AM

MR

“ Jackie -I'm so sorry to hear this about your son, my heart goes out to you and your family. May he rest in Peace and rise in Glory ! 💕💕

Meg Rennie - October 02, 2025 at 09:20 PM



“ I am so saddened and my heart breaks for the entire family. I am going to try and get mom there on the 18th. Sending big hugs and prayers to everyone.

Wendy Alwxandee - October 02, 2025 at 06:30 PM

JC

“ Beyond sad for this young man to have suffered those trials and tribulations. From my understanding he was well-loved and will be greatly missed. About the best way to leave the planet, no>

Jim Capone - October 02, 2025 at 02:46 PM

LV

Jackie I'm sorry and sad for your loss. My deepest condolences to you and your family. My prayers are with you and your family. Linette Vann

Linette Vann - October 03, 2025 at 07:42 AM

MM

“ Will always remember Cholo during NR Events. After being chronoed. Coming over to the box and just talking for a few. Meeting him on the sidelines on Sundays simply talking. “ Ayeeee Big Boi what’s good ? Sup ! Mayco “ I’ll chairish out conversations and also not realizing how long we had known each other from PEVS to Southern MD Paintball, to NR. Rest easy Cholo que dios lo bendiga. 💔💔🙏

Mayco Mesa - October 02, 2025 at 12:28 PM