***President’s Message June, 2021***

***NMRacquetball.com New Mexico Racquetball Facebook***

**‘A Tribute to Art’**

**Art Hurley, long time resident of Albuquerque, died on May 9th at the age of 86. His resume includes: family man, proud military retiree, racquetball champion, teacher, financial advisor, and ICON. Originally from New Jersey, he once was ripe for the priesthood. (juana said that came to a halt when consensus had it he would not adhere to rules) He influenced hundreds; children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, numerous friends who were part of ‘La familia, and Juana, partner for the better part of seventy years. She was at his side when he passed, sharing their final peck on the lips.**

**(Some think Art was born in Guadalajara (Mexico) while others in Dublin (Rep. of Ireland). No, USA; New Jersey, like Ratso Rizzo and Frankie Valle. Art Hurley treasured life and life treasured Art. A wide smile and a gesture of good tidings were commonplace; along with an occasional whisky. He had a potent racquetball serve, one which toyed with the rules. Score an ace or become the proverbial dartboard from the opponent’s return. He seemed to enjoy getting hit with the ball, whether at Kirtland AFB, Elks Club, Tom Youngs AC, or Rio Grande Sporting Club. A road trip with Art was a *treat.* His mouth rarely closed, alternating from the spoken word to the chomp of his chewing gum. He would only stop to take a drink or savor some food. His friends developed strong listening skills.**

**Art Hurley was realistic about his fate once he was diagnosed. ‘I want to be around for another two years,’ he said. Pull the treatments and the ‘bullshit’, I can handle it. Quality of life is my motivation! While approaching this goal he stayed engaged; having frequent phone dialogues, sharing coffee at Santiago’s, and hosting friends at his home.**

**We miss you, Arturo; you were our gift. I will always hear your voice on the other end…**

**’This is Art Hurley, may I help you?’**

***Quotes***

***‘I respected that man from every direction’ Sarah Conaway***

***‘Greatest racquetball instructor of 5 year olds; because he could share their mentality’ Joseph Kirkpatrick***