



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2026

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Honors the Life and Legacy of Cristobal “Chris” Duran

Penasco, NM — January 22, 2026 — Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) honors the life and legacy of **Cristobal “Chris” Duran**, a devoted leader, public servant, and respected board member of the cooperative family. Chris, 53, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Rodarte on January 12. His dedication to his community and commitment to service will be remembered for generations.

Chris began his service when he was appointed by the Board on October 29, 2002, to fill the unexpired term for the District 4 position. District 4 includes Trampas, Peñasco, Chamisal, Vadito, Rodarte, Llano, Ojo Sarco, Tres Ritos, El Valle, Llano San Juan, Rio Lucio, Sipapu, Llano de La Llegua, and surrounding areas.

While serving on the KCEC Board of Trustees, Chris was deployed to Iraq in service to his country with the U.S. Army. Even while answering that call, he remained committed to KCEC and continued his dedicated service on the Board. Elected on March 30, 2005, Chris served multiple terms, including June 2008 through 2026, demonstrating the strong trust and confidence the membership placed in his leadership.

Throughout his years of leadership, Chris served in numerous roles that strengthened the cooperative and guided its future. He served as Secretary of the KCEC Board in multiple years, and as Vice President of the KCEC Board from 2011 to the present, providing steady leadership and thoughtful guidance through times of growth and change.

Chris was also instrumental in many of the important decisions that helped shape the direction of KCEC into what it is today. His leadership and voice at the table helped ensure the cooperative remained focused on its mission, its members, and the communities it serves.

Beyond KCEC, Chris served on the Tri-State Board in 2007 and later on the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA) Board from 2016–2018, continuing his commitment to cooperative values and service on a broader scale.

Above all, Chris will be remembered not only for the roles he held but for the person he was, someone who showed up, stood strong for his community, and treated others with respect. To KCEC, Chris was more than a board member and leader; he was family.

KCEC extends its deepest gratitude for Chris’s years of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment. His legacy will live on through the cooperative he helped guide, the communities he represented, and the many lives he touched along the way.

On behalf of the CEO, Board of Trustees, and employees of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, we extend our deepest condolences to the Duran family and to all who loved Chris. May God bring peace, strength, and comfort during this time of sorrow, and may the family feel surrounded by prayers, love, and support in the days ahead.