

My name is Henry HERRERA  
I AM 81 years old

On The morning of July 16, 1945  
(70 years ago) At About 5:30 AM. At the  
Age of 11 I was helping my Father  
fill The Radiator of his Truck with  
water, when I witness the Blast of  
what I call "The First Atomic bomb"  
I Heard A very Large blast And saw  
A very big flash of light. I got so  
SCARED I thought The World is Coming  
to an End. Then I saw what looked  
like A Large Big Black gray ball of  
Smoke it was huge and moving, going  
higher + higher in A North Easterly direction

I watched this cloud of dirt, smoke  
debris for many hours leaving only to  
get something to eat or to use the Bath room  
I saw it travel to the North East toward  
Capitan, Ruidoso, Hondo, Roswell After a  
few hours it started back towards Tularosa  
I Ran in the house to tell my mother  
Aqui Viene La Bola patras - (The Ball  
is coming back towards Tularosa) My  
mother did not believe me, so she went  
outside to see for her self. My mother  
had already done her laundry + hung it out  
to dry. Because of The dirt, dust, debris,  
Black ash that fell on her clothes, She  
became very very ANGRY, because she  
had to TAKE all her clothes down +

WASH IT AGAIN

This filth landed all over our town covered our village with radiation. It was on our roofs, our gardens, milk cows, rabbits, pigs, turkeys + chickens

Our water was contaminated because all we had was rain water from the cistern and ditch water. All the debris from the roof was in our cistern after the first rain fall.

Everything we consumed was filled with radiation.

At the age of 63 I became ill with cancer. I've lost my brother, a nephew and a niece to cancer. 2 sisters were cancer survivors.

Because of what I witnessed on July 16, 1945 I have been interviewed by the Wall Street Journal, Al Jazeera TV, Channel 7 KOAT, Japanese News Paper, 2 Japanese TV. Stations, Al Amogordo Daily News and finally 3 people from The National Cancer Institute + a doctor from UNM spent 3 hours interviewing me at my home on Sept. 29, 2014

I'm Gloria Herrera, Henry's wife  
On May 1, 1998 we found out that  
Henry had cancer. He was 63 years old.  
First came the shock, then the tears  
followed by prayer. Oh so very many  
prayers.

On May 3, 1998 we headed to Albuquerque  
leaving behind my mother, who had  
both legs amputated 2 years before, and  
I was her primary caregiver. She had  
to have 24 hour care, so we had to hire someone  
to take care of her.

At UNM. Henry was diagnosed with cancer  
of the parotid gland (salivary)

After surgery to remove the cancer and  
before he could have radiation he had to  
have 6 molars removed by an oral and  
maxillofacial surgeon - so first rattle  
out of the box we had to come up with  
over \$4,000<sup>00</sup>

Because Henry was not yet 65 he did  
not have Medicare. We did have government  
Blue Cross BlueShield which did not cover  
dental.

Blue Cross BlueShield only paid 80% of  
his medical bills. The 20% we had to pay  
plus our copayments for surgery, radiation,  
drugs was unbelievable.

The money for gas for our trips to  
Albuquerque (500 miles round trip) was

huge, And we made many many trips because I had to come home every week to TAKE CARE of my mother's needs

IRONICALLY the radiation to Treat Henry's CANCER caused him to get a disease called Osteo-Radio Necrosis of the JAW. Which meant many surgeries "Debridement of the mandible"

6 years ago he had hyperbaric oxygen therapy + intravenous treatment because of serious infection in the jaw. We were in Albuquerque for 2 1/2 months

Then 3 years ago again very serious infection this time in Albuquerque for almost 4 months for some treatment

6 months ago we found out that the radiation (for the cancer) had also caused damage to his carotid artery.

We had to have financial help from our children to make all our trips + stay in Albuquerque.

Our dreams for our retirement years were gone, and so was our money

I have a list of 279 people from the Tularosa area that Henry and I know or knew that have had cancer, died of cancer or are cancer survivors. How many people do you know

After Henry's cancer treatment we found out about 2 people that have died of

the same cancer Henry had. Why did they die? They did not have insurance or a way to get to Albuquerque, NOW THAT IS SAD.

That atomic bomb has caused anguish to so many people in New Mexico

I say we are sufferers of radiation exposure and our government should apologize to us for being abandoned to our fate.

The people from N.M. have suffered physically, mentally, & financially and we are all here in hopes that you will find a way to help us.

07-01-15

Good afternoon,  
Senator Udall, friends, visitors, and community members,

As I look around I see a common interest in what brings us all together this afternoon. We are on the same mission we were on several years back.

Some of the people who were here before are no longer with us. They have passed on. They never realized their hopes of seeing our community recognized as one of the places that was adversely impacted by Project Trinity in 1945.

Many of us in our community feel our Government has turned a deaf ear to our health issues mainly the high incidence of Cancer in our Village; which many of us believe stem from the atomic bomb test at Trinity Site, which is within a short proximity to our village.

I don't believe that our Federal Government intentionally tried to harm any of us. I do believe that they were very happy with the results of this test and deemed it a success as far as the war effort was concerned. However the people in this area never even knew that such a test was going to be done, and now years later I believe as many others that as successful as this test was it became a death sentence for many.

I am Margie Guilez Trujillo and I am third generation native of Tularosa, and I am a cancer survivor. There were 9 members in my family, six of us had cancer, and three died from this horrific disease. There are several members of my extended <sup>family</sup> that have also died from this disease, and there are third and fourth generation members who are fighting it now.

My story is not unlike many of the others that you will hear today, but as redundant as they may seem we must continue to tell and record it until we can get some action out of Washington D.C.

I can tell you that cancer not only destroys the person who suffers from it, but it affects the entire family. You never truly recover from the effects of cancer, you can go into remission, but your health is never the same.

Financially, a person's savings go up in smoke even if you are lucky enough to have Insurance. You refinance your house, you sell anything that has any value, you dip into your retirement, or you go into debt by maxing out credit cards. You do all this simply to keep a loved one alive and be able to afford the poisons that are pumped into us.

Your family deprives themselves from so many things that we take for granted just to provide some small comfort for their sick family member.

You can only imagine what it is like for the cancer patient to watch their family struggling to make ends meet and the suffering they endure. I don't have to imagine it- this was my life. There were days that I wished this disease would just take me so I

could bring some relief to my family.

When the Downwinders Project began many of us were eager and hopeful that someone would come to our aid and we would live long enough to see through to fruition. Our enthusiasm has waned a bit after seeing people who were with us from the beginning pass on , and probably because we saw no action out of Washington D.C.

Fortunately for us we have had an advocate from day one who has never wavered and continues to bolster us even after the death of her own father. Tina Cordova has been there for us from the onset , and we must continue to stand strong right along with her until this issue is resolved or we all die off. We may never see the outcome of our endeavors nor benefit from any legislation that may come, but our reward will be in knowing that we did our best to provide the foundation for future generations to continue this fight.

Our Government was looking for a solution to quell a nuclear threat that was in the offing and created a weapon non of its kind in the world, a uranium and plutonium bomb, had it tested in a desert and never imagined the impact this would have on their own citizenry.

This afternoon as I look around the room I see the new faces of cancer. I only hope that you fight your disease in whichever way you choose and that you take away from this meeting what you need to continue to hold our Government accountable for we deem to be the reasons for our cancer and yours.

I would like to thank Senator Udall for taking time to come to a little village to listen to our concerns. I only hope that you can advocate in Washington for us because we need all the help we can get.

Thank-you

Richard (Dick) and Genevra Wood Gililland were White Sands Missile Range Ranchers, who were living west of Salinas Peak, twenty seven miles from where the atomic bomb was tested. Dick died in 1962 at the age of 73 from double pneumonia. Genevra died in 1986 at the age of 94 from old age. Neither one of them ever had cancer. They had six children: Alice, Sam, Dixie, Lola, Pete, and Jess. Every one of these descendant's families has been affected by cancer. Jess and Pete were asleep on the front porch when this bomb went off, and woke them up. They saw the mushroom twenty seven miles away. The government didn't even bother to tell them to get out of the area beforehand. Jess told me the government never told them what the mushroom was.

Sam's daughter Cleo had stomach cancer when she was 12.

Alice had breast cancer when she was in her early 80s, her husband Clay died of colon cancer at the age of 66. Her daughter Lucy died from breast cancer at 42. Her son Richard got prostate cancer when he was 56 and died from it when he was 73.

Dixie's husband Roy died from pancreatic cancer. Her son-in-law Tony Beanblossom died from colon cancer when he was 67. Her daughter-in-law Karen Beanblossom Tucker died of breast cancer.

Lola has had skin cancer. Her husband Hansel Tucker beat colon cancer when he was 52.

Pete had cancer when he dies at the age of 79. His wife Wilma was 66 when she died from pancreatic cancer.

Jess has had a skin cancer surgically removed just below his eye. I am Jess Gililland's daughter, my name is Edna Kay Hinkle. I beat breast cancer when I was 59. I have had seven skin cancers and probably hundreds of potential skins cancers cut or burnt off. My sister Judy beat breast cancer when she was 49. Now the Drs. tell



us Mom, who also lived on the missile range, has thyroid cancer. We see the surgeon next week to have her thyroid removed. She's 83.

My dad and mom Jess and Louise Gililand, my dad's brother, Pete Gililand, and his wife, Wilma Gililand walked around at the Trinity site after the bomb was detonated. They picked up the melted sand, and took it home, not knowing it was full of radiation. Back in those days they had a fence around the Trinity site, but the gate was open. Judy and I were in our mom's ovaries at the time. Judy and I both got cancer. Wilma was pregnant at the time with Shirley Ann Gililand. Shirley was born without any eyes.

Alice Smith's daughter Viola told her Dr. she hadn't been born yet when the bomb went off, so she doesn't have to worry about cancer. He told her the radiation altered our DNA so we are more susceptible to cancer. I heard rumor that my oncologist, Dr. Korec came here because there is so much cancer here in the Tularosa Basin.

Genevra's brother John Wood lived on the ranch to the south of her. He died of Leukemia. His son Howard and his daughter Bonnie both died of cancer. Genevra's brother Pete Wood's ranch was to the south of John Wood's ranch. Pete's son-in-law Harvey Hinkle has lyposarcoma cancer, his son Eldon Hinkle died a few months ago from esophageal cancer. Genevra's sister-in-law Annie Wood, who lived on the ranch to the north of Genevra, died of esophageal cancer. She was closer to the Trinity site than Dick's ranch.

These are just the cancer victims who are my family. The government took these ranchers land to form the White Sands Missile Range. These ranchers fought the government for years trying to get fair compensation for their ranches. They just wanted to be paid the same way the Macgregor Range Ranchers were so

they could afford to go buy another ranch. Most of the White Sands Missile Range Ranchers have died now. They lost the fight for fair compensation from the government for their ranches and then a lot of them and their family members lost their battle with cancer. I thank God my sister Judy and I didn't lose our battle with cancer. It rips my heart out every time I lose another loved one. Roy Tucker was my uncle and neighbor. After he lost his ranch to the Missile Range, he leased a ranch between Tularosa and Three Rivers. We use to help him work cows, fix pipe lines and dams, hauled hay, and sometimes we all went to the lake to fish and water ski. When we worked on the dam, Uncle Roy took his bull dozer and scooped out a hole in the creek to make a swimming hole for us kids to swim in after we got through working. I use to sit for hours listening to my daddy and Uncle Roy tell stories about how it was out at the ranch. If dad had to work, Uncle Roy hauled us and our horses to the rodeo. If our horse was crippled, Uncle Roy lent us his horse. He loved kids. When we found out Uncle Roy had cancer I went to the hospital to see him. That was one of the hardest things I ever had to do. I couldn't stop crying. At his funeral my legs just turned to jello and I almost passed out. When I found out my sister Judy had cancer, I was so shocked, I had to pull off the highway. That's the hardest I've ever prayed.....I prayed continuously for my baby sister.

I have good insurance, but a lot of people don't. Even if you only pay a \$40.00 co pay every time you go in, it adds up to be a lot of money. Do you have any ideas how much cancer treatment cost? \$306,346.00 was submitted to my insurance. This doesn't include antibiotics, pain meds, nausea meds, dietary supplements, hotel rooms, meals while out of town, and gas to Alamogordo, and Albuquerque that I had to pay. I have to go to the dermatologist in Las Cruces twice a year the rest of my live because after chemo I am more susceptible to skin cancers. I also have to wear a hat, or use an umbrella for protection. My nose has had a flat spot on it for years from the dermatologist burning the potential skin cancers off.

After four surgeries I don't have mammograms now, but I have to go back to my surgeon in Albuquerque twice a year the rest of my life for ultrasounds. I'm past the cancer, but will never be past the side effects the chemo left on my joints, and digestive system. It's a good thing I'm not a teenager trying to impress the boys. My family was there with me through it all. My husband Don took me to all my Drs. appointments and sat with me through all of my chemo treatments. I have two daughters. My oldest daughter, Jackie Hinkle says it's not a matter of if you get cancer; it's a matter of when.

Thank you very much for your time and help!

Edna Kay Hinkle

My name is Rosemary Cordova, and this is my story!

The nightmare began in 1985 when my beloved Mother was diagnosed with Breast, and brain Cancer. I moved in her home, and took care of her for sixteen months. I've always thanked God that I was able to have that precious time with her. My Mom was only 66 when she died.

I thought the nightmare was over, but never realized it had only just begun!!! Eight months later my oldest son, age 26 was diagnosed with a very rare, very large brain tumor. It was critical, he underwent four major brain surgeries, plus Gamma knife in Albuq., Pittsburg, Penn., and Chicago, Ill. All of this left him with critical hormone problems, vision, tunnel vision in his right eye, no sense of taste or smell. He has no tolerance to heat, his life has been just an existence. He has to live most of the time in his room, because we can't afford refrigerated air throughout our home. The past two years he has had complications with severe nose hemorrhages, and a blocked bile duct. He underwent three surgeries, and six cauterizations in his nose. At this time, he wants no more treatment, no more hospitals, he's so tired, he's so ready to go home to his father!!! I live with him and take care of him.

Then in 2000 my baby sister was diagnosed with breast cancer. So here we go again. She was only 46 yrs. old. So again I took care of her, and my son. She fought a 5 year battle, but it finally took her to!!!

I have lost my Mom and three of her siblings to cancer, I have five 1st Cousins, children from my Aunts and Uncle battling cancer at this time! And this doesn't count all friends, people I've known all my life here in Tularosa, and Alamogordo.

Is any of this fair??? The pain, the suffering I had to live, to see my loved ones go through!!! And My Story is only one, of hundreds of stories here in The Tularosa Basin.

The fateful day of the Bomb has been a terrible injustice to all of us. All we're asking is that our government face up to the wrong that has been done. We're tired of all the

excuses about investigating, more proof, etc., etc., etc., why don't they check vital statistics in Santa Fe to see how many people in this state have died from cancer???

"The Bomb", created nothing but suffering and death for all of us. The scary thing is we all wait to hear, who gets the next diagnosis. We are all doomed, Us, Our Children, Our Grandchildren, and on, and on, and on!!!

No, we can't stop the suffering, the death, but it sure would be a wonderful thing to compensate all these people, just to help them with their needs, to comfort them, to make their lives a little easier.

I may not live to see this happen, or my son, or many who are battling cancer now, but I pray that someday soon our government will do what should of been done so long ago.

I thank and admire my niece, Tina Cordova, the late Fred Tyler, and Kathy Tyler for all the years of hard work, of dedication, and most of all never giving up!!! This project would of never happened, had it not been for them.

I would like to thank anyone who takes the time to read my story. And just know it's only one, of hundreds of stories so much like mine.

"May God", Give Us Continued Strength, Courage, And Love to Continue on this Journey...!!!

Sincerely

Rosemary Cordova

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Oral presentation given by Louisa Lopez from Luis Lopez New Mexico

Seventy years ago, the top-secret Manhattan Project forever changed the world when they created the first atomic bomb. The goal was to beat Germany in creating the first nuclear weapon.

While the bomb played an important part in ending World War II, it created havoc for New Mexicans. While the bomb was created in Los Alamos, it was detonated in an area known as Trinity Site which is located 14 miles east of San Antonio, New Mexico and 4 or 5 miles south of Highway 380.

Apparently the government knew something about radiation exposure since they hired a chemist to keep records of this exposure.

According to several people in the San Antonio area the following happened

The hair on cows grazing in the area turned white

Children playing outside saw a big cloud and were covered in an ashy film

Laundry hung outside on the line turned black and had to be rewashed

The blast made its own rain

The plan after the detonation was to dump soil in the Rio Grande or cap the area but it was never done. Still not sure if soil was dumped in the river

Testing continued and the soil was disturbed over and over again. My daughter who was nine at the time remembers playing in the playground at San Antonio Elementary and seeing clouds of dust covering them when they were testing. She is 41 years old now. In the late eighties tons of nitrogen were hauled by rail car to be used in testing which resulted in the soil being disturbed again.

San Antonio and Luis Lopez are communities where there is a lot of agriculture. Since a lot of cows are raised here as well as home gardens the soil was probably contaminated therefore the crops were too. A lot of people in this area drank fresh milk from those cows.

#### CANCER AND STERILITY AND BIRTH DEFECTS

In the Luis Lopez Area there are 17 people that we know of that have cancer or have died from it. In other areas there has been sterility and birth defects. The Cokers who ranched the area were completely wiped out. A whole family died of cancer.

My husband's mother only 50 years old died of cancer, his father only 65 years old died of cancer. They were farmers who lived off the land in Luis Lopez. Every household in this small community has had a member(s) die of cancer or is battling it.

My husband is in remission from lymphoma. His type of lymphoma is Mantle Cell which is considered a genetic disruption in the dna. This is one of the fears of many people with children. Will they pass this on to their children, future grandchildren and other generations? We know what cancer does to families. Beside the medical implications, there are financial obligations that need to be met adding to other bills that you have to pay. Your life is forever disrupted, your peace of mind is gone, your security has changed and you are living on the edge.

The emotional rollercoaster causes turmoil in families because we do not know what is coming up next. Even in remission there is a lot of work to do. Treatments for cancer leave a person weak mentally and physically. It is hard on the patient, his caregiver, and the family.

My husband and I farm in Luis Lopez, a job that requires a lot of physical work and a lot of decision making which is all compromised by cancer and the treatments.

I also want to mention all the employees of Stallion who have been at risk for exposure and have died of cancer. There have also been many soldiers at the base who have been stationed there and have moved around to other parts of the country.

I am asking that New Mexico not only be recognized for being the place where the first atomic weapon was built and detonated but be recognized for the sacrifice that the people living in proximity to Trinity Site paid without being warned or informed. They were like innocent lambs taken to slaughter. They need to be compensated. They deserve our consideration and respect for all that they have gone through.