

We went to Lomas on New Year's Eve 2025
by Brian Paul Kaess

"Hello (Garret)

On December 31, 2025 (New Year's Eve), Mayte and I traveled to Lomas to celebrate New Year's 2026 with the family. We left Las Villas after 4PM and headed straight to Lomas after stopping at a Soriana supermercado. I was able to grab extra egg burritos before our departure. While driving to Lomas along the La Ferreria highway or road, we were almost struck or side-swiped when a yellow, commercial Humvee made an aggressive pass on our left crossing over the meridian as he zoomed by. The maneuver caused Mayte to swerve to the right, but luckily she had enough control not to veer off the road. We were lucky.

At Lomas, there was ourselves, Braulio Urbina, Maria Luisa Pereda, Judy Urbina (on crutches), her Cuban friend Erika Vizcarra, Marisol Urbina and her son Daniel. Judy has been recovering from a car accident almost two months ago and recently had surgery. In Lomas, they were serving up piping hot Menudo, equally hot Apple Cider, buttered Potatoes w/salantro, some snacks, crusty, sweetened cinnamon bread, Coca-Cola, plus I grabbed bananas, apples, chocolate ice-cream, sweetened wafers and more. The Menudo went down straight and warmed the soul. I spent considerable time upstairs in the small guest bedroom they provided. It was dark there so I easily caught some Z's. My understanding was that Angelica and Regina and Valente and Amado were all in Ramos enjoying tamales. The atmosphere was subdued and friendly. Erika left early. I got word that my son will be returning from Chicago on January 10th.

Mayte had spent three days in Mazatlan with her friend Rocio, Rocio's mom, sister and brother. They were staying at the El Paraiso Hotel near/in the *Zona Dorado* or Golden Zone. They had to cut short their vacation because Rocio's aunt caught pneumonia and practically lay dying in a hospital bed in the Monterrey area. That group sped back to Monterrey while Mayte stopped in Durango. Miraculously, Rocio's aunt showed signs of recovery and it looks like she will be able to leave the hospital. A wonderful blessing during holiday time. At about 11 PM in Lomas, people started to leave. Judy & Marisol headed to Judy's apartment, perhaps to drink, and Mayte and I took off back to Las Villas. At Lomas, we spotted a fox near Circuito Milano, after gaining key-card access to the development. At Las Villas, I watched the 'ball drop' at midnight and we rang in the New Year's. across the street on Venecia, neighbors fired off streaming, bursting fireworks high into the night air, illuminating everything, and making wonderful popping noises. I also watched live entertainment on TV Azteca Canal Uno which was a combination of a bit of gaudy entertainment and cheesy, Cuban bolero or Cumbia. Fun to watch and just relax.

Happy New Year or Feliz Año Nuevo 2026 to everyone!

Brian"