



Manuel Rodriguez

June 26, 1926 - June 19, 2014

COVINA, Calif. — Manuel Rodriguez, 87, of La Puente, formerly of the Grand Island and Shelton, Neb., area, died Thursday, June 19, 2014, at Queen of the Valley Hospital in Covina.

Memorial services will be at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Gibbon, Neb., with the Rev. Don Rodriguez officiating. Burial will be at Riverside Cemetery in Gibbon with military honors by the Nebraska National Guard Honors Team in conjunction with American Legion Post 310 of Gibbon.

Visitation will be from 7-9 p.m. Monday at Vida Nueva Assemblies of God in Grand Island.

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home of Kearney, Neb., is in charge of arrangements.

He was born June 26, 1926, on the family farm north of Shelton.

On Dec. 30, 1956, he married Esperanza Vargas.

Survivors include his children and their spouses, Pamela Cruz of Arizona, Rachael and Merv Monson of Nebraska, Sonya and Ruben Sanchez of Nebraska, Manuel Rodriguez of California, Steve and Mary Rodriguez of Nebraska and Brenda and Matt Duran of Arizona; 14 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and siblings and their spouses, Lori Rodriguez of Nebraska, Bea Bevelhiemer of Arizona, Paul and Vera Rodriguez of California, Don and Vicky Rodriguez of Nebraska, Esther and Oscar Cadenas of Texas, Frank and Barbara Rodriguez of Nebraska, Arlene and Russell Munoz of California, Sally Fidler of California, Henry and Karen Rodriguez of Arizona and Peter and Sherry Rodriguez of Nebraska.

He was raised on the family farm where he was born. He attended country school in the area and enjoyed farm life and working alongside his father.

On Oct. 2 1946, he enlisted at Fort Crook, Neb. He was honorably discharged on March 23, 1948, at Camp Stoneman. He received a World War II Victory Medal and an Occupation Medal Japan. He was a rifleman and was assigned to Company K, 20th Infantry Regiment, Kwangju, Korea. He attended and graduated in May 1952 from Latin American Bible Institute in Los Angeles. He accepted the call to be a pastor in Fort Morgan, Colo., and later in Gibbon. He was a member of The Assemblies of God.

He farmed for a short time at Shelton before moving his growing family to Alda, Neb. After 10 years of marriage, he became a single parent. He worked full time at Bee-Line Trucking Co. and took on part-time work as a janitor for Engleman Elementary School and also delivered pianos for Baldwin to support his family.

In 1976, he moved to Grand Island where he worked for Briggs Transportation and later for Monfort Trucking. As his children grew, he prayerfully, and through persistent and frugal effort, became a business owner of Rodriguez

Trucking.

Manuel started the Latin Assemblies of God Church in Grand Island where he found purpose in teaching and providing solid biblical counsel through his adult Sunday school classes. He enjoyed visiting church families and encouraging parents to read the Bible and pray with their families. His favorite pastime was to preach a sermon from his heart and experience. He set an example of a man who learned to trust God through difficult times.

Even in the last few months, his faith would break out in persistent and vigorous joy. When his eldest son would walk in his room and ask him how he was, he would respond with a smile, "I am rejoicing in the Lord."

He was preceded in death by his siblings, Fred, Genarro, Charles, Henry the first and Arlene the first; and his parents, Henry and Trinidad Rodriguez.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation.

Tribute Wall



“ *Manuel Rodriguez*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Manuel was always a delight to be around. He truly was a caring and funny person. Unfortunately, most of my memories of him of when I was young. However, I did visit the Kearny area in the past several years and was able to reconnect with him. May God comfort all during this difficult time. However, we do have the hope to see him again.*

Otilia Buso Betancourt Wietharn - June 30, 2014 at 07:16 PM



“ *My prayers go out to the family. I got to know the Manuel and his kids when they first moved into Grand Island, since they were just down the block. He'll be in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Joseph P Barrientos Jr
Grand Island, Ne*

Joseph Barrientos - June 28, 2014 at 07:04 AM

CP

“ WE'RE SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT MANUEL. OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO TO THE FAMILY. OUR FATHER AND MANUEL WORKED TOGETHER AND WERE GOOD FRIENDS AND I WATCHED HIS CHILDREN WHEN THEY WERE LITTLE..



CATHY (O'BRIEN) PORTER AND FAMILY
ALDA, NEBR.
STANLEY O'BRIEN JR. AND FAMILY
HASTINGS, NEBR.
DEBBIE AND SUSIE O'BRIEN
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

CATHY PORTER - June 23, 2014 at 06:26 PM

JA

“ Grampo, how I love you! I know you are in perfect peace with our Heavenly Father. Thank you for all you did for me and my family. Thank you for your prayers and relentless love and devotion to God. Growing up it was great seeing you be faithful in what God gave you: maintaining your truck, exercising your body, and most importantly feeding your Spirit by reading the Bible, spending time in prayer and sharing the Gospel with us. I love you and know we will meet again. Xoxoxo your granddaughter Jade Alexis Lees

Jade - June 21, 2014 at 05:40 PM

PC

“Dad, thank you for reading to us the Bible every night and praying with us and for us every night, and for taking us to church every Sunday (I remember thinking will we get vacation from church? ;) I remember you would get up early to pray by yourself in the dark before you went to work, your voice was gentle and soothing, you raised us, your six kids, with God by your side, you weren't perfect Dad, (there is only one Jesus) but you asked God to help you and He did. He even helped you help me raise my 5 children, your grandchildren, ... The best is yet to come... We will see you again Dad because of Our Heavenly Father and His precious Son Jesus the Christ, through the power of His Holy Spirit we have that blessed assurance... Love you Dad...till we meet again... Your daughter, Pamela

Pamela Linda Cruz - June 21, 2014 at 05:34 PM

BR

I was so sorry to hear of your father's death. We lived across the street when you kids were in school in Alda. Larry and Garry Giger were my sons. I always admired your father for the job he did raising you kids.
Betty Ronnau
Lexington, NE

Betty Ronnau - June 28, 2014 at 08:35 AM