



Constantino Joe Chaparro

March 11, 1930 - January 5, 2020

Constantino Jose “Joe” Chaparro was born March 11, 1930 in Mentmore, McKinley County, New Mexico. He was the first of seven children born to Santiago Chaparro and Maria Guerrero. Originally from Chihuahua, Mexico, Maria was living with her father in New Mexico when she met Santiago there, marrying him at 14. Constantino was born a year later. At that time the border between the United States and Mexico was open to unlimited travel back and forth. When the U.S. government decided to close the borders, the people were given an option to stay in America or return to Mexico. Santiago and Maria returned to Chihuahua with Constantino, and the family continued to grow.

Young Joe attended school in Chihuahua, and especially loved spending time with his grandparents there. At the age of 13, to help his mother and family, he got a job at a local carneceria and learned the butchery trade. He was also a migrant worker in the produce fields of Chihuahua during his teenage years.

Since Joe was born a U.S. citizen, he was required at the age of 18 to register for Selective Service, and in 1952 was drafted into the United States Army. The Korean War was coming to an end at this time, and since Joe spoke very limited English, he was stationed at an Army base in England. He honed his English speaking skills while in the service, and upon being discharged, went to live with family friends in Los Angeles. He found work again as a butcher, which eventually led to a 20-year career with the Hormel Foods Corporation.

Joe loved to dance, sing, and play guitar. He enjoyed going to the dance ballrooms in downtown Los Angeles, where he met his first wife Martha Eugene. They were married in June 1957, and welcomed their only child, Susan, in November 1959. The Chaparro family lived in South Gate and Downey, before eventually moving to the new and growing dairy community of La Palma in 1966.

Joe and Martha divorced in 1978, and Joe left employment with Hormel a year later when the company moved operations to Texas. Unwilling to relocate, Joe went to work for Kraft

Foods in Buena Park. In 1981, Susan married Greg Mattoon, and once the young couple settled into marriage, Joe retired and moved back to Chihuahua.

Joe's retirement years were filled with days of golfing, playing cards, teaching Jiu Jitsu, sharing war stories, swimming at the YMCA with his brothers, and helping brother Mario at his neighborhood market. He had also rekindled an old school day's romance with Irene Roman. They married in October 1984 and lived happily in Chihuahua until her death in 2001.

In August 1986, Joe became a grandfather with the birth of his grandson Jason. Grandson two, Joseph, was born in 1989, and grandson three, Ryan in 1993. The boys always looked forward to Grandpa Joe's visits at Christmas time, which always included lots of Ju Jitsu moves, trips to Disneyland, superhero drawing contests, and lots of hugs and kisses.

Around the time of his 80th trip around the sun, Joe became a soldier again, this time joining an army of brothers and sisters that did not volunteer for duty. Alzheimer's is an ugly disease. It steals memories, it steals joy, it steals family and friends. Yet, Joe fought it with dignity and humor, stubbornness and humility. He never became indignant or negative, angry or harmful, and until his final week, he never gave in to it.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Emma Alfaro and Carolina Castro, brothers Victor and Arturo Chaparro, and wives Martha and Irene. He is survived by his precious daughter Susan (Greg), grandsons Jason (Natassia), Joseph, Ryan, and great grandson Logan, brother Mario Chaparro, and sister Carmen (Victor) Martinez, 13 nephews, 10 nieces, and a multitude of great nieces and nephews.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN **23**. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (PT)

Saint Irenaeus Catholic Church
Cypress, CA 90630

Military Honors

JAN **23**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (pst)

Riverside National Cemetery
22495 Van Buren Blvd
Riverside, CA 92518

Tribute Wall



“ *Reflecting on Memories created a Tribute Video in memory of Constantino Joe Chaparro*



Reflecting on Memories - January 12, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Constantino Joe Chaparro.*



January 24, 2020 at 01:01 PM



“ *To the Chaparro Family,*

I was saddened to learn of your father's death and it was my privilege to get to meet him, with the family and spend some time with him shortly before he died. I know that this is a very difficult time for each of you, but you have to remember that there are just as many days as there are nights.

I know that you have a lot of good memories and I hope that your lifetime of loving memories will fill your days and nights with solace and comfort. Death may end a life, but NOT a relationship. I know that your father had a deep love for you and you gave him the best care possible.

Time heals....Love restores,

Chaplain Roger Rustad

Chaplain Roger Rustad - January 12, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ 58 files added to the album *Family Memories Album*



Reflecting on Memories - January 12, 2020 at 03:04 PM