



## Abel F. Ortega

August 22, 1919 - August 24, 2009

Abel F. Ortega, born August 22, 1919, entered into rest on August 24, 2009 at the age of 90. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and a POW for 3 1/2 years. He was a World War II & Korean War veteran. He received the Bronze Star, POW Medal, and three Purple Heart medals. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Naomi R. Ortega, children, Deborah Johnson Gerald, Daniel Ortega Evangelina, Ruth Johnson Charles, Susanna Taylor Keith, Priscilla Parker Keith, Abel Ortega, Jr. Lorrie, and Diane Tritley Mark. He is also survived by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sister and friends. The family will receive friends from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. The funeral service will be conducted at 11:30 A.M., Thursday, August 27, 2009 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. Interment will follow at 1:45P.M. at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Abel F. Ortega Memorial Fund, Frost National Bank, San Antonio, Texas 78296.

# Tribute Wall

CM

“ I love this website. I am going w a few friends to New Mexico this March to the Bataan March and Robert Vidaurri- whom I live with- is going as well. I appreciate your dad's unflagging vigor, heroic example and courageous life. Thank you for writing the b

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**chaplain mike mackrell** - December 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ I just now found out about your loss. God Bless you and your family. Uncle Rickie

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**RICHARD TRITLEY** - March 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Dearest Naomi: I am so sorry your partner of 63 years is no longer by your side. Although we know he rests gloriously with his Heavenly Father, his loved ones will miss his presence. You spoke of Abel so often, I felt I knew him as your hero and as our

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**Brenda K. Stogsdill** - October 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AV

“ It was my priveledge to speak to my Uncle Abel the day before his birthday. The God you and I serve has always been a God whose method is a man or woman of God. Jerimiah tells us that "before we were in the womb, God, knew us and ordained and set us apart

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**Abel Vidaurri** - October 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ Who could ask for more than a Christian father? That is more important than a rich one, a handsome one, an intellectual one or a famous one. I had an exceptional Christian father. I wrote that in 1973 in his Father's Day card, but it is more true today.

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**Deborah** - August 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Uncle Abel was an extraordinary man. He not only served his Country honorably but he was also an outstanding soldier in God's army. His life glorified God and is a true testimony of what it means to walk in Love, Faith, Forgiveness and Humility. What a

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August 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ All of Manchester street knew him only as MR. Ortega. I recall Mr. Ortega helping us install a new door in the back of our home just accros the street from the Ortega family. Then I saw a new addition to the Ortega home he was building. A man of many tale

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**Thomas / Donnie Meeks** - August 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Abel,Lorrie and all the Ortega family,our condolences are with you. What a great man!  
He touched so many hearts, he did so much for our country.We are so greatful our paths crossed. God Bless

*From the Melton Family, especially Betty Melton & John.*

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**Betty MELTON** - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ When the Ortega family was growing on 9th. st. in Austin, I was born on 8th. 1942 Those were great years If you were to ask me the first name of Mr./Mrs. Ortega I couldn't tell you because we were taught to address any elder by their last name. However,

Edward S. Cantu - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ My prayers go out to all the family during this time. We lived down the street growing up with the Ortega's and Mr. Ortega was a kind man and will be remembered always. He will be truly missed.

Karen Johnson Graham - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My son so enjoyed his book and we all are so grateful for his wonderful service to our country. Abel Jr. & Lorrie, please know our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jeff & Ginger Sefcik - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ An American hero has passed. Abel Jr. and Lorrie I am so very saddened by the passing of Abel Sr. Our prayers are with the entire Ortega Family.

Kenneth H. Seyfarth - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ My father was a true warrior for his country and for his Lord, Jesus. My family will miss this fine godly man, but are grateful that we will see him again and grateful for the unconditional love that he showed to each of his children, grandchildren, great

Ruth Ortega Johnson - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ I am so sorry for your loss, may God's love be your strength and comfort. May you feel compassion and caring of a faithful Heavenly Father who knows your every need and will continue to sustain you through this time of deepest sorrow. My thoughts and pra

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**Cecilia Drennan** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Anyone who was blessed to know this man knows how great he truly was. His stories filled our minds with the way life was in battle and he was so proud. Abel and Lorrie, our prayers go out to you and your family during this truly sadden time. Heaven i

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**Jerry and Renee Melton** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I have never even heard of Mr. Ortega until reading his obituary. Thank you for your service to our country, and condolences to your family.

*It is men like this that make this world a better place.*

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**Dan Moran** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Mr. Ortega was a man commanding respect and many did so including myself. He was a great presence to all who knew him. His love for his Lord, family and friends was so evident in his words and actions. I enjoyed visiting with him. The Ortegas were our

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**Patty Johnson Harwood** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ To all the Ortega family, my prayer is for God's richest blessings and comfort to be with you in your time of loss and sorrow.

Bob Cunningham - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Ruth, you and your family are in my prayers. I would like to have thanked your father for his incredible service to our country. May God bless you and comfort you all. Love, Gail

Gail Stewart - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Thank you for your service to our country. We are blessed for generations for faith.

Roy & Bel Casanova - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ My sympathies to Lorrie, Abel, Justin and Austin Ortega, and to everyone in the Ortega family. I will pray to you to have comfort in the difficult days ahead. God bless you all, Dani

Dani Bolton Morriss - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PN

“ Ruth may the Peace of God be with you and your family. May you find comfort in one another. Love your friend that misses you, Perly

Perly Navarrete - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *Papi Wapi, you were the best example to me of what Jesus is. You were love and you showed love to us all and you never missed a chance to tell anyone about Jesus. I will miss your presence here, but will joyfully see you again soon. I love you pop.*

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**Susie Taylor** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Heaven is certainly a brighter place with Abel there to cheer the angels on. He will certainly be missed. God Bless you all and please accept our condolences.*

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**Trask Family** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ *Naomi, Diane and Ortega Family, Abel was definitely one of the greatest men that we have ever had the honor to meet. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Pat & Michelle Morrelli** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *What a blessing it must be to have the happy memories of the recent Birthday Celebration! We are truly sad for your loss. Love and prayers,  
Art, Ruth Ann, Sam and Sarah Pippert*

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**The Pippert Family** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Please accept our heart felt condolences and love on the passing of Mr. Ortega. He was a pleasure to know especially loved his WWII stories and we will never forget him or his dediction to serve our country even in the most difficult of times. He was a

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**The Nathaniel Family** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Mr. Ortega was a true American Hero. Condolences from the Allman family.

*Jon, Tara, Braden and Kylie*

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**Jon Allman** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Dear Ortega Family,  
What an honorable life Abel lived! We know you were able to celebrate his 90th birthday this past weekend all together. What a blessing. We are keeping your family in our prayers. May God bless you all.

*Meg Grubb and family*

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**Meg Grubb** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ My condolences to all your family and loved ones. It's very sad to see our heroes passing away. Joyce , widow of POW Raul Garivay

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**Joyce Garivay** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ God bless the Ortega family as you celebrate Uncle Abel's life and his journey home. I can't think of a single man more ready and happy to see our Lord Jesus. I will miss Uncle Abel but more so I will remember the wonderful life that he lived.

God bl

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**Sharon Rodriguez** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ I remember meeting Mr. Ortega at my brother Craig and his granddaughter's Eunice wedding. He made a lasting impression on me because it was clear he was proud to have served our country by the large medal he still wore around his neck. My deepest sympathi

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**KIM DEPUTY** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ I attended and completed the Bataan Memorial Death March last year. My condolences to the family. He was a member of the Greatest Generation. Thank you for your service.

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**Nicholas Lutton** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Justin and Austin please remember the happy times with your grandfather. I know how proud you are of him and how much each of you looked up to him. You are in my thought and prayers  
Love, Mrs. Asher

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**Michelle Asher** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Carolyn sent me the notice of the death. I never met Mr. Ortega but I did read the book. You have my deepest heartfelt sympathy.  
Dot Lamson

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**Dorothy Lamson** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ thank you, sir.

Wes Speer, '03

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**wes speer** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Abel and Family,  
We were saddened to hear of the loss of your Father. What a wonderful legacy he has left you and your entire family. We thank him for his service to our country and recognize the great sacrifice he and those of his generation made. Ou

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**The Garcia Family** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with the Ortega family. What a special, special man Mr. Ortega was and the Johnson family on Manchester have so many wonderful memories of him and his beautiful family. We will treasure those memories always

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**Debbie Johnson Kiolbassa** - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Dear Abel & Lorrie,

*Please accept our condolences on the loss of Abel's father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time. We were impressed to read his biography. He saw many things and you can be very proud of his service and toughness.*

Pat & Cyndi Bush - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ Uncle Abel was a great example for our generation of what true sacrifice and perseverance means. I especially enjoyed our visits in between home and my work in the valley. Your insight, wisdom, and love for the Lord made a great impression and I am proud

Randy S. Ortega - August 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Extending our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your loved one. Directors & Staff at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ uncle will be missed greatly. he has left so many great memories and stories to be passed on for generations. we will miss him.

angelia ortega brown - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Uncle Abel was a soldier for his country and a soldier of Christ. He possessed courage, strength, and honor. We will miss you dearly, Uncle Abel. May the Ortega Family find comfort in knowing that Uncle Abel is in his heavenly home and resting peaceful

Diana L. Kumar - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ We are so very sorry for your loss.  
Love John and Elaine Myrt Lindsay

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**Elaine & John Lindsay** - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I will greatly miss my Uncle Abel. He was always so funny and kind. He knew what was really important in life and he was always thankful to God for everything. I'm so blessed to have known him and will always remember him with great love. He was one of my

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**Sonnie Ford** - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Abel and Lorrie, I am so sorry to hear of Abel Sr.'s passing. He carried a lot of this country's history in his lifetime and although I never got to meet him in person, I know he was an honorable man. I pray that the loving arms of the Father will enfol

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**Karen Birkelbach** - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Please accept my condolences on behalf of the Dapilmoto Family. My grandfather, the late Gaudioso Dapilmoto, Sr., was also a prisoner of war during WWII and experienced the horrific events that took place during the Bataan Death March.

*Rodney J. Dapil*

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**Rodney Dapilmoto** - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ The first thing he did when I was introduced to the family was pray for me back in 1992. The last thing he did was pray for me, two weeks ago. He was one of the most amazing human beings in existence and touched my heart so much. Although he was my hus

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**Krista Johnson** - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Abel, I treasure the time that I have been blessed to spend with your Dad and family at the Bataan Memorial March, he was a great man, a strong Christian example for us all, and a good friend. All my family and friends from the fire house that knew your da

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**Tommy Lindsay** - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ I love you Dad and I want to thank you for the unconditional love you gave me and to the Lord. You were a man of integrity and a good example of what godliness and humility looks like. You will always be in my heart!

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**Priscilla Parker** - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ It was an honor to meet your father at Lloyd and Ruth's a couple of years ago... Our condolences to you and your family...

*Finding at last if you've eyes to see,  
His glorious truth fixed by God's decree,  
As long as the soul is unchained you're free,*

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**Jeff and Lisa O'Dell Write** - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *My dear grandfather was a wonderful Christian example of love, hope and faith. He knew how to share joy and love life with his own unique humor that made us all laugh and sometimes groan, but always made us smile, just like this :*

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**John H. Johnson Sr.** - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ *A man who endured and witnessed more pain and suffering than anyone should. By his life, Grandpa taught us to never quit or give up. He taught us hard work. Most importantly, Grandpa taught everyone he met about a relationship with Jesus Christ. If he*

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**Micah, Stephanie, Jamey, Brandy, and Julia Norwood** - August 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM