



## Concepcion Valdez

March 4, 1917 - March 1, 2013

Concepcion E. Valdez, Jr.

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was called home three days shy of his 96th birthday, surrounded by loving members of his combined family. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Hortencia Garcia Valdez; parents Concepcion Valdez and Jesusa Escobedo Valdez; brothers Jesus, Santiago, and Rudolph Valdez; sisters Rosa Flores and Antonia Flores. He is survived by his wife Maria Elena Valdez; daughters Elia Valdez Sagan Lawrence, Irene R. Valdez Fischer, and Sara Valdez Nava Simon; step-children Maria Luisa Gomez, Reynaldo Gomez Velma, Javier Gomez Beverly, and Magdalena Keller Daniel; brothers Geronimo Valdez, Ernest Valdez Ramona, and Alfred Valdez Mary, sister Maria Medina and sister-in-law Gloria Valdez; grandchildren Edward Michael Fischer, Pamela Fischer Moreno, Marisella Gonzales Brunn, Catherine and Valerie Nava; also Krystal and Stephanie Gomez, Daniel Keller, Jr., Joshua, Caleb and Magdalena Keller; as well as great-grandchildren Carlos Hernandez, Elijah Brunn, Joseph and Jesse James Moreno; his first wife's sisters and brother-in-law, who remained constant and true friends, Virginia Lopez and Margaret and Joseph Miranda; and generations of countless nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends who all loved and respected him.

"Sonny," as he was known by many, was born in San Antonio. The eldest of 10 children, he learned very early the values of hard work and caring for others. These values remained with him all his life. He joined the Civilian

Conservation Corps at 16 and later joined the Army Air Corps, then the United States Air Force. Sgt. Valdez served proudly and faithfully, earning various commendations, ribbons and medals, and was honorably discharged in 1964. His life experiences during these times and his travels with the Air Force, especially to India and French Morocco, provided much of the material for the stories he so enjoyed telling. He was a good man; quiet, unassuming, observant, generous to a fault; a practical joker with a gentle sense of humor. He loved to dance. He treasured family and friends and the times spent with them above all. Always