



Everardo "Eddie" Villegas

July 8, 1928 - August 29, 2020

Everardo "Eddie" Villegas, aged 92, passed away on Saturday, August 29, 2020. He was born in San Antonio, Texas to Julian and Maria Luisa Villegas. He is preceded in death by his wife Rosa, his son Daniel Zamora, his brothers, Pedro Villegas, Julian Villegas, and Carlos Villegas. He is survived by sisters, Herminia Watkins, Josephine Valdivia, Leonor Valdivia, and brother Luis Villegas (Carolyn). He is also survived by his children, David Zamora (Libby), Vincent Villegas (Esther), Elias Villegas (Cassie), and Marcella Villegas-Garcia (Richard). He had 12 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Everardo was born during the Roaring 20's, at a time when the economy was booming and life was good. He would say that in the beginning, his parents had a good home and lived a comfortable life. Soon however, the economy was greatly affected by the stock market crash of 1929, which set into motion an economic downfall known as The Great Depression. When Everardo was still a young boy of about 8 or 9, his father began feeling ill. Still struggling with the daily cost of raising a family, symptoms from illness were often ignored and trips to the doctor were often overlooked. Everardo's father began experiencing stomach pains which would later prove to have been a ruptured appendix. He succumbed to the illness and died leaving the family without any source of income.

In elementary school, Everardo became known as a troublemaker. Life was not easy, and he had been dealt many challenges. The economy was bad,

and his mother could not afford to give her children much more than the most essential things. Young boys would often pick on Everardo because of his clothes. Landing in the principal's office was a common thing. Even though he had been provoked by his classmates, it was often Eddie that landed in the office. One day the principal sent him home and told him not to come back to school until he brought his mother in for a conference. Unfortunately, it was during the Depression and if his mother was to come, she would lose her job. Young Eddie never returned. He would leave behind any formal schooling by 3rd grade.

Life in those days was rough. Medical knowledge, the separation of the classes and simple poverty, often made tragedy a sad but common occurrence. His older brother Pedro became ill and died at the age of 15 from tuberculosis. His younger sister, Virginia, was accidentally shot and killed by a police officer in the crossfire with a robber as she walked home from school. The incident happened in September of 1944. She had just finished registering at school and was walking to the bus stop with her mother. As they rounded the corner she was hit in the chest and died in her mother's arms. Life continued and his mother remarried and had three daughters with her second husband. She lived happily until her death from breast cancer at the age of forty-five.

As a young man, barely in his teens, Everardo left his home to explore the West Coast. He and a friend hitched rides on trains and made their way to California. Two young boys with no money and no prospects did what they could to find quick work and adventure. They worked odd jobs as they traveled by rail. It was at this time that a business owner saw Everardo and asked him what he was doing walking around during school hours. He asked Everardo to clean his business which was a shop called Crown's Tailor for a few coins. It was that fateful encounter that would bring about the man he was destined to become. Everardo quickly became a student of tailoring and had created his first suit by the age of 17.

Life has a way of introducing tangents. In 1945, at the age of 16, Everardo did what many young men would, and enlisted in the Air Force. The United States was in World War II and many young men would lie about their age to serve their country. Everardo became a part of the 13th Air Force and was sent to Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Everardo would say that many of the young men would become seasick on the ship throughout the journey but that he had avoided that destiny by always keeping his eye on the horizon. He remained with the air force until the end of the war when many of the soldiers were released and sent home.

After the war, Everardo continued to fine tune his tailoring skills. He had confidence in his skill and quickly became an expert of design. His employer, Mr. Sol Frank, took notice of Eddie's talent and confidence and quickly put him in charge of the tailoring department. At first, many were uncertain of what to make of the young man who was put in charge. Some tested his authority, but Eddie quickly flattened any unrest by demonstrating those skills for which his boss had taken notice. One example recalled, was the day that the military had brought in a uniform that soldiers were required to wear in combat. The soldiers complained that the coat made it difficult to shoot their firearms because of the constricting design. Veteran tailors were discussing possible alterations. Eddie had always had the gift of design and quickly saw the solution in his mind's eye. He confidently approached the table and shared with his boss, military spokesperson and veteran tailors how an adjustment in the sleeve would quickly solve the issue. He proceeded to rip into the uniform and quickly create his vision alteration. The military spokesperson tried on the jacket and decreed the alteration exactly what was needed! From this point forward, there was new respect for the young, head tailor.

Love has a way of making itself known. At this time a young widow caught his

eye. Her name was Rosa. A co-worker made a love match lunch date to take place near San Antonio's Brackenridge Park. They strolled the Sunken Gardens and took a photo which would become the iconic representation of their love for the family. To this day, that photo remains one of the family favorites. Eddie fell in love with Rosa's two sons, Daniel and David. Everardo and Rosa married and had three more children, Vincent, Elias and Marcella.

As time moved on, Eddie and Rosa decided to venture out on their own and create their very own business, Eddie's Tailor Shop. The shop would become an icon in the downtown area and many local leaders, political figures and San Antonio residents would elevate the mom and pop business to one of the premiere tailor shops in San Antonio. It was at this time, Irving Frank, the owner of Sol Frank, who also happened to be good friends with Lyndon B. Johnson, made a call to Eddie. LBJ at the time was Vice-President of the United States. Vice-President Johnson needed a tailor. Frank knew just the man that he would want for this special assignment. He called Eddie and told him of his plans. Eddie, of course, said yes immediately! The modest neighborhood on the southside of San Antonio was soon set upon by secret service men asking neighbors about the man that lived next door. Eddie would recall one of his neighbors asking him what he had done and why were government officials asking questions about him. Imagine their surprise to hear him say, ever so nonchalantly, that he was being considered as a possible tailor to the vice-president of the United States. Lyndon B. Johnson would keep Eddie as his tailor and friend until his death in January of 1973.

Eddie and Rosa continued building their lives surrounded by love and family for many years. Over their 50 years of marriage, Everardo and his wife lived a life of service. It was not uncommon to come home to find a stranger sharing a dinner and even a room for a night or longer. They helped many people find their path in life.

In 2002, the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Fort Sam

Officer's Club in San Antonio. It was a wedding of a lifetime and one in which their love shone for all to see. Rosa would die that next summer of 2003 with her love by her side. For the next seventeen years Everardo never forgot about his love. His last request to his son Vincent was never forgotten. On August 29, 2020, Everardo Villegas's body was driven by his home on Stanley Street on the southside of San Antonio. The hearse stopped for a few moments in front of their old home, so that Eddie could pick up Rosie for their final journey together. Son, Vincent, made sure to fill this last request.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 16. 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Rosary

SEP 16. 6:30 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Service

SEP 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of Everardo "Eddie" Villegas*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - September 05, 2020 at 06:17 PM

CM

A beautiful tribute obituary in the memory of Eddie's life. May his memory be eternal. Pete and Cynthia (Libby's sister) Magiros

Cindy Magiros - September 13, 2020 at 09:43 AM

VV

Thank you very very much. During this sad time I find peace within because I know he is with mom. Also, what helps me deal with the sadness is that I know I did everything for him. I have no regrets about the way I treated him. I included him in everything I did. The whole family did the same. Thank you once again for the nice words.

Vincent Villegas - September 16, 2020 at 02:36 AM

RC

Uncle Eddie was my favorite uncle. The times that I spoke to him, I would make it a point to bring up things that he accomplished in the past. How he loved to share his adventures. I could listen to him for hours. Rest in peace Tio! Till we meet again.

Rosalinda Cruz - September 18, 2020 at 11:07 AM

RR

“ To the Family of Eddie Villegas:

You were so fortunate to have Eddie in your life for 92 years. I've known him for many years through his son Vincent, who is married to my sister Esther. Following in his father's footsteps, Vincent and Esther have both been so supportive since I recently became a widow, doing many odd jobs for me. Marcella made COVID-19 masks for me at a time I needed them at the start of the pandemic. Thanks so much to them for that.

Eddie instilled in his family kindness, a good work ethic, and the ambition to excel. He was always courteous, classy in the way he dressed, and had such witty remarks when we would see each other at family holiday gatherings.

I know his family is hurting so much right now. Having recently lost my husband of 51 years, I realize that the grief does not go away. It is only dormant until a memory or a picture brings the ache to the forefront. However, the family members should rejoice in the fact that Eddie is not suffering any more. He and his beloved Rosie are together in Heaven. Eddie is smiling! His arms are around her again, just as he's wanted them to be for the 17 years they've been apart. Rest in peace, Eddie.

Rosalinda Rodriguez

Rosalinda Rodriguez - September 17, 2020 at 12:35 PM

AR

“ I am the nephew of Vincent and Esther Villegas. I did not have the fortune of growing up knowing what it was like to have a living grandpa. I am grateful that my cousins Alyssa and Vincent Patrick were able to experience that. I didn't get to spend much time with Eddie. I spent time with him usually during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and a few other days here and there throughout each year. But the one thing that was always a constant with him was his humor, kindness, and just this very comfortable feeling while being around him. After reading the tribute of Eddie, there was so much I didn't know about him. Stories I would have loved to have heard him tell in person. After watching the Rosary, I see how loved he was by his kids and grandchildren and what a good man he was and how he impacted everyone's lives around him. I see him in my uncle Vincent and how Vincent treats people especially when it came to my mom and dad while my father was battling cancer before he went to Heaven. I want to express my deepest condolences to all of the families and lives that Eddie touched during his time here on Earth. I am glad my cousins were blessed to have had such a wonderful grandpa. If I had ever had a grandpa, I would have wanted him to be just like Eddie. God Bless. Adam

Adam Rodriguez - September 16, 2020 at 09:23 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Everardo "Eddie" Villegas.



September 14, 2020 at 12:58 PM

CJ

“ *To Vincent and Family:
Just a note to let you know how fond we were of both Eddie and Rosa. What great folks. It was always a delight to visit with them at their tailor shop. You all were lucky to have had such great parents. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Best regards,

Charlie Jeffers

Charles L. Jeffers - September 14, 2020 at 10:45 AM

AG

“ *Just finished reading the obituary beautifully composed to depict Mr. Villegas' life and accomplishments. How fortunate you are to have had him in your lives. He leaves a beautiful legacy in the family he leaves behind along with the memories of his presence. As you recall those memories, may they continue to give you solace and happiness. My son was especially blessed when he married Marcella and developed a close and loving relationship with Mr. and Mrs. Villegas. My sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Villegas Family. I will sincerely miss his presence at family gatherings.*

Alice D. Garcia

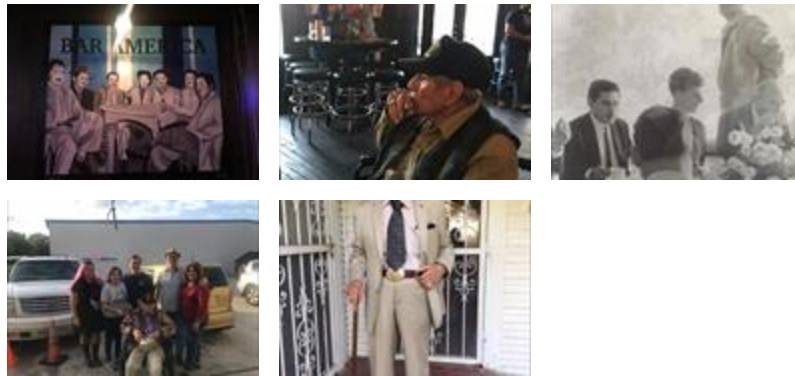
ALICE GARCIA - September 13, 2020 at 06:38 PM



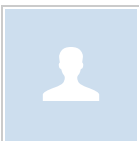
“ I love my grandpa. I'm glad we were able to spend many years with him and make lasting memories. He was always so witty, I know that's where I get mine from.

He will always inspire me to do the most that I can during this lifetime. The things he was able to accomplish will always amaze me!

See you later, Grandpa <3
Tell Grandma we miss her too.
Tell God I said hi.



Alyssa Rose - September 11, 2020 at 05:53 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Everardo "Eddie" Villegas.



September 10, 2020 at 10:17 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - September 09, 2020 at 06:53 PM

KO

“ Mr Villegas was a wonderful kind person who was loved dearly by his family. I met him several times over the past fifteen years in my friendship with Vincent and he always had a smiling and polite conversation with me. He was from the greatest generation and will be missed until reunited with his family in Heaven. It was an honor to have met him.

Kevin Ormsby - September 09, 2020 at 03:11 PM



Thank you for your kind words.
I am one of his granddaughters.

- Alyssa

Alyssa Rose - September 11, 2020 at 05:38 PM

RR

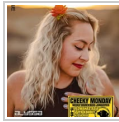
“ *To the Villegas Family,*

Wishing our sincerest and heartfelt sympathy for your loss. We will always remember Mr. Villegas for the kindness and generosity he exemplified to those in need. We knew him as a caring person whose main focus was being a good provider for his family.

He will be missed by all who knew him. This includes my wife and I who enjoyed having lengthy conversations with him during family gatherings.

*May God Bless his soul.
From Raymond & Sylvia Ramirez*

Raymond & Sylvia Ramirez - September 06, 2020 at 02:32 AM



Thank you for your message <3. He will definitely be missed.

Alyssa Rose - September 11, 2020 at 05:38 PM