



Henry S. Garcia

November 5, 1920 - January 15, 2023

Henry Samuel Garcia, who passed away Jan. 15 at his home in Leon Valley, Texas, at age 102, was born in Tehuacana, Texas, on Nov 5, 1920, to Matilde Escamilla Garcia and Esteban Samuel Garcia. Although he lived through challenging times during the Great Depression, he often said that the resourcefulness, hard work and love of his beloved parents and grandmother meant that even with their large family they never felt the pain of the depression. He used to say how fortunate he and his siblings were with the wonderful parents they had been blessed with. Henry went on to be a wonderful father to his children as well.

There were nine children in his family, although one, Guillermo, did not survive infancy. And Henry's sister Hortencia, who was a friend to Lucy (Henry's future wife) as well, was sadly lost to influenza in her teens.

His family moved throughout Texas as his father worked for the railroad, with stops in Poth, San Antonio and eventually Laredo, where the family settled in 1934. Despite their many moves, Henry remembered the birth dates and places of every one of his siblings. He had an amazing memory! Henry completed junior high and high school at Laredo Martin High. He enjoyed his coursework there and loved English classes with his favorite teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Sorrell.

Henry worked at many jobs growing up, shining shoes, selling papers and, after graduation, working at the Sinclair Refining Co. in Laredo for \$10 a week, which was raised to \$12 a week by Dec. 7, 1941, when he was roller

skating with friends and the news came on about the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Shortly thereafter Henry enlisted in the USMC, and was assigned to Marine Aviation, where he worked his way through the various grades of sergeant. In the Fall of 1942, he received word that he had a new little brother as his parents welcomed Henry's youngest brother George into the family. Henry had his first airplane ride on a C-47 to Bougainville, Solomon Islands where he was the noncommissioned officer in charge of personnel for the First Marine Air Wing. He finished as Master Technical Sergeant in December 1944.

Henry credited his office and typing skills with landing him in an administrative position with a colonel. In August 1945, the First Marine Air Wing was ordered to China. There, Henry learned his elder brother, Steve, a B-29 tail-gunner, was killed during a bombing mission. This was of course a devastating loss for the family.

After the war, Henry moved to San Antonio where he went to work in civil service jobs at Lackland Air Force Base, Fort Sam Houston's General Distribution Depot and Kelly Air Force Base. He also reconnected with old family friends, including Lucy Alarcon. Henry and Lucy married on Jan. 5, 1947. Henry, who received the Bronze Star for service during the war, served in the Marine Corps Reserve until December 1949, when he joined the Air Force Reserve, serving there until August 1972, when he retired with 30 years of active and reserve time. He retired from his civil service job at Kelly AFB in January 1979.

Henry was active in the Knights of Columbus, serving as a Grand Knight, at his children's school where he was president of the PTC and coached softball and baseball for the local CYO. During his lifetime, he and Lucy traveled to visit all their children and after his retirement Henry worked for years at H&R Block with Lucy often joining him. He volunteered as well with Lucy at the Little Church of La Villita, and The Institute of Texan Cultures. He and Lucy were able to spend many happy years together in retirement with their many

volunteer activities and projects. Henry spent a memorable and active summer in Europe visiting Sam & Joyce who were stationed in Germany and traveling through western Europe with his youngest daughter Becky who was in college there at the time. He visited his daughter Norma and son-in-law Akihiko and their family in Japan as well.

Henry would probably not have survived the loss, in 2009, of Lucy, his wife of 65 years were it not for the presence of his daughter Norma, who had come to live with him along with her children. Later when his son Sam and his wife Joyce retired and returned home to San Antonio, he was so pleased to have his children all nearby as Becky and her husband Jim had long lived close by in Austin.

Growing old is not for the faint of heart but Henry did it with grace, reaching 101 years of age with apparent ease. However, the last few months have been difficult and he recently felt that he was ready to be called home to see everyone he had lost over the years. In addition to losing Lucy, Henry had keenly felt the loss of each of his siblings and family members and friends who preceded him in death.

He was a gentle and wonderful man who was interested in people and loved his family. He was funny and kind. He enjoyed working hard and helping his family. We were lucky to have had him with us for so long. He is sorely missed.

Henry is survived by his youngest brother, George (Mary) Garcia and family, his son Sam (Joyce) Garcia and their children Samantha Garcia and Stephen (Liz) Garcia and their daughter Vera; Norma (Akihiko) Shirotori and their children Seijin (Rieko) Shirotori (and son Tenyu Henry), and Kohwa (Henry's sidekick and great good friend for the last years of his life); and Becky Garcia and her husband Jim Cullen, along with many nieces and nephews and numerous friends. The family would also like to express a big thank you to his sister-in-law Hilda Tijerina, who never failed to consistently check in on him (thank you Aunt Hilda!) and to the friends and relatives who called and

contacted him, especially his wonderful nieces who in his last years kept the cards, phone calls and candy coming (Diana & Sophie, he LOVED his New Year's Hat!). Thanks also for the care and support of Dr. Mae Sepulveda as well as the Compassus Hospice team including nurses Kim, Laurissa, Rupa, Gracie and Danessa.

Rosary will be held on Wednesday Feb 8 at Mission Park North Funeral Chapel at 7 pm. On Thursday Feb 9th Mass will be held at St. Luke's Catholic Church at 9:30 AM with burial to follow at Fort Sam Houston Cemetery. If you'd like to remember Henry, donations can be made to Little Flower Basilica Restoration Project (in San Antonio) or the Leon Valley Historical Society.

For personal acknowledgement, please sign the online guestbook at www.missionparks.com in the Tributes section.

MISSION PARK FUNERAL CHAPELS NORTH
3401 CHERRY RIDGE DR.
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78230
(210) 349-1414

Cemetery Details

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Rosary

FEB 8. 7:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Mass

FEB 9. 9:30 AM (CT)

St. Luke Catholic Church
4603 Manitou Drive
San Antonio, TX 78228

Interment

FEB 9 (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery
1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Tribute Wall



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Henry S. Garcia.*



February 07, 2023 at 05:36 PM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Henry S. Garcia.*



February 06, 2023 at 12:56 AM



“ *I remember Henry and Lucy as a young girl living on W Martin Street. They once took me to Corpus Christi to visit a relative. A couple of times I babysit Sam Norma and Becky when they were little while Henry and Lucy went to the movies. They were my sponsors when I did my first communion. Henry also took a movie of my marriage in 1966. They used to visit our family when we lived on Cortez Ave in the 1960's. I am so glad that he fulfilled his life with zest. May he rest in peace.*

Mary Helen Lopez (Nena) - February 04, 2023 at 08:25 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Henry S. Garcia.*



February 04, 2023 at 04:53 PM



“ *My prayers and condolences to the Garcia and Alarcón family from Juan Cristan*

Juan Cristan - February 04, 2023 at 03:10 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Henry S. Garcia.*



February 03, 2023 at 06:35 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Henry S. Garcia.*



February 03, 2023 at 06:35 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Henry S. Garcia.*



February 03, 2023 at 06:35 PM



“ *Strength and Wisdom Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Henry S. Garcia.*



February 03, 2023 at 06:35 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - February 03, 2023 at 03:05 PM



“ *AMPARO GALLO AND FAMILY purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Henry S. Garcia.*



AMPARO GALLO AND FAMILY - February 03, 2023 at 01:50 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Henry S. Garcia.* ”



January 31, 2023 at 06:02 PM