



Joe B. Calderon, Jr.

July 22, 1928 - June 12, 2005

Joe B. Calderon, Jr. was born on July 22, 1928 and was called home on June 12, 2005. During his 76 plus years, he lived life to the fullest. Joe grew up in the heart of old Westside San Antonio, in and around Guadalupe, S. Brazos & Laredo streets. He attended Johnson and JT Brackenridge elementary schools and Lanier Junior High School. He attended Lanier High School from 1943 until 1947 when he graduated. He was a born athlete, excelling at football and basketball in high school and other sports as a young man. While in junior high, he played baseball and was a member of different local baseball teams. At Lanier High School, he was co-captain of the football squad and member of the team that won the 1945 Class A State Basketball Championship. In recognition of his athletic abilities, his sports portraits still hang on Lanier's wall of fame. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, he played soccer with Busy Bee Produce in a league that played against college teams with European players. Despite the competition, Joe's team won a Texas State Soccer Championship. Joe's true love and talent was for baseball. He played semi-professional baseball for the Artesia Drillers in the early 1950s. Many noticed Joe's talent for baseball. On March 10, 1954, the Light's Sports Editor wrote, "Joe Calderon, Jr. is debating a tough decision. He's married and has a good job and wants to keep it. But the Rampa Oilers of the Longhorn Baseball League have sent him a good contract and a bus ticket... Catching with Artesia's Drillers in the West Texas-New Mexico League last year, Joe hit .278, poled 16 homeruns and battled 85 runs—quite a season."

While in the Army from 1954-1956, Joe played shortstop for the Fort Bliss Falcons, the Army's semi-professional baseball team. Newspaper clippings from the time describe his performance as "magnificent as usual," and "a multi-talented ball-player." Joe enjoyed many victories with the Falcons and he loved his teammates. Years later he would recall the time when traveling with his Falcon teammates, that he was refused service at a diner because they "didn't serve Mexicans." He was proud that all of his teammates stood by him and walked out of the diner with him. Joe was recruited to play semi-professional baseball but he chose to stay in San Antonio to raise a family with Carrie, his wife. So instead of a life on the road, he played baseball from the 1950s through the late 1960s in the local Spanish American Baseball League with teams like Moonglow's, Saldana's, Fred's Place, Garza Finance, Terminal Market, Border Fence and others. During those years, he played on several championship baseball teams. In his later years, he loved listening and dancing to Latin and big band music, socializing with his friends, but above all, he loved golfing. Joe belonged to the Pan-American Golf Association and played golf weekly with friends. One of his proudest golf moments was recorded in the Express-News when he scored a hole-in-one on April 25, 2001 at the No. 3 hole at Riverside. So it was appropriate that Joe was golfing with friends when it was almost time for God to call him home. His golf buddies helped him when he suffered a stroke at Riverside, his favorite golf course. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Juanita Calderon and his wife, Carrie D. Calderon. His children Laura, Jacqueline, Joe III, and beloved grandson, Christopher, survive him. He is also survived by his sister Susie, brother Arnulfo, friends and acquaintances from his years of involvement in sports. Even though his children, siblings and friends will miss him dearly, they know that he is now healthy and happy, playing golf and baseball to his heart's content. Services Visitation will be held 5:00 to 9:00, Tuesday, June 14 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South with a Holy Rosary recited at 7:00 PM. A Funeral Service will be 11:00 AM, Wednesday, June 15, 2005 at the funeral home with interment following at Mission Burial Park

South.

Tribute Wall

AI

“ My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family for the loss of of your love one.

Adolph Flores, II - June 16, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Laura, Jackie and Joe: I was a Bat Boy on the 1957 Saldana team when your Dad was playing. What great memories I have of one of San Antonios "Great" baseball players. I'am sure my Dad, Sandy, has him in that "Heavenly" starting line-up already. Peace B

JOE SANCHEZ - June 15, 2005 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ Our prayers are with you and your family.

Edd,Hattie & Family

Edd White - June 15, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Laura, my deepest condolenses on the loss of your father. Love is a very powerful emotion that lasts a lifetime. Even when our parents leave us we are filled with so much love for them that they always seem to be present. I read his obituary and there ar

Choco G Meza - June 14, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ Our prayers are with you and your family at this sad time. Although I never met your father he must have been a good man because he managed you raise you right. Remember that his death is just a transition to his next, and better, life.

Steven Emilienburg - June 14, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BZ

“ My sincere condolences to you Laura and all your family. My prayers and thoughts are with you. May GOD give you and your loved ones the strength to endure this difficult time in your life. Your DAD was a very special person that anyone would have been pr

Blanca Zaragoza - June 14, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ My heartfelt condolences to Laura, Jackie and Joe as well as all the family. My prayers are with you in the coming days. Having lost my own father I can tell you that I carry him in love through the great memories which molded me

Daniel S. Meza - June 13, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ My condolences to all of Joe family I played golf with Joe several times and have great memories of him he play semi-pro baseball but Joe was a true professional. I will miss him my prayers are with Joe and his family.

Jesse Anguiano - June 13, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Laura, Jackie and Joe III, Although there is long distance between us, my prayers and condolences go out to each one of you and the rest of the family. He was a beloved friend and he will be missed. The many memories that I have will always remain in my he*

Rita Fernandez - June 13, 2005 at 12:00 AM