



Johnnie J. Salazar

April 10, 1924 - January 12, 2008

Sergeant Major Ret. Johnnie J. Salazar, age 83, passed away on January 12, 2008. He was born on April 10, 1924 in Bakersfield, California to the late Tiburcio and Josephine Salazar. As a teen, John worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps in California before enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943. He served in WWII as an aerial gunner and photographer on the A-20 “Night fighter” aircraft in the 155th Night Photo Recon Squadron in Europe and participated in the reconnaissance support for D-Day. John was awarded the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf clusters and a Presidential Unit Citation for flying 32 missions over enemy territory. A graduate of the Army Language School, John’s 24-year military career spanned WWII, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. It included service in the Airborne and Special Forces, culminating as an instructor at the U.S. Army Jungle Warfare and Counterinsurgency School in Panama in the early 1960’s. Upon his retirement at the highest enlisted rank in the Army in 1966, John embarked on a new career as a high school Army ROTC instructor. He was the Senior Military Instructor and Chaminade Guard drill team moderator at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, Texas for 20 years, from 1967 - 1987. Upon his retirement from Central Catholic, John put his instructional background and public speaking experience to further use and became a very active member in Toastmasters International. He achieved the rank of Distinguished Toastmaster and over the past 20 years was instrumental in the establishment of numerous Toastmaster clubs throughout the greater San Antonio area.

John provided service to both God and his country. He was a 4th Degree Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, an Affiliate Member of the Marianist Society at Central Catholic and a member of the Alamo Chapter of the Special Forces Association. John is survived by his loving wife, Lois Ann Wiggers Salazar of Evansville, Indiana. They shared almost 58 years of love, marriage and a passion for travel, especially throughout Europe. They were blessed with five children, Johnnie J. Salazar, II of Walnut Creek, California and his wife, Anne; Terry L. Salazar of Dallas and his wife, Pamela; Layne Christine Roetzel of San Antonio and her husband, Mark; Lisa Marie Kazor of Dallas and her husband, John; and Leslie Ann Roetzel of Dallas and her husband, Kerry. John was preceded in death by his sister, Marie and his brother, Ruben. He is survived by six siblings who reside in California; his brother, Tony Salazar and wife, Rosario; sister, Elena DeAnda and husband, Billy; sister, Carmen Langfield; sister, Vivian Garcia; sister, Carolina Holguin and husband, Henry; and his sister, Rose Ann Barnes; as well as numerous nephews, nieces and cousins. John was especially proud of his twelve grandchildren, Eric, Lindsay, Patrick, Ian and Kathleen Salazar; Tyler Salazar; Christine and Robert Roetzel; Katrina and Kendall Kazor; and Brennen and Liam Roetzel. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers are requested. Donations can be made in John's name to either the SMAJ Johnnie J. Salazar Memorial Fund at Central Catholic High School, 1403 N. St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas 78215, or to the Johnnie J. Salazar Memorial Fund at the American Heart Association at <http://honor.americanheart.org/goto/john.salazar>.

SERVICES

Visitation will be from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm Thursday, January 17, 2008 at Mission Park Funeral Chapel North, with a Rosary at 7:30 pm. Mass of the Resurrection will be at 10:00 am, Friday, January 18, 2008 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 9800 Marbach Road, San Antonio, Texas 78245, with a reception in the St. Rose Parish Hall thereafter. Interment with full military

honors will take place at 1:00pm at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery,
1520 Harry Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, Texas 78209.

Tribute Wall

WT

“ *Sgt Major Salazar was part of the Texas A & I ROTC Cadre 1965-66. I was a cadet. We all had great respect for the Sgt Major. That I remember him with fondness some 55 years later is a tribute to him.*

*Bill Torrey
Milam County Texas District Attorney*

W W Torrey - August 14, 2021 at 10:46 AM

FR

“ *My deepest condolences to the Salazar Family*

I remember SGT MAJ Salazar as a leader and a great mentor to so many of us at Central Catholic. He made a very strong impact in my life and on my decision to serve in the military. I will always remember his

Frank E. Rodriguez - February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ *Mom, Dad and you have done so much for all of us through the years. He is still taking care of you and us looking down from heaven. We will all miss him but have all our family memories to keep him alive in our hearts.*

Love, Layne

Layne Roetzel - February 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

D1

“ My deepest condolences to the Salazar family. I remember the deep respect that Sergeant Major Salazar commanded with the ROTC Corps of Cadets at Central Catholic High School. He was a committed and dedicated teacher who served as a great mentor and leader

Dr Carlos Gutierrez CCHS Class of 1979 - January 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ Layne,

My heartfelt condolences to you and your family. I hope that many happy memories bring you comfort during this difficult and sad time. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sally

Sally Narey - January 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Dear Salazar Family,
Please know you all are in my thoughts and prayers. It has been too many years since our families have been in contact. I fondly remember Mr. Salazar and your entire family when we all lived on Raindrop. There were many fun times

Melissa Weatherred Branch - January 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Sgt Major Salazar was a great instructor, coach and friend. He was instrumental in my choosing the military as part of my career. I will always remember his easy nature and ready smile. My condolences to the family for the loss of a wonderful man. I h

Colonel Abel Barrientes - January 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ My deepest sympathy to the Salazar family. Knowing Sergeant Major Salazar and working with him in my senior year was a definite high point in my life. His humility and sense of humor stand out the most when I remember him. He stood for alot and to have kn

Christopher Baldit - January 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Please accept my deepest sympathies for the loss of your husband and father.

Becky Cobb - January 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

XM

“ This is how you live a complete life. This man, this military man, this gentleman-servant of the community, this Knight a Grand Knight at that, Johnnie, who served our country and our community with distinction. He gave a great example of how a life could

Xavier Martinez - January 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of great sorrow. I'm one of his many former JROTC students and a Chaminade Guard member, a graduate of 1976. Sgt Salazar's devotion to Central as a teacher and mentor was a positive influence on many

Arnold Granato - January 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Such loving memories of our years together at CCHS! Johnnie was a shining example to the youth today of a military man with a deep faith in God and a loving husband and father. May he rest in eternal peace!!

Br. DuWayne Brisendine, S.M. - January 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Our deepest condolences to the Salazar family. Sergeant Major Salazar will be remembered by the ROTC Corps of Cadets at Central Catholic and especially the members of the Loyd Rifles and Chaminade Guard drill teams that were under his guidance. The drill

Rene G. Rendon - January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Please accept my deepest condolences Sgt Salazar helped shaped my future and my ethics. His dedication to the young boys of Central Catholic created thousands of Honorable Men. I I'm proud to have known him.

Sgt Frank J Danysh BBPD - January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

XM

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Xavier Martinez - January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ I was saddened to hear of Sgt Majors passing. The influence of his instruction and discipline during my formative years at CCHS has served me well for many years. God blessed all of us who called him Father, Friend, Husband or Teacher.

My deepest sympat

Benito Juarez - January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Sgt. Major was a great mentor to many young men for a number of years. I will always be thankful for the guidance that he provided when I was a young boy. He treated us with respect, instilled values, and discipline. He was more than just a moderator, he w

Robert M. Gonzalez - January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ Salazar family,

As a young man at Central Catholic John became a mentor to me. I have always been so thankful that God allowed me to cross paths with him. Our most heartfelt condolences go out to the entire Salazar family. John was a good man and he wi

Paul A. Reyes - January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Dear Lois and family,

My deepest love to you all during this time. Johnnie was one of the most dynamic men I have known. I clearly remember our last time together in San Antonio in 1999 during the 423rd/155th reunion. My thoughts and prayers are wit

Scott Moore - January 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM