



ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ

September 30, 1921 - February 17, 2019

Dr. Armando M. Rodriguez of San Diego, California died peacefully at home on Sunday, February 17, 2019. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Beatriz “Bea” Rodriguez; two children, Christy Rodriguez and Rod Rodriguez (Liana Rodriguez); grandchildren Emiliano Rodriguez, Miguel E. Rodriguez (Mary Rodriguez), Nicholas Rodriguez and Nadine Gonzalez Rodriguez; great grandchildren Armando R. Rodriguez, Nicholas Rodriguez and Abby Rodriguez. He was preceded in death by his parents Andres and Petra Rodriguez of San Diego, grandson Armando S. Rodriguez of Colorado and siblings Jose Encarnacion Rodriguez, Hermilia Rodriguez Rubio, Camerina Rodriguez Castro, Josefa Rodriguez Luna, Andres Rodriguez, Catalina Rodriguez, and Carlos Rodriguez.

In 1927 Andres and Petra Rodriguez and their children moved from Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico to Barrio Logan in San Diego. One of those children was Armando M. Rodriguez, a man who would become the first Latino principal of a junior and senior high school

in San Diego, the second Latino to be a college president in California, and a principal in the administrations of four U.S. Presidents. He was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to be Chief of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now Health and Human Services) Office of Spanish Speaking American Affairs; appointed by President Richard Nixon to be Assistant Commissioner of Education in 1970; and 1978 President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission of the United States. A true trailblazer, Rodriguez was one of several Mexican American activists that preceded the Chicano movement of the late sixties and seventies, a movement that gave rise to a multitude of Latino groups and causes. He was a San Diego State College wrestling champion and coach and served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1944. In 1960 he headed the SoCal Viva Kennedy campaign and in 1962 he became the first Mexican American in San Diego to run for the State Assembly. Armando Rodriguez is noted as one whose lifetime “reflected a history of meeting challenges, a commitment to his community, setting standards for others to emulate and creating positive change for the benefit of society.” In 2007, he authored his life story – From the Barrio to Washington – published by the University of New Mexico Press. Funeral services will be Tuesday, March 5 at: Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

1770 Kearney Ave
San Diego, CA 92113

Rosary at 10:00am, Funeral Mass at 11:00am

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to one of these organizations:

Barrio Station 2175 Newton Ave, San Diego, CA 92113, 619-238-0314

Generations on the Move, <https://www.generationsonthemove.org/donate-1>

Casa Familiar, www.casafamiliar.org/contact/

San Diego State University Library Special Collections, <https://library.sdsu.edu/scua/donate>

Tribute Wall



“ *ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ*

January 28, 2023 at 12:52 PM



“ *I was born in San Diego, my parents worked at the fish cannery where I believe they knew Armando. I grew up on Logan St. but do not remember him. My parents talked about him and things he was doing, but I never knew what he was about until I was older and understood what was going on in those early years. I hope his work helped people have a better life , my parents moved after a few years so I don't remember him. It seems that he inspired people to do good.*

Xavier Ruiz - November 30, 2019 at 10:34 AM

KW

“ I grew up living next door to a legend. As a young girl and teen, I hadn't a clue. That is the kind of man he was. I was thinking about him the other day and looked up a book he wrote on Amazon. He mentioned my mother's sandwiches as a new neighbor gift. I ordered the book...and was impressed with the book's trailer and the write up on Dr. Rodriguez. I'm just heartsick to learn of his passing...

Remembering tonight with bittersweet memories. The night my parents sent me over to serenade them with my guitar and a hilarious song outside their bedroom window. How he laughed at my wedding telling me I was a good kid. Lots of gatherings while my parents were gone, but he used to check out every window in that fishbowl of a house to make sure we were ok. We always were. And, so, he never told on me. Babysitting his grandkids, Bea's famous tamales, her horrid story of their wedding night. All of it is flooding back to me...

Just simply good neighbors. And, another part of my childhood just died today.

With so much love and fondness for Bea and his lovely family...

Kari Wright Warren

Kari Wright Warren - August 26, 2019 at 06:53 PM

CD

“ Armando M. Rodriguez will be interred at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Thursday, June 27, 2019. Service and military honors will be at 9:30a.m.

Christy Rodriguez, daughter - June 12, 2019 at 10:59 AM

DA

“ My deepest condolences to the family at this difficult time. I hope the words at Rev.21:4 bring you comfort. It says: "God will wipe out every tear from their eyes,and death will be no more,neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away." Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Dawn - May 25, 2019 at 11:11 AM