

The Life & Legacy of Joe R. Alvarez, Jr., “Daddy”

Joe Reyes Alvarez, Jr., was born in Corpus Christi, Texas on January 7, 1942, to Joe Reyes and Sara Falcon Alvarez. Our heavenly Father took him to paradise on December 17, 2020, at his home in San Antonio. He was welcomed into heaven by his parents & eldest son, Samuel Alvarez, who preceded him in death. He spent his final week surrounded by his loving family, joking and laughing to the end.

He is survived by his devoted wife of fifty-nine years, Angelita Balarin Alvarez, their daughter, Cynthia Alvarez Aguilar (& spouse, Ricardo), son, Daniel Alvarez (& spouse, Tara), grandchildren, Michael de la Garza and Simona Alvarez, step-grandchildren, D’Lorah and Charleston Smith, brother, Richard Alvarez (& spouse, Diana), brother, Michael Alvarez (& spouse, Maria), and many nieces and nephews.



Joe was born one month after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, amidst the turmoil of World War II, which came on the heels of the Great Depression. His was a generation with a can-do attitude & ability to make the most of whatever was available. Joe reminisced about making toy soldiers, as a boy, from mud and twigs dried in the sun.

His family raised much of their own food & made ends meet through sheer will & ingenuity. His mother, Sara, often reminded her boys that they were the descendants of kings. She imparted a strong sense of culture & sophistication into her children & grandchildren. An avid reader herself, she insisted her family speak properly & eloquently. Joe also learned to play the violin & was first chair in his school orchestra.

As the oldest of three sons, Joe began working at an early age delivering grocery store advertisements door-to-door. All his wages went to help support the family. Later, his father, Joe, Sr., taught him & his younger brother, Richard, the butcher’s trade. Both brothers went to work with their father at Biel’s Grocery Store in the meat market. It was at Biel’s that Angie first caught Joe’s eye.

He spoke of seeing her with her mother and siblings at the grocery store and of how he admired her beauty. It was a mutual friend, Mary Lou Balboa, who brought the two together for a blind date on Goose Island. Mary Lou’s influence spawned a family legacy. Joe & Angie would later christen the first-born child of Mary Lou & her husband, Luis Aguilar. The couples eventually lost touch for a period but were reunited, in a twist of fate, when the Aguilar’s son,

Joe & Angie Alvarez (left) on their 50th wedding anniversary with Mary Lou & Luis Aguilar (2011).



Rick, met and married Joe and Angie's only daughter, Cindy, but that would come decades later.



Joe did fall head over heels in love with Angie, and he worked hard to earn the trust of her widowed mother, Simona Balarin. He laid floors, put up sheet rock, and built a shower to replace a wash tub. With her blessing, he proposed to Angie at the dime store where she worked, and they married on November 26, 1961, at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Corpus Christi.

On June 25, 1963, their first born, Sammy, came into the world, followed by Cindy, three years later, on August 24, 1966. The family blossomed and began to thrive in a garage apartment connected to the home of Joe's parents in Corpus. Shortly after the birth of their third child, Danny, on January 14, 1973, the family purchased their first home on Verner in Corpus.

The extended family was very close knit. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins spent countless hours together bowling, playing poker or dominoes, and shooting pool. They played hard and worked hard as a family, helping Grandma Sara in her upholstery shop and laboring to build the grandparents' ranch in Sinton. Perhaps most of all, their family enjoyed camping on the Frio River, a tradition which has been passed on to the next generation. Joe made his final family trip to the Frio in October of this year.



Angie, Joe, Tara, Dan, Cindy, Simona, & Rick
October 2020 – Frio River – Alvarez Family Trip



Joe and Angie enjoyed many family trips through the years. They travelled through nearly all fifty states and into Canada, visiting many landmarks along the way, including the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and Glacier National Park, the Sequoia Forest, Mount Rush more, the Black Hills, and



Disney to name a few. They sowed the seeds of adventure in their children and never stopped dreaming and planning new adventures for themselves.

Joe worked hard for 31 years at ASARCO/Encycle Texas to realize his dreams for his family. Fortunately, he enjoyed his job in the chemical lab, where he climbed the ranks of leadership. He was an intelligent man with some formal college education, rare for his generation. He valued education & a strong work ethic & always put family first.

Joe was a scout master for Sam & Dan. He never missed a baseball or football game for his grandson, Michael. He would drop everything & take the shirt off his back for a family member in need. He also had many four-legged puppy dog babies & grandbabies that he doted on.

He & Angie moved from Corpus Christi to Floresville, where they had their first newly built home & enjoyed retirement surrounded by five acres of wildlife. They later left the peace & quiet of the country & moved to San Antonio to be closer to family. He was an avid golfer throughout his life. He also enjoyed carpentry & electrician work as a favorite pastime. Even in recent months, confined to a wheelchair, he managed to build his wife a gardener's table as well as planter boxes & plant hangers which he gifted to family & friends.

"He was a smart, loving man, the smartest man I have ever met. He knew how to do anything and everything. He could butcher a cow or build a car. He taught so many people so many things during his beautiful life. He will be missed by so many." – Michael de la Garza (grandson)