



Amadeo J. Santistevan

November 18, 1923 - January 26, 2014

Amadeo J. Santistevan, 90, surrounded by his loving family, went to be with Jesus on Sunday, January 26, 2014. He courageously battled leukemia for over six years and never let it slow him down. Late in December he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Knowing his days were numbered, he continued to live a full life and kept a positive attitude to the very end. Though he faced great pain, he never complained or surrendered. His family was blessed to be with him to send him on his last journey to see his precious Jesus.

Amadeo was a member of the Greatest Generation. His early life was not easy; his family is proud that he overcame so much. He bravely defended his country during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Amadeo was honorably discharged after serving over 24 years and went on to enjoy a second career as a Teamster. After retiring, he enjoyed a full life. Though his education came from the "school of hard knocks", he was a walking history book. He had a sharp mind and an exceptional memory. He was so very proud of the accomplishments of his five children, all of whom excelled in academics, obtained college degrees and professional certifications, and now enjoy successful careers. He deeply loved his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a great "Poppy" to everyone and each and every one loved him unconditionally.

Amadeo treasured the trips that he took to his land in Estancia, NM (his second home). His children always said that he was born one-hundred years too late because he loved life on the range, working the land that he was so proud to own and living a simple cowboy life.

Amadeo is survived by his devoted wife, Grace, his daughters, Susana Beck, JoAnn Smith (James), Carol Santistevan-Graebel (Michael), Shirley Lee (Larry), and son Michael. Also surviving him are grandchildren, Stacy Smith-Ledford (Julian); Joel Smith (April), Lauren Adams (Joshua), Christianne Santistevan, Gabriella Lee, Giselle Santistevan, and Ian Beck. Great-grandchildren, Brendan Owle, Caitlyn Smith, Ava Ledford, Talon Smith, and Jaxson Ledford, and special family members, Joann Pacheco and Nekime Smith. Santistevan was preceded in death by his father, Carlos Joseph Santistevan; mother, Susana Leyba Santistevan. Friends may visit one hour prior to the Funeral Service to be held Thursday, January 30, 2014, 10:00 a.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, 11515 Lomas Blvd NE, with Pastor Todd Anderson officiating. Interment will follow at Santa Fe National Cemetery.

Amadeo was the last surviving charter member of Messiah Lutheran Church and loved his church and congregation. While flowers are appreciated, the family has requested that a donation to Messiah Lutheran Church, 11515 Lomas Blvd, NE be made in his memory.

Cemetery Details

Santa Fe National Cemetery

501 N. Guadalupe St.
NM 87504

Previous Events

Funeral Ceremony

JAN 30. 10:00 AM (MT)

Messiah Lutheran Church
11515 Lomas Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM

Tribute Wall



“ *Poppy, Stacy and I went to the Sunrise Service at your church for Easter. It was really great. Everyone was so welcoming, and it was amazing to see how much everyone at that church loved you. They all miss you, of course, not nearly as much as we do. <3*

Christianne Santistevan - April 23, 2014 at 10:44 AM



“ *It was such a beautiful Sunday, I thought about how on those lucky Sundays I would catch you outside as you were driving home from church in your big truck. I miss those lucky Sundays and being able to peek my head into your truck. I miss you in general. Hope Heaven is everything the good Lord promised it would be. It sure isn't the same down here on earth, but we're managing. xo, Christianne.*

Christianne Santistevan - March 09, 2014 at 10:20 PM



“ *Today the sun was shining Poppy. I thought of you basking in the warm sun in your chair, like you always did. I love you and I miss you so much.*

Stacy Smith Ledford - February 10, 2014 at 09:02 PM

JS

“ *Our condolences to Mrs. Grace Santistevan, Carol & Mike, and all of the family for your loss. We will keep all of you in our prayers so you may find peace & comfort knowing that Amadeo is resting in peace.
Joseph & Susanne Shaw*



Joseph & Susanne Shaw - February 10, 2014 at 07:43 PM

CS

“ *Thinking about you a lot tonight, Poppy. I miss you more than words could ever say.*



Christianne Santistevan - February 07, 2014 at 12:36 AM

 Stacy
Smith
Ledford

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Stacy Smith Ledford - February 06, 2014 at 07:26 PM

BA

Watching this reminds me of how I miss him every day and how I am grateful for these memories and the songs he loved so much. I miss you Daddy. I love you.

Baba - May 15, 2014 at 07:59 PM

RS

“ Grace, Carol and Family:

I wish i could have been with you to share the celebration of Joe's life. Family duties dictated otherwise. My mother was there to represent me.

The first order of business is to thank Sgt. Joe for his service to our nation. He is a member of the "Greatest "Generation who answered the call to duty in World War II and put their hopes and dreams aside to defend the freedom and democracy we take for granted today. This single event changed the "Greatest Generation" forever. Many have followed his lead and we must take time to thank them for their service as well.

Grace, Joe is now the young and handsome Sgt. that you fell in love with and married many years ago and cared for until God called him home. Your obituary said that Joe saw himself as an Old West Cowboy. God needed a top hand cowboy to help run his ranch called Heaven and so God called on Joe to fill the job, He is probably riding and mending fence on the Heaven Ranch today. When you see him again, look for the cow poke with the sweat stained Stetson and the sun tanned face who sits a horse with perfection.

Grace and family, we learn from the Gospel of John, 14:1-6 that Joe has gone before us to prepare a place for us. At a time that is not for us to know, you will be reunited with Joe. We all need to live our lives as God and Joe would want as we do not know when the Stagecoach to take us home will come.

For Cowboy Joe, there is a Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Song called

" Happy Trails". the first Lyrics are: " Happy Trails to you until we meet again. Happy Trails to you keep smiling until then".

Keep smiling as you celebrate Joe's life as though he may have left

us physically, he will be with you always in your hearts and memories.

May God bless you and comfort you and your family at this time.

Ron Shibata and family

Ronald Shibata - January 31, 2014 at 01:17 PM

EB

Joe was a special "Dude" welcoming this New Jersey refugee into the MLC family! We would share stories about WW2 and ABF and Navajo Truck Lines over coffee after church.... Both Joe and Grace shared Christmas time with me back in 1980...at their home...Great memories...thank you very much!

Ed Burke

Ed Burke - March 12, 2014 at 07:01 PM

IH

“ *Although I did not know Mr. Amadeo J. Santistevan I know he had a big heart. For I've known his daughter Carol for over 26 years. Such a little person with such a big heart it must come from her parents. Our deepest condolences to the entire family, and his friends who will miss him.*

*Delbert and Irene Hays
Manchester, Tennessee*

Irene Hays - January 30, 2014 at 07:48 PM

VG

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. Thank you, G I Joe, for being a true friend to my father, Robert Olivas. God Bless you.*

Vivian Olivas Garcia



Vivian garcia - January 30, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Amadeo J. Santistevan.*



January 29, 2014 at 10:26 PM



“ *G.I. Joe you were a great friend to my dad Robert Olivas. Now both of you are driving the big trucks in heaven. My deepest condolences to the family.*

*Anthony OLivas
Phoenix, AZ.*

Anthony OLivas - January 29, 2014 at 10:41 AM



“ *Chenega Federal Systems, LLC. purchased the Classic Sympathy Basket Arrangement for the family of Amadeo J. Santistevan.*



Chenega Federal Systems, LLC. - January 29, 2014 at 09:35 AM

FO

“ *Friends of Shirley and Larry at OST purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Amadeo J. Santistevan.*



Friends of Shirley and Larry at OST - January 29, 2014 at 08:52 AM

RU

“ *Our thoughts and prayers to the Santistevan family...huge hugs.*

Thank you for sharing your Dad with us...

He was a great man who not only proudly served this great nation, but also found the value in everyone that he met. A true inspiration to all of us who have and continue to serve. He taught us not only the value of being a proud American, but being a strong family man. We will not forget...

Amadeo, you will be missed...thanks for being a great example for all of us to follow. I know God is in good hands as you, Sergeant Santistevan, is on post now. (He will probably fix a thing or two up there.)

Ruben and Adalia Gonzalez

Ruben - January 28, 2014 at 10:49 PM

MB

“ *Dear Grace and Family- We are so very sorry to learn of Amadeo's passing. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless you and comfort you. The Blaschke Families*

Monica Blaschke - January 28, 2014 at 08:48 PM

AL

“ Al and Marcia Lee purchased the Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy for the family of Amadeo J. Santistevan.



Al and Marcia Lee - January 28, 2014 at 06:37 PM

JF

“ Joann, Christianne, Giselle and the Pacheco Family purchased the Lavender & White Sympathy Basket for the family of Amadeo J. Santistevan.



Joann, Christianne, Giselle and the Pacheco Family -
January 28, 2014 at 04:36 PM

JP

“ Jeannie Pacheco lit a candle in memory of Amadeo J. Santistevan



jeannie pacheco - January 28, 2014 at 03:28 PM

ES

“ On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies we want to express to you our deepest condolences.

Eddie Sheffield - January 27, 2014 at 04:05 PM