



ARISTEO GARCIA MENDOZA

September 3, 1926 – March 21, 2020

Aristeo Garcia Mendoza of Gustine, California passed away Saturday, March 21, 2020 at home. He was 93 years old.

Mr. Mendoza was born in Santa Barbara, California. As a boy, he worked at the Biltmore Hotel selling newspapers & shoeshines at 10 cents a shine. He also sang in the Boys Choir of Santa Barbara. At the age of 14, he and his sister Mary and best friend Sylvester Juarez posed for a painting called "Conscription" by the well-known artist Edith Kaplan Phelps. The painting was displayed at the Museum of Santa Barbara which depicts a soldier bidding farewell to friends and family as he goes off to join the war effort.

During WWII at the age of 17, Mr. Mendoza joined the Navy and graduated at the top of his class as a Radio Operator. In 1944, he served on the Naval Haskell-class Attack Transport Ship USS Rawlins (APA 226) which transported supplies to troops on land in the invasion of Okinawa. He was one of the fortunate sailors who were able to scurry up a rope ladder as the ship retreated under threat of attack. Additionally, he worked as submarine repairman at the Port of Richmond.

After his service, Mr. Mendoza returned to Santa Barbara where he started a family and attended college. In 1956 the family moved to Gustine, where he worked for Ben Fish & Son, which became Dompe Warehouse in 1971. He worked first in sales and research, and later as a plant scientist. Mr. Mendoza created three plant patents for Dompe Warehouse: Bush Florida Butter, Mendoza Bush, and Dompe 95 Large Lima, which is the most popular Large Lima grown in California.

In addition, he became active in civic duties. Mr. Mendoca was a Cub Scout Pack Master, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars post, and President of the Gustine Lions Club.

Mr. Mendoza is survived by his second wife, Doris. They were married for 53 years. Combined they have 10 children, 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

In accordance with his wishes, the Mendoza family will celebrate his life with a private service at a date to be determined.

Services conducted by Hillview Funeral Chapel, Gustine.



Hillview Funeral Chapels
COMPASSIONATELY SERVING THE COMMUNITY

PATTERSON | NEWMAN | GUSTINE