



Jesse M. Flores

February 18, 1930 - May 12, 2017

Jesse Miguel Flores began his life's journey Feb. 18, 1930. He was born at home to immigrant parents, Luis and Maria Flores in El Monte, CA. His journey ended May 12, 2017 at the age of 87, after a long, hard battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Jesse attended San Gabriel Mission Elementary School and was a high school seminarian at Dominguez Seminary. He was to begin Cal State LA, majoring in English, when his parents needed him to help run the family walnut shelling business. This change in plans served as a spring board to a very successful business career.

Jesse's natural business abilities began at age of 9. He saw a need for refreshments at city athletic games in El Monte. With his little wagon, he made a deal with a local grocer to sell snacks and sodas at the games. In addition, he started his own shoeshine business and also sold newspapers. Later, as well as running the family business, he worked for Nelson's Paint and Technical Coating. It was at this time he met and married his wife, Virginia, and started his family. In 1956, he moved the family business to Visalia. He started working for Montgomery Ward in the home Improvement Dept., eventually becoming the department manager until the stores closure. He also began purchasing investment properties. At some point he closed the walnut shelling plant and became a walnut and almond buyer which he continued

until his passing. His later interest included helping to found Kaweah National Bank which later became Citizens Business Bank.

Jesse's parents, immigrated from Mexico with his older siblings. His parents always stressed to the children that it was a privilege to live in the United States and that they were not to take but to always "give back." "Give back," Jesse did through his memberships in organizations such as; Jr. Chamber of Commerce, Sequoia Lions Club, Elks Lodge, The Enrico Caruso Lodge of the Sons of Italy, and the Knights of Columbus.

His devotion to children could be seen throughout his life. An example was his "Santa Claus" ministry. Jesse was Santa for many years on the float for the Visalia Christmas Parade and also at the Visalia Oval. He also was Santa for many service organizations, schools and Montgomery Ward. Being bilingual, he was able to encourage both Spanish and English speaking children to reach any goal through a good education and hard work.

In his later years, he became very involved in the Clatritian Ministries as a way to "Give Back" to the Clatritian priests who provided his education. He has been very instrumental in contributing and enlisting support from friends and business associates for this ministry. Some of the projects accomplished through this support was the establishment of a business computer lab school in Nigeria, and provided farm equipment for the missionaries in Cameroon to teach agricultural self reliance.

Jesse was preceded in death by his parents, Luis and Maria, and his siblings, Jose, Jacinto, Raymond, Louie, Rosie, Franchesca, Jesusita, Francisco, Jesus, Mary and also grandchildren, Catherine, Julie and Jessica. He is survived by his younger sister Lupe. Jesse is also survived by his children Mary (Jeff), Patti (Chuck), Mike (Susan), Rick, Denis, Kathy (Barry), Annie (Jeff) and 16 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

In Lieu of flowers, Jesse's family is requesting donations be made to: Claritian Missionaries, 10203 Lower Azusa Road Temple City, CA 91780 (memo: Foreign Missions). Jesse's children would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all of his friends, business associates and dedicated doctors and nurses who served to enrich his life. A special thank you to the staff and residents of Casa Grande and the staff of Optimal Hospice Care, who provided an amazing transition for our father from this world to his eternal life with his Lord and Savior.

Viewing will be held on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 from 4 PM to 7 PM with a rosary prayed at 6 PM at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Mass of Christian burial will be Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 10 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 608 N. Church St. Visalia, CA. Burial will immediately follow at Visalia Public Cemetery. Condolences may be offered at www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 30. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 635-1144
info@salseranddillard.com
<https://www.salseranddillard.com>

Rosary

MAY 30. 6:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 635-1144
info@salseranddillard.com
<https://www.salseranddillard.com>

Funeral Mass

MAY 31. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church- Visalia, CA
608 N. Church Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall

RM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Rosie Castruita Marcelo - May 25, 2017 at 02:25 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Posted by Dudley



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - May 24, 2017 at 06:17 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Barry McLemore - May 21, 2017 at 02:35 AM

DS

“ To Jeff and family

Jess was my best friends for many years. Jess was one of the most honest ,honorable men I have ever known. His word and reputation was very dear to him. He was a generous, man and supported many charities. (The reason I know he was always tapping me for a contribution. His main one was the supporting of a African farming teaching group. His favorite saying "the good Lord will pay you back, In many ways for your contribution."

Jess was a very educated man. It was a pleasure to converse with him on practically any subject. His favorite expression was , "son I have done that" Him calling me son was amusing to me as I am 5 years older.

Jess attended my Birthday Parity and was the life of the party .I have some very good picture of him.(Jeff I will send them to you)

Jeff, My deepest sympathy to you and Jess family. You have lost a great man.

Dudley Steele

Dudley Steele - May 20, 2017 at 06:08 PM

LA

“ *Jess, I miss you and your bigger than life heart. You will always be part of our family. We have so many memories that we will always hold on too. Sing with the angels now Papa Jess. We love you. Laura, Eddie, Hannah, Sam and Noah* ❤️

Laura - May 19, 2017 at 06:04 PM



“ *To my Papa Jess: You are missed greatly. Thank you for showing us your love and being apart of my family. Family is community and family shows unmeasurable strength something you forever showed. You were the only grandfather I had and knew growing up and I am blessed and grateful to call you my Papa. Your love lives in all our hearts (and your singing) forever. Love Allie*

Allie Rowe - May 19, 2017 at 12:35 PM

MZ

“ ❤️



Molly Zschau - May 19, 2017 at 10:48 AM

RM

“ *7 files added to the tribute wall*



Rosie Castruita Marcelo - May 19, 2017 at 12:45 AM

JR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jeff Rachal - May 18, 2017 at 04:24 PM

BN

“ Jeff,

I just heard the news this morning from Jonathan and Carl. It is difficult to tell you how deeply I feel about Jesse's passing.

What started exactly 30 years ago as a business relationship between Jesse and me quickly became a warm friendship. He was a great person and a warm-hearted friend. It was a privilege to have known him so well, and I will never forget his thoughtfulness, grace and kindness.

With great personal sorrow, I ask to share your loss and to extend my heartfelt sympathy.

Sincerely,

Bill Najjar

TREEHOUSE CALIFORNIA ALMONDS, LLC

Bill Najjar - May 18, 2017 at 02:17 PM

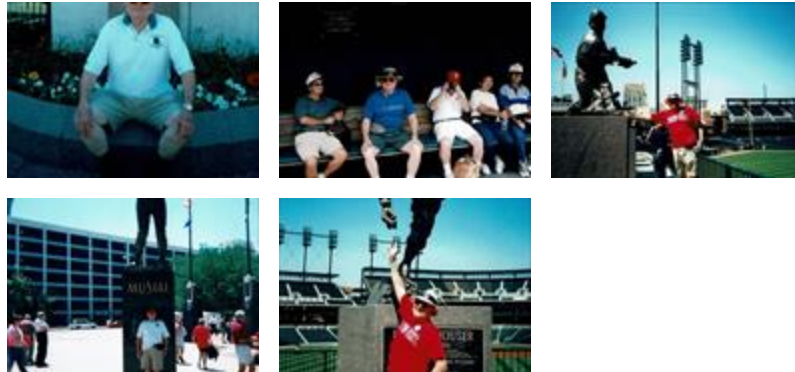


“ My heart aches as I write this. Mr Jesse Flores was the most genuine and kindest human being. My family and I are saddened to hear he has passed away. Our deepest condolences and prayers go out to his family. Jesse's family were his world and I can't imagine how sad they must be. My kids grew up calling him "uncle jesse" because he was more like family than just a friend. Whenever the sunshines i know it is Uncle Jesse smiling down on us. You will be greatly missed Uncle Jesse, we love you!!!
From Basher Nesheiwat and family

Dara Nesheiwat - May 17, 2017 at 09:29 PM



“ *Sports travel trip to East Coast- Boston, Baseball Hall of Fame, New York, Baltimore & Philadelphia. One of three trips we took together.- Mike Fistolera.*



Salser Dillard - May 17, 2017 at 05:06 PM



“ *Jesse was a vivacious spirit whose generosity and kindness helped so many. It was my pleasure to have him as a friend.*

Earl & Ginger Parks

Earl Parks - May 17, 2017 at 01:06 PM

SS

“ *My family and I were saddened by the news that my good friend had passed away. Jesse was a man of character and honesty. His absence will truly be missed by me and my family. The continued legacy of Jesse Flores Will always be left for us to celebrate and we will always keep him in our hearts*❤️

Sam, Marlene, Gina, Michele, Chet, and Shane

We love you Jesse

The Sciacca Family

sam sciacca - May 17, 2017 at 09:48 AM