



## Manuel Leon Sr

April 26, 1927 - June 21, 2017

An enriching life lived, destiny pursued and no doubt to his legacy; In the 90 years from Georgetown, TX to Toppenish, WA, and many places in between, the life of Manuel León was lived and left its mark on the many people whom he encountered. His encounters were many, first as a boy in Texas growing up in the depression in an age and place where a horse was still a major source of transportation. A fiery young man with responsibilities of taking care of parents and sisters, working cotton fields and providing wherever he could. Migrating to various states to eventually settling his parents in Toppenish. Drafted, as America was winning WWII, he served in the Army Air Corps as a member of the greatest generation. Finally coming home to Toppenish, living out his next 70 years.

He met Alvina, his wife of 50 years and together loved, raised and educated 9 children, dedicated to making their lives better in this world and for the next. The Catholic Church had no stronger servant in attending mass, donation of time and money, and bridging the cultures of St Aloysius parish.

It was always one project to the next even when slowed down by a stroke and heart issues. His relationships with friends and especially his family are well remembered and shared. When someone like Manuel León enters into your life his character is not easily forgotten. In the circle of life that he belonged in, he made a great difference in the lives that he touched. Without a doubt he

was just a lover of life and he never saw a reason to hold that in. Over all the years, it just seemed that there was always a constant stream of visitors at the house or he would run into old friends around town or make new ones with his outgoing charm. Along with Alvina, It was their gift to be welcoming to others.

His seasonal trucking business sustained the family for many years hauling peas, potatoes, corn, lima beans, hay, sugar beets and watermelon. It also kept his older boys busy teaching them skills they still carry today.

His later years brought him to pursue educational opportunities in the beginnings of Headstart Program and to be part of the group which shaped the Migrant Clinic, Valley Migrant Council and Northwest Rural Opportunities. He learned to play golf hitting it short but straight. When he could no longer play he took up drinking Pepsi at every meal which was very often.

Into his retirement years he converted an old meat locker building turning it into a restaurant, El Rincon, with his oldest son, which successfully operated for almost 30 years.

Manuel's family is large, Sons, Manuel (Emma), Carlos (Peggy), Jose (Mary), Patricio, Eduardo (Jill), Esteban; Daughters, Monica and Marta. Preceded in death Jose and Virginia Leon, Alvina Leon and Rodolfo Leon. Lots of grandkids and also one and half great-grandkids. Special thank you to Monica for your skill and love in dads last days.

A special thanks for Frs. Bill and John Shaw for friendship and ministering to him with the gospel and sacraments.

We his family are saddened with his passing and missing his love, but we gather to celebrate a man who transformed this world; as a son, father, grandfather, great grandfather, a friend. Our dad created a world that we were

all happy to be a part of and his reward for this lifetime will be in heaven. A role model to many, a true compadre and man of faith.

Visitation will be at 5PM Sunday June 25, 2017 at St. Aloysius Catholic Church with recitation of the rosary at 6PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday at the church at 10AM with interment with military honors following at the Zillah City Cemetery. Friends can send condolences at [www.toppenishfunerals.com](http://www.toppenishfunerals.com). Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## City of Zillah

(509) 829-5151

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **25**. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

St. Aloysius Catholic Church  
213 N. Beech Street  
Toppenish,, WA

## Rosary

JUN **25**. 6:00 PM (PT)

St. Aloysius Catholic Church  
213 N. Beech Street  
Toppenish,, WA

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **26**. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Aloysius Catholic Church  
213 N. Beech Street  
Toppenish,, WA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Manuel Leon Sr*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Dearest Leon family, we are so sorry for the loss of Manuel. My parents were very fond of the friendship carved out with the family as we migrated to this valley. Manuel was a padrino of confirmation to my dad. As a family we offer our sincerest condolences to the family.*

*Balderas Family*

**Bert Balderas** - June 25, 2017 at 08:54 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Manuel Leon Sr.*



June 23, 2017 at 08:17 PM



“ *Idajo Pinkham And Family lit a candle in memory of Manuel Leon Sr*



**idajo pinkham and family** - June 23, 2017 at 03:25 PM

RJ

“ I was so sad to read of my Godfather passing & so thankful to visit w/him last September at Mom's BD party. It was such a treat to see him & catch up on how he is doing. The Leon Family has always been close to my heart as we all grew up and learned from our parents the values in hard work, the importance of education but especially having our Faith. I will have you in my Prayers as we all mourn the loss of our Loved One.

Rita Jones - June 23, 2017 at 01:23 PM

NA

“ Dearest Leon family, Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with each and everyone of you. We know our beloved mother, Sarah - his sister, was waiting for him with open arms. She loved her little brother with all her heart. We were all very blessed to have these two in our lives. We know they will be watching over our families as well as their baby sister, Lupe. I thank our Uncle Manuel for helping to guide my grandparents, Eulalio and Juana Flores and my mother, Chavela to our beautiful valley from Texas back in the 1940's, when my mom was 8 years old. Uncle Manuel helped celebrate my mom's 80th birthday this past April. We will forever keep his memory in our hearts. We are here for you family. All our Love, Ernie and Norma, Ej, Elizabeth, and Brian.

Norma A.Ramos - June 22, 2017 at 06:58 PM

DS

“ Our thoughts & prayers are with you during this difficult time.  
David Amaro Sr & Family



David Amaro Sr - June 21, 2017 at 08:33 PM