

Augustin "Tex" Villarreal, passed peacefully on to the presence of his Saviour Jesus Christ on November 3, 2009, with his loving wife by his side. He was 90 years old. Born on November 2, 1919 in Guerrero Viejo, Tamaulipas, Mexico to Arnulfo and Manuela Trevino Villarreal, he was the sixth of eight children. The family moved to Texas in 1928 where they settled in Corpus Christi. Villarreal entered military service on Nov. 16, 1942 during WW II and was stationed with the U.S. Army at Camp Callan, California as part of Battery C, 56th Anti- Aircraft Artillery Battalion. He was later injured during maneuvers, where he sustained a serious back injury which led to an honorable discharge. Being told he would never walk again, he completed his recovery and moved back to Corpus Christi. It was during this time in California that his sergeant gave him the nickname "Tex", as he was one of only two Texans in his battalion. In 1944, the U.S. Public Health Service (later renamed CDC) was concerned that a health epidemic caused by disease-carrying mosquitoes would affect the health of military personnel stationed at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi. They funded a program called Fighting Malaria in War Areas, and needed someone to initiate, implement and execute a mosquito eradication program in Corpus Christi. Villarreal volunteered to start the program and in the span of just a couple of decades, vaulted the City of Corpus Christi to national prominence in 1966 with the development of underground mosquito fogging. This procedure did much to help eradicate the mosquito responsible for the St. Louis Encephalitis outbreak, which had already accounted for a hundred cases. As word spread across the continent and the world about the ground-breaking pioneering work and success, Villarreal was contacted by the Center of Disease Control (then called the Communicable Disease Center) and the World Health Organization for advice and direction on developing similar programs in their respective communities, cities and countries. He served on the Board of Directors of the Texas Mosquito Control Association and was a member of the Texas Public Health Association, American Mosquito Control Association and a mosquito control associations in California, Florida, New Jersey and Louisiana. Tex was a loyal and dedicated employee of the City of Corpus Christi for 41 years, serving as the City-County Health Department's Vector Control Supervisor at the time of his retirement on May 31, 1985. An invitation from the government of the Philippines to come to their country and start a mosquito eradication program was declined because he wanted to spend time fishing and being with his grandchildren. The health and livelihoods of generations of Coastal Bend residents have been directly impacted by the passionate, unyielding devotion to his work that underscored his commitment to provide a better quality of life for Corpus Christi.



A long time member of St. Theresa Catholic Church, Tex was a loving husband, father, uncle and grandfather. He is preceded in death by his son, Michael Alan Villarreal in 1981. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Lupe Ortiz Villarreal, his two daughters, Maxine (Dean) Mays and Priscilla Villarreal-Lamb of Corpus Christi, two sons, Mark (Cathy) Villarreal and Patrick (Jackie) Villarreal of Corpus Christi, his grandchildren Gabriella (Andrew ) Cone of Pearland, Maritza Lozev and Sarah Mays of College Station, Elizabeth (Daniel) White of Houston, Antonio (Stephanie) Contreras of Corpus Christi, Jason (April) Kisiah, Jonathan and Jeremy Villarreal of Corpus Christi, Brittany and Bryan Villarreal of San Antonio, Brianna, Brandon, Bradley, Brent, Brooke and Bridget Villarreal of Corpus Christi.

Visitation will be from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6, 2009 at Maxwell P. Dunne Funeral Home with a Rosary at 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at St. Theresa Catholic Church, 1302 Lantana, with Msgrs. Mark Chamberlin, Michael Howell and Roger Smith officiating. Interment will follow at Seaside Memorial Park with full Military Honors. Pallbearers will be Andrew Cone, Antonio Contreras, Bryan Villarreal, Jeremy Villarreal, Jonathan Villarreal and Daniel K. White.

The family of Tex Villarreal gratefully thanks the doctors and their staff who helped us care for Dad during his long illness. To Dr. Randy Fuentes, Dr. Jorge Mendizabal, Dr. Ray Graf, Dr. John Gouin and Dr. Estella Silva, may God bless you for the respect and kindness shown to him. Thanks also to Tony, Albert, Ralph and Carolyn at Orion Health Care. Also Sofia Chavarria and Nora Garza, angels sent to us by God, thank you for the unbounded love and care you showed Dad. To our Mom, who never left Dad's side, and battled his illness alongside him, thank you for showing us what unending love is.

Dad was a quiet example of hard work, kindness and loyalty to family. His lesson will never be forgotten. "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little. I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master." (Matthew 25:14)