

Frank Leal

Railroad/highway department/ construction work/Kaiser Steel

Frank Leal, beloved, admired and respected daddy, Grandpo, Great-Grandpo and Great-Great Grandpo. Born in coal mining town of Dawson to Merenciana Sanchez Leal and Pantaleone Leal, he was the 12th of 12 children.

Preceded in death by his precious, loving, kind-hearted mother, father (whom he never knew) and all 11 siblings. Because of the early deaths of his first six siblings, he grew up with and knowing only his brothers Vicente, Ramon, Jacobo, and sisters Victoria Trujillo and Lucy Rubidoux.

He was also preceded in death by his beloved wife of 61 years, Tina (2001); his beloved youngest son, Frank, Jr. (1986); and his beloved youngest daughter, Sarah (2001): beloved brother-in-law, Elias Tapia and beloved niece, Annie Williams Cordova.

Survived by son Eliseo T. Leal, daughters Patsy Leal and Vicky Noha and Wayne Noha (whom he loved as a son), numerous beloved and loving grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, brother-in-law Zeke, sisters-in-law Mary Tapia, Dolores (Elias) Tapia, and numerous loved and loving relatives and friends.

At age 18 (approx. 1931), he worked in the CCCs (Civilian Conservation Corp) building the road to Los Alamos (this was before anyone knew why Los Alamos was being built; it eventually becoming the birthplace of the atomic bomb and was a “closed-restricted area”) and the building of a rock (no cement) road at Bandelier National Park.

From 1946 until February 1950, he served on the Raton City Council. His objectives were to get the “east side” recognized as an equal opportunity part of Raton. His proudest achievement during his tenure was, because of a petition by the taxpayers asking that a park be built on the east side, he was a part of the approval fruition process, and due to his motion, having it named after Judge Amadeo Romero, who was a hard-working family man, active in local politics, a Justice of the Peace of Precinct 20 (east side) and a police judge. To this day, the park is there for the enjoyment of the people of Raton.

A few of his many jobs during his lifetime were: Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe RR; N.M. State Highway Dept.: N.M. Port of Entry: road construction (I-25 & Clayton Highway); commercial construction: residential construction and, at 63 years of age, until retiring at the age of 73, working for Kaiser Steel Corp. He was a proud member of UMWA District 22. He said the hardest thing he ever had to do was finally, at age 95, he had to let his family caretakers do things for him.

Although he acknowledged he was not a perfect man, his legacy to us who love, admire and revere his memory will be remembering him as physically hard-working, a loving parent (along with our mother), loyal, a very loving and proud Grandpo; and last, but no least, grateful to God

for his bountiful, blessed life.

He said, “Life is not perfect — even the most beautiful rose has its thorns.”

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, at 11 a.m. at the Yaksich-Long Funeral home Chapel with Pastor Juanita Wiseman officiating. Inurnment will follow in the Presbyterian cemetery in Raton. To contact Vicky Noha at www.vmoha1977@g-mail.com.

Arrangements and celebration of love for Frank Leal are under the direction of the Yaksich-Long Funeral Home of Raton.

Source: Raton Range, Raton, NM, February 24, 2012