



larger view



Albert Munguia, 86, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at Mercy Hospital in Bakersfield on Thursday evening, Oct. 28. Albert was born on April 26, 1924, in Columbus, N.M., to Eduardo and Eligia Munguia. When he was a young boy, he enjoyed riding horses and working on the cattle ranches. As a teenager, he worked in the zinc mines to help support his family. During World War II, he received a deferment to work in the mines that provided minerals for the war effort. Eventually he was drafted into the Army, where he served honorably in the Battle of Luzon. He received the

Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal and Army Occupation Medal. While in the military service, his family moved from New Mexico to Tehachapi to be closer to a V.A. hospital for his father, who was a WWI veteran. After he was discharged he settled in Tehachapi, where he remained for the rest of his life. He was employed by the Monolith Portland Cement Company for 40 years as a First Class Repairman. After retirement, he helped with the construction of McMullan Hall at St. Malachy's Church. He enjoyed his daily walks and scooter rides through town, family gatherings and meals, and special events and trips for his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife Nina of 62 years; daughters Debbie Knowles (Dan) of Tehachapi, Diane Cornejo (Henry) of Bakersfield and son Mark Munguia (Michele) of Sacramento; five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister, Josephine Vasquez of Oxnard, and brother, Fred Munguia of Marietta, Ga. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Edward Munguia and sister Molly Escoto.

Although he loved Tehachapi, his heart will forever live in New Mexico, "The Land of Enchantment."

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith," 2 Timothy 4:7.