

Josefa L. Sambrano Biography

In recognition of her contributions to her community, the San Elizario Independent School District Board of Trustees named its new campus in the early nineties Josefa Loya Sambrano Elementary School. Mrs. Sambrano was held in high esteem for her involvement in local church activities including the choir, altar society, fiesta committees and the church council. Throughout her adult life she taught catechism to many of the children in the community. Affectionately called "Chepa" by some and "Senora Sambrano" by others, Josefa Loya Sambrano, daughter of local farmer Blas Loya and wife Soledad, was blessed with sisters, Isabel, Delfina, Maria, Francisca, Virginia and brother Chayo. To support the family Mrs. Sambrano worked at Ralph Gonzales's Grocery Store. All her children also worked there while attending elementary and high school. She later became Post Mistress of the United States Post Office in San Elizario where she retired in her mid-seventies. Mrs. Sambrano was left a widow in her mid-thirties by her beloved husband Francisco, a self-made, hardworking entrepreneur in the trucking business who served on the school board that oversaw the construction of what is now most appropriately named Lorenzo G. Alarcon Elementary School. She was best known and admired by her community for her work ethic, commitment to educational excellence, family values, and for her strong faith in almighty God. The accomplishments of her sons and daughters are a reflection of Mrs. Sambrano's legacy. Prior to pursuing a college education all five sons served in either the United States Army, Navy, or the Air Force in Germany or Korea. Her eldest son Raymundo "Mundo" became Chief Instrumentation Engineer for the Northrop Helicopter Division in Culver City, California; Humberto "Beto" earned his degree in Civil Engineering and after an illustrious career in the construction industry became Owner and Chief Executive Officer of SamCorp, one of the largest and most prominent general construction companies in El Paso; Lorenzo "Loren" a financial analyst at a young age, became Comptroller of the Ft. Bliss Military Base; Samuel Armando "Mando" worked in many capacities with the United States Postal Service climbing up the ladder and finally retiring as Manager of the Ranchland Station; and, Ricardo "Dick", who early on taught school and coached sports at San Elizario before becoming High School Principal in Anthony, Texas, became Chief Mediator for the United States Department of Justice's Southwest Region. Soledad who also taught school in San Elizario two years, went on to get her Master's Degree from Harvard University and Doctorate from the University of Maryland. She later became an accomplished Research Scientist and Administrator at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. At the time of this writing, October 15, 2000, Mrs. Sambrano's family included seventeen grandchildren in their thirties, two of them with degrees in Civil Engineering (one becoming owner of a major housing and business development corporation), three with Business Administration degrees who escalated to top management positions in private industry, three teaching in elementary schools, an Assistant Attorney General, an Air Traffic Controller, a Pilot/Flight Operations Manager for a major commercial airline, a Petroleum Marketing and Equipment Specialist, a Human Resources Specialist, two Controllers in the accounting field, a Credit Union Official, an Auto Body and Paint Specialist, and two still in college. There were also twenty six great grandchildren and one great, great grandson. Mrs. Sambrano's humanitarian attributes are exemplified by her often outspoken refrains such as "If you cannot find good things to say about people, then do not say anything about them," and "He who sins the most, shall be forgiven the most, as long as he repents."