

DEATHS Funerals

Michel O'Haco

Michel "Mike" Joseph O'Haco, 81, died June 3, 2001, while working on his family ranch in Winslow.

A successful Winslow cattle rancher and farmer, Mr. O'Haco was born on March 1, 1920, in Phoenix. His parents were sheep farmers and natives of the Basque Pyrenees, the rugged country nestled between France and Spain.

He was a veteran of World War II and suffered four combat wounds serving in the invasions of Italy, southern France and in Nazi Germany. His recovery in Army hospitals took two years and he met his future wife Teresa at a California hospital. Nurse and patient were married in Carmel in 1946 and eventually became parents to eight children.

After the war, Mr. O'Haco moved back to Arizona and took over the family ranch, raising Hereford cattle on the O'Haco's 60,000-acre Chevelon Butte Ranch.

O'Haco was a civic leader in the Winslow area, serving as chairman of the Navajo County Fair Commission, director of the Northern Arizona Cattle Growers Association, and as a member of the Winslow City Planning and Zoning Commission and the Navajo County Planning and Zoning Commission.

He received the University

of Arizona Department of Agriculture Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993, and was elected Hereford Man of the Year by the Hereford Association in 1995 and Cattleman of the Year in 1997 by the Arizona Cattlemen's Association.

He is survived by his wife, Teresa O'Haco; daughters Kathleen O'Haco, Karen O'Haco, Tess O'Haco Densmore and husband, Cody, and Kim O'Haco McReynolds and husband, Troy; sons, Michael O'Haco Jr. and wife Linda, Jim O'Haco and wife Jeanne, Dan O'Haco and Jeff O'Haco and wife, Jay; sisters, Vi Anderson and Dolly Pafford; nine grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

He is preceded in death by his father and mother, Michel Joseph and Luisa O'Haco; sister, Lillian McNally.

Holy rosary for Mr. O'Haco will be recited at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 6, 2001, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 220 W. 2nd. St., Winslow. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 7, 2001, at St. Joseph's, with Father Jakov Juric as celebrant. Mourners will break bread together in celebration of his life following the graveside service on top of Chevelon Butte.

In lieu of flowers, send donations to: Arizona Cattle Growers Assoc., 1401 N. 24th. St., Suite #4, Phoenix, AZ 85008.

Arrangements are under the direction of Greer's Scott Mortuary of Winslow.