

JOSEPH EMILE LABARRERE, 96



Born December 22, 1920 in Whittier, CA and passed away October 7, 2017 in Claremont CA. He was a great, great grandson of Don Ricardo Vejar who jointly owned the Rancho San Jose Mexican land grant which became Pomona, Walnut, Claremont, La Verne and San Dimas. Joe was raised in Pomona and attended St. Joseph and Pomona High Schools. In 1942 Florence Gorman agreed to complete his happiness in a marriage that was to last 75 wonderful and love-filled years. In WW II Joe was a sergeant in the Army Air Force. He later attended Pomona College, graduating in 1948 with a degree in economics. Settling in Pomona, Flo and Joe had three sons, Joe, Paul, and Mark. Joe gained employment with Southern California Edison, ultimately becoming an Area Manager for East Los Angeles. Believing in a strong commitment to the people served, Joe was active in the Belvedere while also an officer in the Belvedere Business and Professional Association, Whittier Boulevard Merchants Association, Montebello Chamber of Commerce, and the Commerce Industrial Council. He was also a board and associate member for 12 years of the East Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club. Later he was a board member of the Greater Pomona Valley Housing Development Corporation. Following retirement after 34 years, Joe served as a consultant for SCE for a number of years.

A devout Catholic, Joe was a Life member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 877, joining in 1948, serving as Financial Secretary for nearly 25 years and ultimately a member of the 4th Degree and Color Guard.

Mr. Labarrere was predeceased by his parents Emile and Hortence Labarrere. He is survived by his sons, Joe, Paul (Carol), Mark, grandchildren, Andrew, Brent, Sean, Paige and great grand-daughter Stella.

A devoted husband, Joe would say his wife came first and his children a close second. Always close to his sons, he was always ready to support and assist them in any way possible. He was an outstanding Catholic gentleman, husband, father, and community member. He was helped always by his faith in his Creator and his pleasant, caring, and loveable personality. Wherever he went he gained the trust, confidence, and affection of those he met. Joe was truly a good man, known for helping others in a myriad of ways. For so many things, great and small, he will be missed.

A Rosary will be said at 6:00 P.M., Visitation 5-7 P.M. on Monday, October 16 at Todd Memorial Chapel, Claremont. Mass and memorial service will be held at 10:30A.M. on Tuesday, October 17, at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Claremont, CA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a charity in Joe's name. Interment will be private.