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**Warren Dean "Manolete" Monninger****WARREN DEAN "MANOLETE" MONNINGER****Aug. 17, 1922- May 4, 2006**

Warren Dean "Manolete" Monninger, 83, of Calexico, passed away quietly in his home Thursday morning, May 4, of cancer.

Warren was born August 17, 1922 in Elmo, Dickinson Co. KS a small town founded by his great-grandfather, Leander Monninger. He was the son of Carl and Stella Pearl (Nelson) Monninger.

The family moved to California in 1923 to the Los Angeles area. He attended school in Baldwin Park. In 1934 at the age of 12 he won an award for the highest batting average of .566.

In high school he knew and played ball with baseball greats Jackie Robinson and Ted Williams.

In 1948 he was signed to play as the # 1 Pitcher with the Mexicali Aguilas by Tufie Hashem and Charlie Moreno. Being red headed he looked like one of Mexico's famous bullfighters by the name of "Manolete" and the fan's of the "Aguilas" began to call him by the same name, "Manolete Monninger".

In July 1949 he met Mary King and four months later they were married on November 19, 1949. He went to work for Safeway Store that same year and retired after 32 years.

Warren coached Little League and Babe Ruth during the 1950's. He also enjoyed bowling and golfing. The last year of his life he loved to play poker with his friends and family.

Visitation will be Tuesday, May 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Hems Brothers Mortuary in Calexico. Rosary will be at 7 p.m.

Mass will be officiated by Father Roque Vano Khing held Wednesday, May 10, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Calexico, commencing at 8 a.m. Burial will follow at Mt. View Cemetery in Calexico.

Warren was preceded in death by his sister, Florance Pitt and brother, James Monninger.

Warren is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary and their children and spouses, Richard and Mary Margaret Weddle, John and Doris Soto, Carl and Anna (Triviso) Monninger; grandchildren, Edward (Bud), Steven, Jarrod, Nicholas Monninger all of Calexico and step-grandson and spouse, Rob and Angela Weddle and great grandsons, Anthony, Jonathan and Daniel Weddle all of Champaign, IL; one sister, Velma Bunch of Rogue River, OR and several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all their friends for their prayers during his illness. Special Thanks to Dr. Kelada, Dr. Affue and Dr. North and all the staff of El Centro Medical Regional Center. We are indebted to his nurse Adriana Garcia and caregiver Maria Canez of Genteva. God Bless you all.

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