



Rudy V. Escobar

November 30, 1927 - December 8, 2015

Decatur-Rudy V. Escobar, 88, of Decatur, passed away Tuesday, December 8, 2015 in St. Mary's Hospital.

Rudy was born November 30, 1927 in Ben Bolt, Texas, the son of Porfirio and Christina (Munos) Escobar. He was a China Marine combat veteran of WWII. He retired from Firestone after twenty-eight years of service. Rudy's passion in life was serving his fellow comrades and veterans. Rudy, along with Jim Parker, co-founded the Macon County Honor Guard in 1995 to perform military honors for veterans throughout central Illinois. Rudy commanded the Honor Guard from 1994 until his passing. He had a way of making each person he met feel like a lifelong friend. Fueled by his passion and personal touch, he helped mold the Honor Guard into a preeminent funeral honors program. Over his twenty-five years of dedicated service, he received numerous awards and recognition for his devotion and leadership including, then Senator Barack Obama, the Illinois Governor, Speaker of the House, and Legislature, as well as national recognition from a multitude of veteran's organizations.

Rudy volunteered countless hours transporting veterans to and from the VA Medical Center in Danville. He was a member of the American Legion Castle Williams Post 105, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 99, Disabled American Veterans Post 17, the Marine Corps League, and the China Marine Association. He was a former member of the Moose Lodge and a Big Brother. He was a talented athlete and played Minor League baseball from 1952 to 1957. Rudy's love of sports endured through his life. He coached men's baseball and enjoyed golfing and bowling. Rudy was previously married to Dora Osborne. He later married Elsie (Bowen) Hopkins and they shared over twenty-six years together.

Rudy leaves behind his wife Elsie of Decatur, children Rudy Escobar Jr. (Claudia) of Corpus Christi, Texas, Rory Escobar (Laura) of Corpus Christi, Texas, Robbie Escobar (Sandra) of Dallas, Texas, Christina (Escobar) Leigh (Richard) of Decatur, Carmen (Escobar) Pirtle (Brian) of Beaufort, South Carolina, and Corina (Escobar) Cravens (James) of Bethany, step-children Susan Paradee (Jerry) of Moweaqua, Patricia Woley of

McLeansboro, and Richard Hopkins (Lauren) of Warrenton, Missouri, brothers Art Escobar of Houston, Texas and Sam "Mando" Escobar of San Antonio, Texas, sisters Mary Martinez, Celia Charles, and Emilia Gonzalez all of Corpus Christi, Texas, 21 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

Rudy was preceded in death by his parents, brother Raul Escobar, son David Escobar, and granddaughter Celia A. Wilson.

Funeral Liturgy to celebrate Rudy's life will be 10 AM Monday, December 14, 2015 at Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home with Very Rev. Joseph Molloy V.F. Visitation will be from 2-4 PM Sunday, December 13, 2015 at the funeral home. Burial with military honors conducted by the Macon County Honor Guard will be at Macon County Memorial Park with the "Flight Home Ceremony" to conclude the service. Memorials may be directed to the Macon County Honor Guard.

The family of Rudy V. Escobar is being served by the Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Ave. Decatur, IL. Please view the online obituary, send condolences, and share memories at www.gracelandfairlawn.com.

Video Tribute for Rudy V. Escobar:

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/NG8JCZB6WPLYXX3Z>

Cemetery

Macon County Memorial Park
5700 W. Main
Decatur, IL, 62522

Events

DEC 13	Visitation	02:00PM - 04:00PM
	Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home 2091 N. Oakland Ave., Decatur, IL, US, 62526	
DEC 14	Funeral Liturgy	10:00AM
	Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home 2091 N. Oakland Ave., Decatur, IL, US, 62526	

Comments



“ Sorry for your loss, I knew Rudy through John Vaughn.
Semper Fi

Gary Guymon - December 15 at 11:38 AM



“ My name is Walt Burnett and I am in charge of the contract staff for the National Guard Military Funerals Honors program. Not all that long ago I was out in Illinois conducting a site visit on my coordinator, Mr. Monty Hodge, and I had the opportunity to view a mission. At that mission I met Mr. Escobar and the rest of the Macon County Honor Guard.

What an amazing man! What an amazing team. His dedication to the veterans was amazing and the passion I heard in his voice was inspiring. I am saddened to hear of his passing and wish that I would have been able to say all this in person to his amazing team. I hope that his team finds the ability to carry on the time honored tradition to the same amazing standard that Rudy envisioned and achieved.

God's Blessings on anyone that is reading this.

Walt Burnett
Assistant Program Manager
Military Funeral Honors (ARNG)
717-209-2225

Walt Burnett - December 15 at 06:51 AM



“ Such a kind and loving man. He was beyond compassionate to our family when my Dad passed away. RIP Rudy.

Traci (Beavers) Groves - December 13 at 10:32 PM



“ I have been around Rudy forever and he lit up the room when he came in, Had a wonderful personality, funny and had so much care for mankind, Loved him dearly, He will be missed ALOT RIP RUDY Prayers to all the family!! SHEILA (AKA TO HIM LALA)



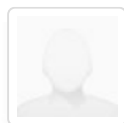
SHEILA RODMAKER - December 13 at 01:15 PM



“ Renee Stuck lit a candle in memory of Rudy V. Escobar



Renee Stuck - December 13 at 01:43 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working along side Rudy at many different functions over the years and he always had a smile and a kind word for everyone. The Veterans of Macon County truly lost a special man with the passing of Rudy and my heart goes out to his friends and family.

Renee Stuck - December 13 at 01:46 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rudy V. Escobar.



December 12 at 04:09 PM



“ Elsie: my thoughts and prayers are with you. Everyone in our family really loved Rudy. He was always smiling, friendly, helpful and just plain sweet and nice to be around. You two had many good years together and a lot of wonderful memories to fall back on. He and Dick can enjoy each other's company until we are all together again with the rest of our family that has gone on before us. Love to you all Marge Justice



“ 99 files added to the album Memories Album



Graceland Fairlawn - December 12 at 09:51 AM



“ My condolences to his family and friends of which he had many - including me. . I had the pleasure of knowing Rudy through Firestone. I never passed the guy without him having a smile on his face, and kind words. I really like Rudy and his thoughtfulness of helping so many people. I had the honor of watching him perform his duty with great pride of giving military rights to other soldiers that had served. He will be truly missed.
Carla Schum

Carla Schum - December 11 at 12:00 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Rudy V. Escobar.



December 11 at 11:47 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Rudy at a few polls. One time we were discussing our military experiences. He said he had received an award for bravery (I can't remember which one). But he did not think he deserved it. He said all he did was drive a truck in front of a few soldiers who were receiving fire.

I am certain those soldiers were glad he had the courage and knowledge to do that. I disagreed with him and told him I thought what he did was worthy of recognition.

He was a good and honorable man. We could use more of his kind.



“ Jo Anne O'Dell sent a gift in memory of Rudy V. Escobar



Jo Anne O'Dell - December 10 at 01:26 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rudy V. Escobar.



December 10 at 09:58 AM



“ I was the director at Camp Butler National Cemetery 2005 - 2006. Rudy was a consummate professional and provided military honors for many of our Veterans and was at my father's committal service in 2008 in spite of terrible winter weather on the day of his service. We lost a great patriot and a very gracious gentleman with Rudy's passing.

Bill Rhoades - December 09 at 09:29 PM



“ To the family and friends of Rudy I offer my heartfelt condolences. Rudy was a friend to all of us and I had so many great conversations with him. We lost a hero and he will never be forgotten!

Sheriff Thomas Schneider - December 09 at 08:10 PM



“ My husband and I both had the pleasure of working with Rudy for 26 years at Firestone. Always a great man and good friend. Rudy has provided many military honors including my father's funeral for us and always made us so proud. He will be greatly missed but always in our hearts.

Bonnie & Jerry Huddleston - December 11 at 12:37 PM



“ The Veterans of Macon County and the United States Marine Corps, lost one of our Great Patriot Advocates. Rudy, Commander of the Macon County Honor Guard has gone off duty. He blessed us all here in Macon County with his years of service to our Veterans. He created a great legacy and path for all of us to follow.

You will be missed.

Veteran's Assistance Commission of Macon County, Inc

God Speed and Semper Fi...
VSO Greg Collins

Fair Winds and Following Seas to you Rudy
Superintendent Kathie Powless

Kathie Powless - December 09 at 10:23 AM



“ Thank you Kathy for those kind words dad was everyone's hero he loved serving his fellow comrades god bless u from cristina escobar leigh (daughter)

Christina Leigh (DAUGHTER) - December 09 at 09:02 PM



“ That wonderful smile ...incredible enthusiasm for everything he did..never missing a hello wave as when as he came and went... and that magical humanitarian spirit that he shared with our Great Veterans and others near and far. I was "Honored" to have Rudy as a neighbor for more years than I can remember. To Rudy's wonderful wife and the family...God Bless you all! You are in my thoughts and prayers...And know that he will live on in the hearts he touched...the families of the hearts he touched... and he left this world a much better place with his enduring resolve to serve and that amazing heart of a humanitarian!

Jo Anne ODell

Jo Anne ODell - December 10 at 01:20 PM



“ Christina, so sorry to see about your father's passing. May God be with your family at this time.

Linda Mahon

Linda Mahon - December 10 at 07:14 PM



“ What a wonderful man, he loved whatever he was doing with a great big smile. He worked at the polls were I worked for many years and I loved talking with him and loved his devotion to his country and fellow comrades. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, he took pride in being there for so many others, now it's our time to salute him. God Bless You.

T. Jones

Tonia - December 11 at 08:27 AM