

# Rudy A. Castro

November 15, 1929 - May 23, 2017

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Rudy was born and raised in Barrio Anita in Tucson and attended Davis Elementary, Roskrige Jr. High and Tucson High School, class of '49. He was preceded in death by parents Eduardo and Alicia Castro, his first wife, Guillermina Salgado and infant son who died at childbirth. He is survived by his wife, Carol; daughter, Linda (Tom) Spencer and son Rudy from his first marriage; daughters Julie, Celina; sister Alice Rice; brother, Rick (Helen) Acedo and half-brother Albert; three grandchildren KC McCall (FL) and Holly and Thomas Bolen; four great-grandchildren, Ava & Ella McCall, Lincoln & Aurora Jeudevine (FL); several loving family including nieces and nephews.

Rudy began playing baseball in his backyard at Oury Park, playing with guys 4-5 years older, with the Oury Park Tigers and as a 7th/8th grader, playing baseball with the varsity Tucson High team. He helped Tucson High School, win championships in both baseball and basketball and served as Student Body Vice-President of his graduating class of '49.

After high school, Rudy's plan was to help his family by getting a job with the city to help out financially. The baseball coach from Palo Verde Jr. College was in town and offered him a baseball scholarship which Rudy graciously said, "No thank you." Next move for the coach was to speak to his mom and explain the opportunity he would have to play and continue his education for free. She promptly packed a bag for him and asked the coach, "What time and where to do you need him to be?" After two years of junior college ball, he joined the Marines during Korea with many of his buddies that made up the



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Occupation: Educator

famous group called "E" Company for four years. Again, the baseball gods were with him as Camp Pendleton had an "Open" call for anyone wanting to try out for the baseball team...100 plus showed up that day, and Rudy along with his buddy from Tucson, Eddie Aros, won two of the 20 spots and stayed stateside, representing the west coast as they traveled and played other military bases and colleges including the University of Arizona where he caught the eye of Frank Sancet, who later offered him an opportunity to play.

By this time, Rudy was married and had a child as he attended the University of Arizona where he continued to play baseball and basketball but not without almost leaving the team to get a job to support his family. It was either a scholarship or he would have to put his education on hold...Frank Sancet found the money and Rudy stayed and received his BS in Education He went on to teach at Safford Jr. high, followed by Roskrige and finally received the head coaching baseball job at the newly built Cholla HS.

While still teaching he went on to complete a Dual Master's Degree in Secondary Education Administration and was named Director of Extended Day School or sometimes called, Night School on the Tucson HS campus where he continued to encourage students to keep working to get their diploma. Many former students and athletes tell stories of how he continued to help them into their adult lives with personal struggles or writing letters or calling to recommend them for jobs.

In the summer Rudy worked and coached baseball at Randolph Park, American Legion, even taking a team, with future Cleveland Indian infielder, Eddie Leon and catcher Rich Alday, all the way to Pennsylvania for the World Series. He was also an umpire and referee of high school basketball and baseball and a member of Southern Arizona Referees Coaches and Officials Association.

In retirement, he played baseball well into his 70's making the Senior League Baseball Hall of Fame and the Southern Pima County Sports Hall of Fame. He also loved riding his Gold Wing motorcycle for a few years, riding it cross-country with Carol all the way to Asheville, NC to visit his daughter and son-in-law and then onto Orlando to stay with Steve Carrillo and Mariachi Cobre at Epcot! After selling his Gold Wing, he rode something a little safer, a bicycle. He was known as the mayor of Randolph Park bike path after religiously riding his 4 laps every day. He kept Beverly Drive alive with his radio station blaring his favorite Mexican music and him whistling along with the music as he puttered in his front yard. And then resting under the shade of two big mesquite trees with whoever had time to sit or at least a loud whistle, a big wave or "ese guy" to any friend or stranger that drove by slowly. We will miss his big smile and big heart.

Services will be officiated by Father Bill on Tuesday, June 6th. Viewing and rosary will be held at Carrillo's Tucson Mortuary from 8-9:30, immediately followed by mass at St Augustine Cathedral with interment at Holy Hope Mausoleum. A reception will be held at the Elk's Lodge on Oracle St, open to all who knew and loved Rudy. In honoring Rudy's request, please wear any U of A, Tucson High or Cholla colors, t-shirts included.

A special thank you to the staff on the Cascade Memory Unit and the TMC Hospice team. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer Foundation. "My Father's House has many rooms." John 14:2

Rudy A. Castro Farewell

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkNOcQg\\_Xjo&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkNOcQg_Xjo&feature=em-share_video_user)