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**Thomas "Tommie" Encinas(1923 - 2016)****Thomas "Tommie" Encinas**

Thomas "Tommie" Encinas went peacefully to the Heavenly Baseball Diamond on February 18 at his home with his family at his side. He was born on April 26, 1923 in Willowbrook, CA and was a lifetime resident of Pomona.

He was drafted into the Army/Air Force during [World War II](#) and was assigned overseas duty in Okinawa and served as a Medical Corpsman and promoted to a Medical Noncommissioned Officer with the medical detachment of the 1885th Engineer Aviation Battalion in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations.

Baseball was Tommie's passion. He first played baseball at Fremont Junior High School and Pomona High. He played baseball as a pitcher in Okinawa, Japan during World War II competing against 100 military teams.

After returning from the service from 1946 -1952 Tommie played in the Minor Leagues for the Boston Braves and the Pirates Organizations. Tommie was recruited to play for the Boston Braves in Leavenworth with the Coal Barons of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, the Selma Cloverleaf's, the Waco, Texas Pirates, and the New Orleans Pelicans, in Mexicali and Guyamas, Mexico as well as the Hollywood Stars. Tommie also had the privilege to pitch against the great Jackie Robinson in a Barnstorm exhibition game in Ontario, California. A mechanic for over 50 years Tommie probably serviced your car if it was a Chevy!

Among his hobbies Tommie enjoyed, woodworking, painting, gardening and was a loyal member of St. Joseph Church in Pomona. He is survived by his wife of 68 years – Barbara, his children Thomas who predeceased him, his daughter Patti Garcia and son in law Michael, his son Andy, his brothers Maury Encinas and Buddy Duenas. His sisters Polly Kelly and Vivian Ortiz and his brother George Encinas predecease him. His legacy continues with 6 grandchildren - Eddie who predeceased him, and 13 great-grandchildren. Our family chain has broken but as God calls us one by one the chain will link again!

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