

Appreciation Certificate

TO THE FAMILY OF OUR HONORED WESTMINSTER HERO

Joe Agabo, PFC US Army—WWII

With Deepest Gratitude For the Sacrifice of PFC Agabo. His goodbye words to his Mom were: "Mamá, yo siento que no vuelvo"; and to his Army buddy, the day before he was Killed-in-Action in Germany February 26, 1945: "Palomino, I don't think I am going to make it this time". Even then, PFC Agabo, never wavered in his devotion to Country and the Cause of Freedom. His Legacy and Spirit Live on!

PFC Agabo's Distinguished Service is an Inspiration To All!

The United Mexican-American Veterans Association
Honoring the Past, Appreciating the Present and Inspiring the Future!
umava.org

Francisco J. Barragán CPA, CIA Commander
US Marines & CA Army National Guard

Antonio Méndez, WWII - US Army, Silver Star

Frank Ramírez, Korea - US Army, Silver Star

Ralph Colin, Vietnam - US Army, Bronze Star

09/29/12



PFC Agabo, Joe - U.S. Army WWII (Killed in Action Feb. 26, 1945)

The eldest of our honored heroes, Joe Agabo was born in Los Angeles, California on August 13, 1907. In 1920 when he was 13 years old, his family moved to Westminster where it settled on the west side of north Olive Street. He was one of the three next-door neighbors on Olive St. who left our barrio to fight on the battlefields of WWII, and did not return, having given the full and final measure of their devotion for our Freedoms. By all recollections, Joe was an upstanding citizen of his community, well respected by all who knew him; had an outstanding work ethic, took over support of his younger siblings and mom when dad passed away.

Joe was inducted into the army on December 2, 1942 and started army training at Camp Adair in the state of Oregon. At the "Red Car" Depot in Stanton after his last furlough prior to shipping for overseas, Joe expressed his gut feelings to his mom as they hugged and said their last goodbyes, "mamá yo siento que no vuelvo" "I feel that I won't come back" (alive.) A member of the 104th Infantry Division, 414th Regiment, first or second Battalion, Company C, Joe landed with his units at Normandy on the 7th of September, 1944.

After fighting the Germans from France into Belgium and Germany, on 26 February, 1945 in the area of the Hartgen Forest, Joe's Company C met a determined German defense and he was KIA. An army buddy from Westminster, Bibiano Palomino, who was in Company A, same regiment as Joe, remembers that the day before he was killed, they had a talk and expressed the same feeling that he had had with his mom saying to Bibiano "Palomino, I don't think I'm going to make it this time". Bibiano responded by saying "Don't say that Joe", though as Bibiano now says, he felt in his own gut that Joe's premonition was real.

Joe's grave remains in an American cemetery in Belgium (Mom's wishes.)