

Appreciation Certificate

TO THE FAMILY OF OUR HONORED WESTMINSTER HERO
Joe Mendoza, PFC US Army - Korean War

With Deepest Gratitude For PFC Mendoza's Sacrifice. Inducted Nov 1950; Arrived at Inchon, Korea 13 Aug 1951, 24th ID/19th Reg./G Co. Battled Chinese armies in Korea. Hit by a sniper on 25 Oct 1951. Died of his wounds on 1 Nov 1951. His Legacy, His family's military service & Spirit Live on. **PFC Mendoza's Devotion to Country & Freedom are an Inspiration To All!**

The United Mexican-American Veterans Association
Honoring the Past, Appreciating the Present and Inspiring the Future!
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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 MENDOZA, JOE, U.S. Army - Korean War

One of the three heroes who lived as next-door neighbors on Olive Street, Joe was born on July 17, 1929 at 14141 Olive Street, Westminster, California. He was the fourth of ten children born to Jesus Bravo Mendoza and Juan Garcia Mendoza.

Joe's youth was like so many others in Westminster Barrio; attending the all "Mexican School" (Hoover) from kinder to 8th grade, making and flying kites in spring and summer, playing all those different marble games, spinning tops, etc. With large families on both mom and dad's side, there was always some family to visit or a time to host visitors. As happens with large families, dad enlisted all his boys to help the family with whatever needed to be done around the property; Joe was especially handy at most projects dad entrusted on him. He attended Huntington Beach High School, took wood shop, auto shop, and loved playing on the football team. Again, because of family support need, he had to drop out of school, and regrettably did not have the opportunity to graduate.

When the Korean War broke out in June of 1950, Joe must have known that this war was one he would be involved in. It didn't take long, pre-induction took place in November, 1950 and his first camp was Ford Ord, California in January 1951. In March, 1951, Joe was transferred to Camp Roberts, California to complete his training. In July, after the sad goodbyes to the family, Joe sailed for Japan arriving there in August. On 13 August, 1951 he arrived at Inchon, Korea. From that date as a member of the 24th Infantry Division, 19th Regiment, George Company, Joe took part in battles mainly against Chinese armies until at a place in North Korea, on 25 October, 1951 my brother (Frank Mendoza's US Navy) was hit on the chest by a possible sniper. Two of Joe's buddies carried him to the MASH field hospital where he died of his wounds on 1 November, 1951.

Joe Mendoza's grave is at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in the City of Orange, California.