



Nazario Veguilla

July 28, 1919 - December 16, 2014

Nazario Veguilla, 95, of Aurora, passed away Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at Rush-Copley Medical Center. He was born July 28, 1919 in Puerto Rico.

Survivors include his three daughters, Carmen Manly of Orlando, FL, Norma (Julio) Rivera of Naperville and Mara (Jesse) Cortes of Aurora; six grandchildren: Jes (Damary) Cortes, Christina (Michael) Odeh, Juan (Anita) Cortes, Nelson (Angie) Rivera, Daniel Rivera and Belinda Manly; seventeen great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 50 years, Luz Maria Veguilla; his parents, Jose and Gabina (Perez) Veguilla; four sisters and five brothers.

My father was a simple campesino jibaro from Guavate, born July 28, 1919 near Caguas, PR. He heard the U.S. call to arms and didn't think twice about joining. I have great admiration for these quiet, peaceful Puerto Rican men, my dad included, who had limited education, barely spoke English, and few of them had ventured outside their region of birth, let alone cross the seas, marched forth to war.

My dad arrived in Europe in the immediate chaos resulting from D Day aftermath, something I am grateful for since it spared him and his fellow infantrymen high casualties. He was stationed at museums, guarding artifacts.

He rarely spoke of his experiences there generally sticking to his escapades in France and Germany while off duty, and of the wonderful French and German people who treated them... los "pelaos" well. He said the Puerto Rican soldiers referred to themselves as "pelaos", I'm not sure why.

He died peacefully December 16 , 2014 surrounded by his family, in Aurora, Illinois. During his lifetime he was charter member of the Caballeros de San Juan, working tirelessly for the Puerto Rican community during the 1950s. He worked as a radio man at American Airlines, taxi driver, Telemundo TV control tower, Bell Telephone, Halicrafters Mfg., and finally Insurance Agent. He was a writer of poems, songs, and amateur board-game crafter and wood wheedler. He was a wonderful father and best roll-model his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will ever have.

He was most proud, however, of having served in the military during World War II. And even in his dementia, he would proudly say, "Tu sabias que yo era soldado?"

(Did you know I was a soldier?)

According to the "Enlisted Records and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge", he entered service in Caguas, PR on April 10, 1944. His place of entry on Dec. 10, 1944 was at Fort Buchanan, PR. He was in Company C 65th Infantry, popularly known as the Borinqueneers. His military campaign assignment was Rhineland, Central Europe, American Theater, USA Atlantic. He was 25 years old.

He was honorably discharged from Fort Buchanan March 14, 1946 as PVT, First Class. Reason: Demobilization Radiogram 1000. Decorations and Citations included American Theater Service Medal, WW II Victory Medal, 2 Overseas Service Bars, European African Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars.

Rest in Peace our prince.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, December 20, 2014 from THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY at 9:30 AM to St. Mary Church at 10:00 AM. Fr. Timothy Piasecki will officiate with interment in St. Pater & Paul Cemetery, 911 E. North Ave, Naperville, IL. Visitation will be held Saturday, December 20, 2014 from 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM at THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora. 630-631-5500. Please visit our interactive website at www.daleidenmortuary.com to leave condolences for Nazario's family or sign the guest book.

Cemetery Details

St. Peter & Paul Cemetery

911 E. North Avenue
Naperville, IL 60540

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 20. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 631-5500
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

Funeral Mass

DEC 20. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary Church
430 East Downer Place
Aurora, IL 60505
1-630-892-0480

Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Nazario Veguilla



Daleiden Mortuary - December 17, 2014 at 07:36 PM



Nelson Rivera

Great video. So many pictures that I don't think I've ever seen before.

Incidentally, if you have trouble viewing the video, you may need to download a "Microsoft Silverlight" plugin if you're using a non-IE browser.

Nelson Rivera - December 17, 2014 at 08:06 PM

MC

Loved it, of course it brought tears to my eyes.

MARA CORTES - December 18, 2014 at 01:00 AM



Oh my gosh they did such a wonderful job on just a bunch of picture that I brought in. Thank you Daleiden Mortuary.

Norma Veguilla Rivera - December 18, 2014 at 10:10 AM

CM

Captures his essence. Beautiful.

Carmen Manly - December 18, 2014 at 03:16 PM



They did an amazing job capturing an amazing man! We love him and are glad he is now with Grammy. They can watch over us together!

Christina Cortes Odeh - December 19, 2014 at 10:38 AM



What a beautiful video! Seeing both of your parents, tear me up even more! God Bless you all

Linda Ramos - December 19, 2014 at 07:59 PM



Wonderful video tribute! 🙏 may he rest in peace.

damary cortes - December 19, 2014 at 10:44 PM

JR

“ January 28, 2015

I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Nazario Veguilla personally. Although looking at his image, it seems like I may have seen or encountered this spirit in the Puerto Rican community here in Chicago.



As Illinois Coordinator/Liaison for the Borinqueneers CGM Alliance, an alliance in support of the illustrious 65th Infantry Borinqueneers, I was informed of this soul as one of these brave warriors. My hope was to meet and share our, 'crusade' to procure the coveted Congressional Gold Medal for warriors like him of the 65th. Unfortunately, that never happened.

What did happen prior to his death, was the knowledge that as an alliance, we succeeded in procuring the Congressional Gold Medal for the 'Borinqueneers' on June 10th. President Barack Obama signed #113-120 into law awarding the 65th Infantry Regiment this nation's highest civilian award! They are the FIRST Latino segregated active combat unit to receive such an honor and the second Latino to be so awarded (Roberto Clemente of the famed Pittsburg Pirates was the first in 1973) and now joining the ranks of the Navajo Code Talkers, the Tuskegee Airmen, the Japanese American 'Nisei,' the Montford Point Marines and the WWII Women Air Corps Pilots in American history!

Mr. Veguilla passed on to glory with that knowledge that his contributions to the island of Puerto Rico and to the United States during WWII is now enshrined in American history for generations to come and for the legacy of his heritage as a native son of 'Boriken' and citizen of the United States.

I salute you sir for your honorable service and sacrifice! May you rest in eternal peace with the Lord.

*Jaime Diego Rivera
Coordinator/Liaison
Illinois Affiliate
Borinqueneers CGM Alliance*

Jaime Diego Rivera - January 28, 2015 at 11:09 AM

JV

“ *Jaime Veguilla lit a candle in memory of
Nazario Veguilla*



jaime Veguilla - December 21, 2014 at 09:02 AM

CS

“ *Heaven gain angel, I lost loving great grandfather with heart of gold*

*You will be missed, thought of everyday but I know your with
grandma sharing stories
of all grandkids/great grandkids as you watch us all grow. Wish had
more time with you
but god was calling you home love you today, tomorrow, always*

Your Great Granddaughter Crystal J Sligting Fox Lake IL

crystal sligting - December 20, 2014 at 02:11 PM



“ *Fields of Europe was purchased for the family of
Nazario Veguilla.*



December 20, 2014 at 01:26 AM

FV

“ I was honored by being able to share time with Nazario, and exchange war stories with him from two very different eras. Nazario has now answered to the call of that Great Sergeant Major in the sky, a call than no one disobeys, a call that many of our comrades have already responded. Farewell my friend.
Venettia and I wish to extend our most hart felt condolences and we empathize with you.

Frank & Venettia - December 19, 2014 at 09:46 PM

VP

“ Victor & Lydia, Maria, Jose, Gladys de Pablo purchased the White Standing Spray for the family of Nazario Veguilla.



Victor & Lydia, Maria, Jose, Gladys de Pablo - December 19, 2014 at 12:44 PM

 Nelson Rivera

“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Nelson Rivera - December 19, 2014 at 10:19 AM

BS

“ Norma, Mara and Milagro - he sounds like a wonderful man. I wish I had come into the family in time to know him. I wish you all peace and strength as you deal with your loss. Lots of hugs, Beverly Sosa

Beverly Sosa - December 18, 2014 at 09:58 AM

JK

Norma, Mara and Carmen, It has been a pleasure to have met all of you as we shared our time at the nursing home. Papi has lived a very interesting life. I enjoyed reading what you shared of his life. I am truly sorry for your loss but you have those wonderful memories to comfort you all. Sincerely, Judy A. Kurkjian

Judy A. Kurkjian - December 18, 2014 at 05:00 PM

CA

“ *Norma, Mara & Milagro, what a stunningly beautiful tribute to your Dad. He was so well taken care of by his loving daughters! Sending you lots of prayers.*

Love, Conni Arnold

Conni Arnold - December 18, 2014 at 08:22 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Anita Veguilla - December 18, 2014 at 12:30 AM

Nelson
Rivera

“ 15 files added to the album 95th Birthday Celebration



Nelson Rivera - December 17, 2014 at 08:51 PM

LR

“ *nosotros estamos sentidos por la perdida de nuestro tio nazario
luis veguilla rodriguez y familia*

luis veguilla rodriguez - December 17, 2014 at 07:51 PM

IN

“ *One of my fondest memories of Tio was when Papo and I visited Mara, I was eleven or so. Chrissie had one of those Harris Bank stuffed lions with the glasses. I mentioned how lucky she was to have the lion. A few weeks later Tio stoped by and had a gift for me. It was a Harris Bank stuffed animal. Rest in peace Tio, I will always remember your kindnesses. Ingrid Del Valle-Quiroga*

Ingrid - December 17, 2014 at 07:50 PM

MC

“ *I will always remember Nazario as a very kind and gentle spirit. He was full of love and will be missed. RIP Sir!* ”



Margaret Cortes - December 17, 2014 at 04:08 PM