

## Angel J. Carranza



Angel J. Carranza Born in Tucson, AZ, May 27, 1930, went home to join his parents Simon Salazar Carranza and Jacinta Jacobo Carranza and his two younger brothers, Cornelio "Leo" and Simon J. Jr. on July 28, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Connie of 55 years; son, David R. (Joann); and daughters, Michelle Anaya (David) and Julie Estrella (Robert); eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Angel adored his grandsons, D.J., Hondo, Taylor (Andrea) and Robert Joseph; and had a special place in his heart for granddaughters, Danielle, Delyssa, Lianna, and Annalize; and holds a special place in his heart for his great-grandchildren, Andrew, Nevaeh, Javier, Dessani and Kaylon. He is also survived by older brother, Alfonso and sisters, Vicky, Connie and Carmen, who he loved very much. Angel was educated in the Tucson Unified School District and graduated from Tucson High in January 1949. At Tucson High he participated in intramural sports and played baseball for the Badgers. Angel played summer baseball in a semi-pro league on a team sponsored by Arizona Flour Mills. While still in high school, Angel and some of his buddies joined "Easy Co." 13th INF. BTN. USMCR. When the [Korean War](#) broke in 1950, Angel received orders to report to MCRD in San Diego for nine weeks of boot camp. After graduation he reported to Camp Pendleton for combat training and then shipped to Korea. He was assigned to a rifle platoon in "B" Co. 1st BTN 1st REG. 1st Marine DIV. He was joined by his Marine buddies, most were also former members of "Easy" Co. He served the Marine Corps and his country with honor and distinction. He loved the Marine Corps and wanted to stay but the last year he served was an extension of his enlistment which was called a COG (Convenience of the Government) and had to accept his release at the end of the year. After returning home he needed to find employment right away to help his parents and sisters. He saw an ad in the newspaper announcing openings in the Tucson Fire Department. Angel took the exam for firefighter and was placed high on the eligibility list and was hired within two weeks as a recruit on February 16, 1952. He worked for the Tucson Fire Department for 26 years. He adapted well to the rigorous training and always said the experience and training he received in the Corps really prepared him to meet this new challenge. Angel held several positions with the department during his career. First he was promoted to Driver/Engineer, the Captain of a Ladder Company, House Captain at Fire Station No. 1 and retired as a Battalion Chief on August 31, 1976. While at Fire Station No. 1 Angel was in command of Engine Co. 1 the night of the Pioneer Hotel fire. His company, first to the scene and they immediately went into the building and started rescuing hotel guests from the burning building. The crew spent the rest of the night at the fire scene, until they were relieved the next day. The commanding officer told the crew to go home and get some sleep and the fire reports the men had to prepare could wait until the next day. But Angel was to wound up to sleep when he got home and decided to play the final round in a golf tournament he had started the week before. That day he shot one of the best scores he had ever shot, even par and won the tournament. He always said it was his second best accomplishment in golf. His very best was scoring four hole-in-ones on the number 13 hole at the El Rio Golf Course that is still a record. His son, David, also made a hole-in-one on the same hole soon after he started playing golf. Angel made a total of six hole-in-ones during his playing days. Angel retired from the fire service on a Friday and started a new job at the University of Arizona that following Monday. He was Assistant Director in a center developing teacher training material for bilingual education. When his work at the U of A was completed he was not quite ready to retire so he began a new position with the Tucson Unified School District and was hired as a Fire Safety Specialist. He was responsible for developing and implementing fire safety programs for all the buildings in the district. After ten years with the district Angel decided to finally retire for good on July 31, 1993 to golf more often. Angel was also active in the community through organizations and stayed busy every day. Those include International Association of Firefighters Local 49; Retired Firefighters Association: BPO Elks Lodge 385; Cocio-Estrada American Legion Post 479; Marine Corps League DET 007; DAV Chapter 2; El Rio Men's Golf Club. Through these groups and organizations Angel developed some great friendships that will continue as memories with those he touched. May God bless you. You are and will be constantly in our prayers. We look forward to seeing you again and playing a round of golf with you at the great golf course in the sky. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, August 7, 2010 at St. Augustine Cathedral, 192 S. Stone Ave. Inurnment will follow at South Lawn Cemetery 5401 S. Park Ave. Arrangements by FUNERARIA DEL ANGEL SOUTH LAWN.