



Samuel E. Banuelos

October 21, 1929 - December 19, 2025

Samuel E. Bañuelos was born on October 21, 1929, the firstborn of ten siblings. From an early age, Samuel learned the value of hard work and responsibility. At just 11 years old, he began working in packing houses and in the fields, where he also operated tractors—experiences that shaped his strong work ethic and resilience.

At the age of 21, Samuel proudly enlisted in the United States Army and served his country during the Korean War. During his service, he endured extraordinary hardship when he was captured and held as a prisoner of war for two years before finally being released. His bravery, perseverance, and strength remain a powerful testament to his character and sacrifice. Samuel went on to build a stable and honorable life, working for many years at the United States Postal Service in San Jose, then retiring from the Bureau of Reclamation here in Fresno. He was known as a dependable, hardworking man who took pride in providing for his family and serving his community.

In 1962 Samuel married the love of his life, Lucy. Together they built a family and raised three children. Lucy preceded him in death at the age of 77, but their love and shared memories remained a guiding presence in his life.

Samuel will be remembered as a devoted family man, a courageous veteran, and a man whose life was defined by perseverance, sacrifice, and unwavering strength. His legacy lives on through his children, extended family, and all who were blessed to know him.

Cemetery Details

St. Peter's Cemetery

264 N. Blythe Avenue
Fresno, CA 93706

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 6. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (PT)

Chapel of the Light
1620 W. Belmont Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728
michael@chapelofthelight.com
<http://www.chapelofthelight.com>

Celebration of Life

JAN 6. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (PT)

Chapel of the Light
1620 W. Belmont Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728
michael@chapelofthelight.com
<http://www.chapelofthelight.com>

Tribute Wall



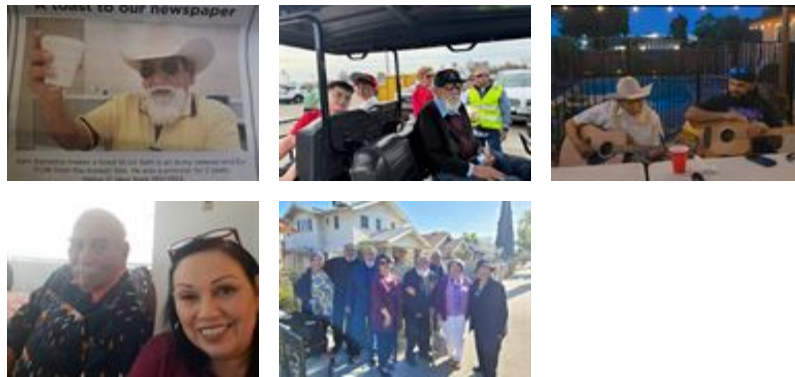
“ Anna Hinojosa and Ponce Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Samuel E. Banuelos.



Anna Hinojosa and Ponce Family - January 02 at 09:24 PM



“ 77 files added to the album Life Tributes



Chapel Of The Light Funeral Home and Mausoleum - January 02 at 08:28 PM

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“ I had known of my cousin Sam, I believe the eldest of the Banuelos, family .. I had never really bonded with him, until 2 years ago .. I approached him at the family reunion.. I seeked him out, because I had just heard about him thru the family ..
He was much older then us Reyes boys ..
Always a quiet person in a large group.
When I introduced myself , Sam sez, I know you Mijo .
So I asked him that I wished to know him better .
I wanted to hear his story of the experience he had in the Korean War back in the 50's .
I knew that Uncle Moses Espinoza had also fought n that same Korean War .
He share his time on how he and a few other soldiers had been captured and the long gruling walk or marching back the long , long distance into the enemies prison camp and the injury he had obtained during the capture . He spoke of it as a matter of fact.
Over all it was the most miserable time of his life .
He didn't embellish it,
Another memory I have of him was right after he was back and finished his stint in the army,
He pulled up in a Beautiful 57 or 58 ford , jet black and with a collapsable hard top and would turn into this beautiful convertible .
I just recall we were in the car going down a country road with the top down on a warm HOLLISTER afternoon I believe to visit family living or camping in a Ranch..
I don't remember much more detail except the warm wind blowing thru my hair ..
For a prune picking kid this was a rush ..
Thank you Sam for taking the time sharing and bonding 💕💕💕 with me ..
I love and will carry your stories with me ..

Deanna Ramirez (Daughter) - December 26, 2025 at 06:57 PM