

Francisco Esparza | 1927-2016

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Francisco Esparza, 88, of Bowie, died Wednesday, March 2, 2016, in Bowie.

Mass of Christian burial was March 5 at the St. William Catholic Church in Montague. Burial followed at Elmwood Cemetery.

Francisco was born March 9, 1927, in Aguascalientes, Mexico, to Macario and Petra (Silva) Esparza. He married Maria Sanchez in 1959, and they were married for 57 years. Francisco was a policeman in Zaragoza, Mexico, in his 30s. He and Maria moved to Texas where he worked as a ranch hand in Montague and Wise counties for more than 40 years.

Francisco was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and was known for his hard work. He was a cowboy who loved horses and was an avid gun collector.

Francisco was preceded in death by his parents, Macario and Petra Esparza; brothers and sisters, Porfirio Esparza, Bonifacio Esparza, Amalia Esparza, Josefina Esparza and Samuel Esparza; sons Francisco Rios and Samuel Esparza; daughter Gloria Ester Esparza; daughter-in-law Maria Rios; and son-in-law Margarito Hernandez.

He is survived by his wife, Maria Esparza of Bowie; children Juana Yolanda Castro and Beto Sanchez of Missouri, Elias Lira of Bowie, Jorge Lira and wife, Irma, of Bowie, Francisco Esparza and wife, Griselda, of Bridgeport, Norma Alicia Esparza of Decatur, Maria Gloria Hernandez of Bowie, Andrea Esparza Rivas and husband, Julio, of Denton, Macario Esparza of Bowie and Jesus Humberto Esparza of Decatur.

He is also survived by daughter-in-law Josefina Esparza of Mexico; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.