



Henry Bernal Saenz

July 7, 1924 - September 30, 2013

Dateline: Alton

Henry Bernal Saenz, 89, died at 3:29 p.m. peacefully on Monday, September 30, 2013. Born July 7, 1924 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, he was the son of Marcos and Alice (Bernal) Saenz. Henry served in the Army Air Corps as a radio operator from 1943-1945. On July 11, 1945 he married the former Jo Alice Barnerd in Wichita Falls, TX. She preceded him in death on October 3, 2004. He was a lifetime member of the VFW Post 1308, the American Legion, the Alton Eagles Foe No. 254, and the Alton Knights of Columbus. He was a charter member of the Alton Exchange where he served as past District President and past National President. He was also a member of the North Alton Godfrey Business Council, the Riverbend Growth Association, the Alton Wood River Sportsman's Club, the Junior Achievement, and was instrumental in the incorporation of the Godfrey Township. Henry ran the family owned Barleff's Menswear in Alton from December 1946 until January 2012.

Surviving are a daughter, Diane Saenz of Alton, two sons, Marc B. Saenz of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and James E. Saenz (Melissa) of Godfrey, 10 grandchildren, Regan Jones (Cindy), Ian Jones (fiancé Jeanne), Jennifer Dykeman (Andy), Stephanie Bauer (Steve), Rebecca Elliott (Mike), Brian Saenz (Kristen), Rachel Waters (Brandon), Jessica Ruedin (Ike), Matthew Saenz, and Megan Saenz, 16 great grandchildren, Kegan, Lukas, and Quinn Jones, and Tanner Schaefer, Liam and Adaela Jones, Samantha and Sarah Bauer, Elizabeth Foster and Samantha Elliott, Dillon and Henry Ruedin,

Madeline and Catherine Saenz, Eli and Simon Waters, one sister, Ernestine Chavarria, and six brothers, Adolpho, Marcos, Daniel, Samuel, William and Carl Saenz. Along with his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by a son, Brian Henry Saenz, and a sister, Alice Mae Rodriguez. Henry was an avid golfer, a wonderful man who never met a stranger and was beloved by his family, friends and the community. A memorial Mass will be at 3:00 p.m. Friday, October 4, 2013 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey. Burial will be private at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Godfrey with full military honors by the VFW Post 1308. Memorials may be made to the Henry Saenz Scholarship Fund at St. Ambrose School. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements.

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Tribute Wall



“ My parents, Adele and Bill Aylward lived next door to Henry and Jo on Ladue Dr. I was in junior high school (North Junior) at the time. We moved back to the E coast during my first year at Alton HS, However, I always remembered Jo and Henry...they were both so nice and kind. There was one incident that I never forgot...their youngest son at the time was only about 2 or maybe 3, was playing in the yard between our homes. Fortunately, Jo came out, picked him up and brought him into the house...minutes later a small tornado went through the same place where he had been playing. There were no tornado warnings our at the time...it was just a freak event. My Mother and I believed it was God's blessing that Jo came out when she did. It made m,e happy to read that they had long lives and had/have such a wonderful family. My Mother died in FL in 2006. After her death, I convinced my Father to move to Kaua'i where I've lived since 2001. He passed in 2011. He was 93, and mentally alert until he died. I was grateful to have those last years w/him. As I age I often think of friends and colleagues who've I've been fortunate to know, tho most are no longer alive...so when looking for them I occasionally find their obits. I only found Henry's obituary this year. Wishing your families much happiness through the years. Henry and Jo were special!

Lynn Aylward-Bingman - November 23, 2025 at 02:20 PM



“ *Henry Bernal Saenz*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Henry Bernal Saenz*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM

DD

“ *Marc, I was so sorry to hear about your Dad, I wish I could have made it to the visitation.*

.Though words can't ease your sorrow, hearts can share your loss.

May the love of those around you help you through the days ahead.May you take comfort in knowing an angel is watching over you.

May the peace that comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead.

Diane Wenzel Doran - January 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *My deepest sympathy to all the family. Marc always had such wonderful stories about your father. May his warm memories continue to comfort you at this time.*

Sincerely,

Don Horan

Don Horan - October 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ Prayers for the loved ones of Henry Saenz. May God hold you in His comforting arms all your days and provide you peace.

Kathy Garrison - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ sincerest condolences

John E. Steffens - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Saenz family.

Larry & Janet Wilcox - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ Henry, may you rest in peace. You were a good man, loved by all and Jan & I are so lucky to have known you. You always made us feel like part of the family, were never shy about posing for a picture with us and Marc and always had us laughing with one of your funny stories. You will live forever in our memories and we'll never forget that big smile of yours and the warm TEDONI greeting you shouted whenever you saw us. Place a bet for us in heaven dear friend, God Bless!

Rich & Jan Tedoni - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ TO ALL MY ALTON/GODFREY FRIENDS;

"Thank You" "Thank You" "Thank You"...just like the Holy,Holy,Holy refrain this is a "CELEBRATION" of a Life well spent..I am just glad I was there for the entire ride.Dad is now My Guardian Angel until Our Savior calls me Home...

MARC

MARC B. SAENZ - October 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ *My sincere condolences to the Saenz family...so many wonderful memories at Business Council and with the Trolley...also taking care of "emergency" alterations and helping me find just the right clothes for those special occasions...A GREAT man of faith, inspiration, and commitment to his craft! Blessings Henry...keep a place for me...I am sure we will meet again!!!*

Greg Gelzinnis - October 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *To the Saenz family, I am so sorry for your loss. I really enjoyed playing golf with Henry for many years. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Stacy Rigdon*

S. Rigdon - October 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *Henry was always telling me stories with a laugh that made everyone around him laugh too. He had a way of making you his focus of attention no matter how many people were around. I will miss you Henry!*

Audrey Stewart - October 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ I will miss Henry greatly. We were friends since 1967 when he hired me to work at downtown Barleff's. He was a good man and a great salesman. He not only taught me many sales techniques but also showed me many acts of kindness. I will always remember the beer and chicherinos after work along with the jokes. He was the perfect example of a good man and will be my model for years to come. I am truly sorry for your loss but I know Henry was a gift that lasted a long time.

Chris Fox - October 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ I had my very first job at Barleff's - wrapping gifts at Christmas back in the early 1970's. Working for Henry & Jo was like being "in the family". They taught me a lot. I have always had fond memories of your family. My heart goes out to you all.

Mary (Bockstruck) Wallace - October 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Henry was a wonderful gentleman that will be greatly missed.

Ralph & Debbie Koenig - October 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ My wife Patti and I extend our deepest condolences to the whole family. Mr. Saenz was a real gentleman. I remember going with my dad (and mom on occasion) (Del and Pauline Hise) to Barleff's to buy those special clothes. Mom and Dad and the whole family thought a lot of Henry Saenz. May God comfort you in your grief.

Ken Hise - October 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Our Good friend, mentor and fellow golfer will be missed but not forgotten by our Sunday Golf Group. Henry was instrumental in starting and keeping it organized for approximately 40 years. I fondly remember in the early years we had the first of (4 to 6) tee times at Rolling Hills Golf Course. We always had a year ending Tournament, banquet and cookout for the players and their wife's that was always fun for all. We were truly blessed to have been Henry friend for those wonderful years!!

The following are a few messages I received from Henry's Fellow Golfers!

1. Henry was a GOOD MAN, and a GOOD FRIEND. ---- Ralph K.

2. I hope he spends all the money I lost to him in paradise! Ha! -- Steve B.

3. We were just talking Sunday (29SEP13) about a "Henry" shot during our golf game. He had a way of bouncing the ball 4 times, rolling onto the green, and usually within 3 or 4 feet of the cup. He will be missed by many and remembered for his good humor and friendliness to all. -- DAN W.

4. Henry was the man that taught me it didn't matter how old you were, and distance wasn't everything.....Just drop down

*a couple of clubs, and keep it straight.....He will be deeply missed.---
DANNO G.*

Larry Rea - October 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Jim/Mellissa, Very sorry for your lose. Dave/Lori*

David B. Hartnett - October 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Dear Jim and Family,*

*I have fine memories of your Dad. He always was a fine gentleman.
You can never prepare for this moment. My thoughts and prayers
are with you at this time.Jack*

Jack Maloney - October 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *So sorry for your loss. I did not know Henry personally but, know
Brian Saenz and Jennifer Dykeman; two wonderful people that most
likely share their grandfather's qualities of a friendly and
compassionate personality.*

Janice (Yarnell) Burgess - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *oh how Mr. Saenz will truly be missed. i can't tell you how good i
look because of the excellent blazers, suits, trench coats, and winter
coats i've purchased from barleff's. better than that was the many
conversations we had - especially about his time in the military,
clothing, and the opposite sex. it does sadden my heart.*

jared hennings - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ I am so sorry to see that your Dad has passed away. He was a great guy and will be missed.

Cathy

Cathy (Horn) Coffman - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Marc,

I send my sympathies to you and your family over the loss of your father. I remember how kind he was, always dressed impeccably and polite to all. It is never easy to lose a loved one. I keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Rita (Joehl) Markgraf - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ I had the honor of knowing Henry as our paths crossed in 2 different places. I first met him when I worked for Dr. Marty Carrow and Henry was a patient there. Several years later, Henry moved to Saint Clare's Villa where I was the Marketing & Admissions Coordinator. Henry was such a fun gentleman, always telling stories, and willing to help others. I recently changed jobs and work for Senior Services Plus. Henry came several times to have lunch or breakfast and visit with me. In fact, he and a buddy came just last Thursday. And I am so glad I got to see him! He always greeted me with a warm "Hi Babe!" and a great big hug!

A wonderful man, who I will miss very much! So glad our paths crossed!

Stacey Noble Loveland - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ On behalf of my mother Mary Bailey and my deceased Father James m. Bailey Sr. We express our condolences to the family of Henry Saenz.

Mr. Saenz was a great gentleman. He would tell me stories about teaching kids at the high school about tailoring many years ago. My Dad was an assitant principal at the high school those days. They thought a great deal of each other.

Mr Saenz was a patriot of the highest order.

He will be greatly missed.

May God Bless you all.

Duane Bailey - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Diane and family

My thoughts and prayers are with you during your time of loss.

Kathy Emery - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Henry will be missed. He was one of the warmest and giving people I had the pleasure to know. He gave so much to the community , never afraid to share his opinion I enjoyed listening to his views and stories.

MARTHA MORSE - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ Henry will be missed by family and by many of us. He was indeed a great Catholic gentleman who had high standards and set an excellent example for all of us. He will remain in my prayers.

Emert Wyss - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ My Dad, Bill Read, bought most of his clothes at Barleff's and when I entered the ministry in 77, Henry always gave me a "minister's discount". He was the epitome of great customer service and I enjoyed the warmth of his personality. The Alton area has lost an exceptional citizen, one of the finest I've ever known. I pray for comfort for his family and I encourage them to celebrate with joy his well lived life. A lift that mattered to many!

John

Chaplain (COL) John Read - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Henry was a wonderful man and one of my all-time favorite people. I have such fond memories of the time I worked for him and Brian at Barleff's. My sincerest condolences to the Saenz family. He loved you all very much.

Cathie Hayward - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ To all of the Saenz family and especially Diane. Your father was truly gentleman in best sense of the word. We are so sorry for your loss.

Tom & Shonna Bennett - October 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I always had the greatest respect for Mr. Saenz and am saddened to learn of his death. He fitted me for my wedding suit and did a fine job of it, as one might expect. My wife and I ran into him just a while back at the Sportsmen's Club and had a pleasant talk. Loretta and I offer our condolences to the Saenz family.

John J. Dunphy - October 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM