

# Jesús Ríos Vidales

August 9, 1921 – September 2, 2023

Jesús Ríos Vidales, cherished family member, WWII veteran, dedicated community activist with TOP, member of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center and a beacon of love and strength, peacefully passed away at the remarkable age of 102. He is now reunited with his beloved wife, Victoria P. Vidales and his parents and siblings in eternal rest.

For decades Jesse was a vocal advocate for change in the Westside San Antonio community where he lived. He never shied away from speaking truth to power and engaging in “good trouble” in the name of progress and justice. He treasured his family, community, as well as storytelling and the arts. He began singing and performing in the theater and writing poetry as a young boy before entering the military and had his own trio in the 30s named *Los Románticos*. His interest in the arts continued throughout his life.

Jesús possessed a magnetic personality that drew people to him and was friends with the likes of Eva Garza and Emma Tenayuca. His warm smile, compassion, and unwavering support were a source of comfort for all who sought his guidance. He embraced his role as an abuelo with unwavering love and dedication, leaving an everlasting impact on his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

The Esperanza board, staff and Buena gente extends our deepest sympathies to Jesse’s family and friends and will always remember him as a caballero and gentleman of the kind that are rare in this day and age. A poet and aficionado of the arts, Jesse was a member of the Corazones de Esperanza and regaled the elder community members with stories of the Westside that he loved and grew up in. His life story and poetic tribute to his deceased wife, Victoria, was made into a song by Lourdes Pérez and can be found in the book, *Still Here, Homenaje al Westside de San Antonio* complete with a recording of his poem.

Though we ache at the loss of Jesús, we find solace in knowing that his legacy lives on in the many lives he touched. Sharyll Teneyuca noted that Jesús was a treasure of history and memories of the Westside and early San Antonio. Indeed, he was that, and much more! A steadfast fighter for working San Antonians may now be gone, but he will never be forgotten. Que su alma descanse en paz. ¡Jesús Vidales, siempre presente!



## Adiós Mi Amor (excerpt)

Adios,mi amor  
Ya te vas y me dejas  
Adiós, mi amor  
Dulce amor mío

Cómo te amo yo a ti  
Cómo te amo yo a ti

Piensa que yo sin ti  
La vida no la quiero  
Porque mi alma se la entregué a ti  
— Jesse Vidales, 1936