



Joe Vila

JUL 11, 1923 - MAR 14, 2012



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From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, having fought his country's battle, World War II veteran and West Tampa native, Joe Vila, 88, succumbed to his own personal battle against Alzheimer's/Dementia and the lasting effects of war on March 14, 2012. Joe is survived by his devoted, loving wife of 66 years, Olga Quelle Vila; three daughters, Elaine Vila and twins Lorain Murias and Susan Vila; 6 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren; and expansive extended family. Joe served as a U.S. Marine in the South Pacific and Guadalcanal where he was wounded in combat. He comes from a family of 7 sisters and 6 brothers. All of Joe's brothers also served and survived military service, thus, having Vila Brothers Park named after them. Eternal and heartfelt gratitude for the love and support of his wife, daughters and family. A special thank you to Congresswoman Kathy Castor and Tery Sanchez for their invaluable assistance and to the excellent staff, doctors, and nurses at the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital and Haley's Cove Community Living Center. A memorial service will be held Sunday, March 18th from 4 - 6pm at Boza & Roel Funeral Home at 4730 N. Armenia Ave. and a military honors funeral will be held at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell on Monday, March 19th at 11am. In lieu of flowers please make a contribution to James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital or Haley's Cove Community Living Center or any veterans' organization.



Tribute Wall

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DD

Dorothy Dilworth posted:

I meet a man almost 24 years ago who I love and adored and was giving the HONOR to call him Abuelo. He took my heart from the moment I meet him with his kind eyes and open heart. I have a sad heart this day for the man who made you laugh and for the man who LOVED his family so dearly. I have a sad heart this day for the man I call Abuelo and loved very much has gone to the HEAVENS to watch over his family. I love you very much Abuelo thank you for being a very special part of my life.

March 24 at 8:19 AM

JC

Joe Chillura posted:

HECTOR AND ROBERT , MY CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS.YOUR FAMILY ARE ICONS IN OUR COMMUNITY. JOE CHILLURA AND FAMILY

March 19 at 5:51 AM

6H

6 South Nurses @ Va Hospital. posted:

To The Vila Family, On behalf of the 6 South staff that became family during the care of Mr. Vila, we would like to express our deepest condolences on your recent loss. Mr. Vila touched each of our lives in its own unique way. Not only were we able to become acquainted with him, we were able to become part of his family including his children and spouse. It was a pleasure to serve him as he was able to serve his country so courageously. He will forever be a part of our memories. God Bless!

March 18 at 3:43 PM

RT

Ron Thuemler posted:

Joe- I came to be acquainted with you several years ago via my job with the City of Tampa Transportation department, but we turned out to have alot in common being as I was born in West Tampa as well. You always welcomed me over warmly even when you were "raising heck" about a problem in the neighborhood. I see why the USA won WW 2-they had tough and brave Marines like you fighting over there!! You always had a warm smile and a funny story whenever I visited you and your lovely wife, and always made me feel at home. In the last few years I didn't see you, yet thought of you often, believe me. I will greatly miss hearing your voice and those wonderful, colorful stories that only a true "West Tampan" can tell. I was blessed to get to know you as I did. Till we all meet again, Joe, keep that beautiful U.S. flag flying proudly, and Semper Fi. Thank you for the goodness and kindness you shared, Joe,and God bless you.

March 17 at 3:25 AM



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EV

Elaine Vila posted:

Daddy, you taught me and my sisters, my children, grand children and great grandchildren the importance of moral values. You were so strong and yet always funny. Anyone who met you couldn't help but like you. You were my handsome prince and a great influence. You have left a huge void in my life and heart. I will eternally miss you and your laugh. Love, Ely "La cabeza dura"

March 16 at 6:02 PM

SV

Susan Vila posted:

Daddy, we will miss you so much. You have taught us a lot through our years. Our memories are priceless and forever tattooed to our minds. Your grandchildren will forever speak "Joe" a language that only we would understand. You are our hero! XOXO

March 16 at 12:50 PM

JJ

Jennifer, Scott, Desa Jankes posted:

We lost the physical presence of a hero, my hero, my grandfather but gained an angel in heaven forever. Your honor will live on in our hearts Abuelo. We love you.

March 16 at 12:39 PM

ER

Edson Rodriguez Iii posted:

On behalf of the entire staff of Boza & Roel Funeral Home please accept our sincere condolences.

March 16 at 12:25 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joe by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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