

SOLEDAD

Philip Latasa

Philip Latasa, 90, of Soledad, passed away Tuesday, July 29, 2008, surrounded by his family.



Phil was born Oct. 7, 1917, in the Palms area of Los Angeles to Eugenia and Nicasio Latasa. He was the fourth of seven children and grew up in the Los Angeles area graduating from Inglewood High School. Phil then joined his father in the family farming business where they grew dry beans, peas and did custom bean harvesting.

He and his brothers moved their farming operation from Los Angeles to Soledad after World War II where they grew a variety of crops including dry beans, sugar beets, onions, tomatoes and peppers. He farmed there with his brother, Steve, until his retirement in 1972.

Phil spent the next 30 years volunteering at the Mission Nuestra de la Soledad. He loved working outdoors and maintained the Mission grounds for many years. During this time he served on the Mission Restoration Committee including a period as Committee Chairman. He was Grand Marshall of the Mission Fiesta Parade. Phil was awarded the American Institute for Public Service Jefferson Award for Monterey County for his many years of community service.

Son: Phillip and (Hui Kyong) Latasa of Clifton, Va.; Gerald (Deborah) Latasa of Tracy, and John Latasa of San Jose; grandchildren, Gwendolyn Latasa of Santa Monica, and Gerald Latasa Jr. of Tracy and sisters, Eleanor Urriacarri and Dorothy Keefer, both of Laguna Niguel.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sophie; his brothers, Steve and Frank Latasa and his sisters, Angelina Scherman and Marie McDonald.

■ **Memorial Mass:** 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 4, 2008, at Our Lady of Solitude Catholic Church, 235 Main St., Soledad. There will be a reception to follow at the parish hall.

■ **Memorial:** Donations in lieu of flowers can be sent to the Soledad Mission Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 515, Soledad, CA 93960 or to Eden Valley Care Center, 622 Main St., Soledad, CA 93960.

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m_gariador

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