**Ezequiel G. Rivera**

Alpine Avalanche

August 14, 2006

Archives of the Big Bend

Ezequiel G. “Zeke” Rivera, 91, of Alpine, died Sunday, Aug. 3, 2008, in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Big Spring.

The Son of the late Pablo A. Rivera and Sara G. Rivera was born July 8, 1917, in Marathon. On Dec. 10, 1939, he married Germanita Ramirez. On Oct. 17, 1942, their son was born and 13 days later Zeke was sent overseas to serve his country. He was a veteran of World War II and served in the Army Air Force 918th Air Engineer Squadron 5600 Air Service Group. He was in the European/African/Middle Eastern campaign known as the European Theater from 1942-45.

After returning from the war, he and a group of his comrades built the VFW building, which became Post 7207, in honor of E.H. Ramos, the first casualty from Alpine. Zeke was post commander, adjutant and a lifetime member of VFW Post 7207. He also belonged to the American Legion in his later years. He proudly served and loved his country and community, and he did his best to help those in need.

Zeke worked as manager at Alpine Lumber Yard, which later became Foxworth-Galbraith Lumber Co., for 45 years. He was well-known and needed by customers for his carpentry skills. He did blueprints for several buildings and homes in the area, including at Sul Ross State University.

Zeke was one of the founders of the Alpine Chapter of Knights of Columbus and was also president of Our Lady of Peace Credit Union of Alpine for 23 years.

Viewing was held Aug. 8 at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home, and rosary was recited at 7 p.m. at Geeslin Chapel by Scholastica Hernandez. Funeral Mass was held at 10 a.m. Aug. 9 at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church with burial in Holy Angels Cemetery. Father Mike Alcuino officiated, and honor guards from the Knights of Columbus in El Paso were present. Elisio Garcia performed “Taps” on the trumpet at the military funeral.

Pallbearers were his nephews, Arturo Rivera, Benjamin Rivera, Steve Rivera, Paul Garcia, Aldo Lotito and Richard Belew. Honorary pallbearers were Salvador Hernandez, Jr. and grand-nephew Jerry Garcia.

Zeke was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 67 years, Germanita; one sister, Eliza R. Hernandez; one half-sister, Maria Luisa Rivera; and three half-brothers, Pablo, Ramon and Benjamin Rivera.

Survivors include one son, Ezequiel R. Rivera of Chelmsford, Mass; one daughter, Ermelinda R. Carmon of Alpine; one grandson Johnathon A. Rivera of Oakland, Calif., several nieces and nephews; grand- and great-grandnieces and grand- and greatgrand nephews; and many cousins.

Zeke was the last survivor of the elder Rivera clan of Alpine.

“He will be dearly missed but never forgotten,” said family members.