

CISNEROS

Jose Cisneros (April 18, 1910--November 14, 2009) Jose Cisneros (99),



the artist, died peacefully Saturday morning of natural causes. His historical illustrations depicting the borderlands are internationally acclaimed, most notably by former President George W. Bush, when he awarded Jose the National Medal of the Humanities in 2002. Jose's life began humbly on a ranch in Villa Ocampo, Durango, Mexico, but the Mexican Revolution forced him and his family north. The mostly self-taught artist's love of drawing began as a young boy. His formal education only reached the sixth grade, yet his love of learning, especially history, never ceased. Jose combined these two passions in his pen-and-ink historical illustrations which grace the pages of hundreds of books. A very spiritual man, Jose walked to daily Mass up until the very last few weeks of his life. Jose had a great adoration of nature, passion for the arts, and fondness for Spain. He is preceded by his wife, Vicenta, and eldest daughter, Inez Watson. He is survived by his four remaining daughters: Irene Solla,

Magdalena Villarreal (Robert), Patricia Cisneros-Pride, and Rita Sillas (Ray). He also leaves behind 10 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild. His family will always remember Jose's zest for life, sense of humor, and strong will. He will be greatly missed. The viewing will be at Martin Funeral Home on Montana from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Tuesday, November 17, followed by the rosary at 7:00 p.m. to be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Hueco St. Visitation will also be at St. Joseph Catholic Church from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Funeral Mass will also be held at St. Joseph's on Wednesday, November 18, at 9:30 a.m., followed by the burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. The Pallbearers will be Tony Medrano, Willie Montoya, Martin Lopez, Steve Villarreal, Ray Sillas, Chris Connerly, Xavier Villarreal, and Vince Villarreal.