

# El Pasoan Antonio 'Tony' Jordan dies at 88

By Diana Washington Valdez

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EL PASO — Longtime El Pasoan Antonio "Tony" Jordan, father of former DEA official Phil Jordan, died Monday from lung surgery complications, his relatives said. He was 88.

"On this day to commemorate veterans who have given so much to this country, it is with great sorrow that I convey to you the death of one more proud American veteran — my father," Phil Jordan said Wednesday. "My dad served proudly in the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army."

Antonio Jordan graduated from Bowie High School, where he excelled in sports. He was enshrined in the school's Hall of Fame after receiving all-state honors in basketball and all-district recognition in football. He was nicknamed the "Golden Toe" for his prowess on the football field.

He served in Hawaii during World War II, and worked as a deployment center supervisor at Fort Bliss, where he retired after 39 years.

"He was getting ready to be deployed to Japan when President Truman made the right decision to bomb Japan and to hasten the end



Jordan

of World War II," Phil Jordan said. "To know my father you would have learned about loyalty — to country and family, faith, pride, perseverance, teamwork, and most important, the value of love. He was a humble, unassuming man, who worked all his life without complaint. Above all others, the most important lesson he taught was respect and allegiance to God and his country."

He was preceded in death by his son Lionel "Bruno" Jordan, who was murdered in 1995, and whose slaying Phil Jordan said was a hit aimed at him by the Juárez drug cartel.

The shooting death in a Kmart parking lot in East El Paso was the subject of the book "Down by the River" by Charles Bowden.

He is survived by his wife Beatrice Forti Jordan, four children and numerous relatives.

A rosary will be at 7 p.m. Sunday and the funeral Mass will be at noon Monday at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1050 N. Clark.

Martin Funeral Home at 3839 Montana is handling the arrangements; 566-3955.