

PONCE

Mary S. Ponce, 94, passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2009. She



was a tireless civic leader and the widow of former El Paso City Representative and businessman, Ernest Ponce. Born in New York City

on November 24, 1914, Mary moved to El Paso with her family in her early teens and made El Paso her permanent home. In 1936, she married the love of her life, Ernest Ponce, who preceded her in death in 2002 after 65 years of marriage. Mary will be remembered for her outstanding and tireless contributions in civic leadership to the City of El Paso. For over 55 years, Mary volunteered her time and energy in humanitarian and civic causes, some of which are listed as follows: Director, Woman's Department of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce; President, El Paso Council of Garden Clubs; member, Advisory Committees for three former El Paso Mayors; directorships on numerous boards. Her commitment to the El Paso community was recognized in 1980 when Mary was presented the "Conquistador Scroll," one of the highest awards given by the City of El Paso. In addition to her civic activities, Mary served as Regional Director of the El Paso Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, a position she held for seventeen years. In 1980, Mary and seven Hispanic businessmen together formed Paso Del Norte Broadcasting Corporation. They served as owners and operators of Channel 26, KINT-TV, El Paso's only Hispanic tele-

vision station, and KSVE AM Radio, and KINT FM Radio. In 2008, the El Paso Commission for Women acknowledged Mary's numerous accomplishments by inducting her into the El Paso Women's Hall of Fame. Mary is preceded in death by her beloved grandson, David Bryan Morris, and her son-in-law Bobby Surratt. She is survived by her son Wayne Ernest Ponce and wife Terry Acosta-Ponce, and her daughter Maureen Surratt. She also is survived by her sister Rose Montgomery of Midland, Texas. Other survivors include a niece, Carmen LaFarelle; and four nephews, Fred Canales, Tom Montgomery (Dallas, TX), Ed Montgomery (Desoto, TX), and Rick Montgomery (Midland, TX). A Scripture and Eulogy Service, assisted by the Reverend Ron Thompson, will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at Martin Funeral Home West Chapel, 128 N. Resler Drive. Pallbearers are Martin Silva, Joe Veytia, Jim Singleton, Fred Hirsch, Nick Binyon, and David Alvarez. Memorial contributions may be made to the following: El Paso Children's Day Care Association, 510 S. Oregon St., El Paso, Texas 79901; Church of Saint Clement, 810 N. Campbell St., El Paso, Texas 79902. Interment will follow at Memory Gardens of the Valley Cemetery in Santa Teresa, New Mexico. Services entrusted to Martin Funeral Homes West, 128 N. Resler, EL Paso, TX. 79912.