

# Local Hall of Fame boxer dies at age 89

By Bill Knight  
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EL PASO — Dolph Quijano Sr., a tenacious professional fighter who won several state championships across a storied career, died Monday. He was 89.

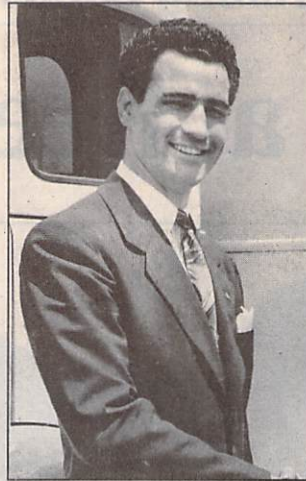
"He was a contender, not a pretender," said El Paso boxing historian Tom McKay. "Dolph was a great, great athlete and a great, great fighter, one of our all-time best."

Quijano was a member of the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame and the El Paso Boxing Hall of Fame.

An all-around athlete and star football player at El Paso High School, Quijano put together an outstanding amateur record, winning 28 of his 31 fights by knockout in the light-heavyweight division. He won a National Golden Gloves championship before turning professional in 1941.

Quijano, usually weighing less than 180 pounds, fought as a light heavyweight and a heavyweight as a professional.

He ran off 21 consecutive professional victories to start his career. One of his most memorable fights came in December 1946, when he fought No. 1 heavyweight contender Joey Maxim in the El Paso County



TIMES FILE PHOTO

**Dolph Quijano Sr.**, seen here in 1951, died Monday. He was 89. Quijano was a member of the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame and the El Paso Boxing Hall of Fame.

Coliseum.

Quijano lost a decision and Maxim went on to win the world light-heavyweight championship in a most famous fight, outlasting an exhausted legend Sugar Ray Robinson with a 14th round technical knockout in Yankee Stadium in June 1952. Maxim later lost the light-heavyweight title to another boxing legend, Archie Moore.

Quijano fought all over the country and in the bull ring in Juárez, but he never got a rematch with Maxim and never received a world title shot. He finished with a 54-10-1 professional record, scoring 43 knockouts. Five of his 10 losses came at the end of his career.

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# Boxer

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"Dolph was such a gentleman," said Ladislao Vicencio, executive director of the El Paso Golden Gloves and himself a three-time state Golden Gloves champion. "... He was always such a very encouraging individual. Accomplishing what he accomplished in boxing, we all looked up to him and listened to every word he said.

"He was a tall man but not a big heavyweight by any means," Vicencio said. "Yet he hung with the biggest of heavyweights."

McKay recalled the story of Quijano's first amateur fight.

"It was a slugfest and he was exhausted at the end of it," McKay said. "When he got through, he said that is the most demanding sport I've ever tried. I'll never do it again."

Quijano was the Texas light-heavyweight champion, the Texas heavyweight champion, the Kansas heavyweight champion and the Oklahoma heavyweight champion. He was the only fighter ever to hold the Texas light-heavyweight and heavyweight titles simultaneously.

"He had monster hands," McKay said. "He had a monster chest and monster hands."

His boxing career was inter-

rupted by World War II. Quijano served in the Army Air Corps from 1943-46 as a flight engineer and tailgunner.

His son, attorney Dolph Quijano Jr., said the old boxer died peacefully.

"It was just age. His body just gave out," Quijano said.

In addition to his son, Quijano is survived by his wife, Sue; his brother, Mike; and daughter, Vicki Castillo.

The funeral will be at 9:30 a.m. today at Funeraria Del Angel Martin Central Chapel. Burial will be at Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

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