

# Owner of beloved Van Horn eatery dies

By Aileen B. Flores

El Paso Times

EL PASO — The founder of a popular Van Horn restaurant, a favorite stop of football legend John Madden, died Saturday of injuries received in a car accident last week near Pecos, his family said.

Jesus "Chuy" Uranga, the owner of Chuy's Mexican

Restaurant, died of head trauma about 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Odessa Medical Center, daughter Barbara Ramirez said. He was 74.

Uranga will be remembered as a Dallas Cowboy's football fan and as a people person, Ramirez said.

"He loved football, he loved people. ... He liked to talk and meet people from different places," she said.

Armando Uranga said the death of his brother is a big loss not only for Van Horn but for all West Texas.

He said his brother was well known by politicians and other public figures such as Madden, University of Texas at El Paso President Diana Natalicio and legendary UTEP basketball coach Don Haskins.

"Chuy was friends with

John Madden. Madden liked the restaurant so much that my brother used to cook a special meal just for him, and the Madden Hall of Fame is there," Armando Uranga said.

Jesus Uranga's famous restaurant will continue to operate, Ramirez said, but "right now it's closed until his funeral."

Jesus Uranga ran the

restaurant for 49 years.

Family members plan to have his funeral sometime this week at the Van Horn High School auditorium.

His survivors include his wife, Mary Lou Uranga; daughter, Barbara Ramirez; and son, Paul Uranga.