Written by
Thursday, 29 November 2012 14:07

Carlos Rodriguez, one of the original founding family members and a longtime figure of Pepito's Restaurant in south Minneapolis, passed away Friday, November 16, 2012 , of complications from pancreatitis. Carlos was ever-present at the landmark Mexican-American restaurant, which he helped create along with his nephew and niece Joe and Sue Senkyr Minjares, his sister Guadalupe and Joe's father Ben Minjares. Carlos worked there for more than 41 years as the Day Manager.

Rodriguez was born May 28, 1943 at General Hospital. He was born and raised as a resident of North Minneapolis. On his birth document he was named Jesus Carlos Rodriguez and remained that for weeks until his brother Jacinto Jr., named him Carlos. Jacinto was in the Navy in the Pacific fighting WW2, and was given the honor of naming his brother, thus the delay in naming him.

As a young man, he was the winner of the Jr. Golden Gloves in his division, fighting for the Phyllis Wheatley Neighborhood house. He was a graduate of North High School where he played and lettered in football and wrestling for the North Polars.

After high school he was the lead singer in the R&B group "Mota" along with his brother Rick and Jess Rodriguez and nephew Joe Senkyr Minjares.

"Carlos was a dedicated caregiver to a large family and a humorist to the human family at large

in our restaurant," says Minjares of his Uncle Carlos. "His reputation for always having a new joke will be missed. He brought a smile to the life of everyone who knew him."

He is proceeded in death by his parents, Concepcion and Jacinto Rodriguez, his sisters Carmen Loma, Guadalupe Senkyr and Esperanza (Mabel) Eckblad, Brothers, Jacinto Jr. and Joe.

He is survived by his sisters, Alvida "Millie" Bradach, Valentina "Evelyn" Sarris, Rosa and husband Harry Knutson, Elaine Alvord, Linda Pelto, Mary Lou Warra, Emma Snyder and brothers Richard and spouse Sharon Rodriguez, Jesus Rodriguez, sister-in-law, and hundreds of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services were held Tuesday, November 20, 2012.