

The Supreme Sacrifice



Cpl. Robert Esquibel

Mr. and Mrs. Justo Esquibel lost two sons during World War II. Robert and Rudy Esquibel were the only members killed of the many Our Lady of Guadalupe parishioners to serve in that war.

Robert, a member of the 10th Army Infantry, was killed in France on July 21, 1944. He became the 51st casualty for Ford County with the armed forces as he was cut down in fierce fighting that followed the invasion of Normandy Beach. Rudy, a member of the Ninth Engineers, was wounded on July 4, 1944,



Pfc. Rudy Esquibel

recovered and was sent back to the front lines. He died on December 31, 1944 in the Battle of the Bulge. Rudy's death was recorded as the 68th casualty for Ford County. Mike, another brother, served as a member of the Third Armored Division. He was injured, but survived shrapnel injuries to his legs.

The American GI Forum hall in Dodge City, bearing the name Esquibel Brothers, was so dedicated on November 30, 1974. Dodge City's chapter, the first Kansas chapter of the American GI Forum, was organized in 1954.



SP/4 Frank Sanchez

Frank Sanchez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sanchez, Sr., died in action in Vietnam on February 23, 1966. He was the only son from Our Lady of Guadalupe parish to lose his life in that war. He was serving with the 1st Cavalry as a helicopter crewman when he was killed. He died one day before a scheduled return to the United States on emergency leave to be with his wife Rebecca, who was seriously ill and expecting a child in Atlanta, Ga. Rebecca recovered from her illness and gave birth to the couple's second son shortly before the funeral. Their sons are David and Frank III. Father Leonard Burghart celebrated a requiem Mass in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on March 7, 1966.