

## Jesse Fraga Biography

March 13, 2019

Jesus (Jesse) was the 9<sup>th</sup> child born to Valeriano and Martina and as a young boy worked on the farm while his older brothers joined various branches of the service. During these early years he learned to be strong, loving, unselfish, honest and dedicated to whatever task lay before him. During high school these same traits helped him become the captain of the football and basketball teams as well as senior class president.

After completing high school Jesse attended Walsh College where he earned a degree in accounting which led him to his first job in the city taking care of the books for a new car delivery company. Prior to completing his degree he would make several trips with his brothers to Detroit and it was during one of these trips when he accompanied Paul, who was meeting his date at a bowling alley that would eventually lead to him marrying Pauline Duma. Pauline's sister Elizabeth was dating George Botos and they were also at the bowling alley that day along with George's sister Eleanor who was dating Paul. When Jesse showed up with Paul, Elizabeth called home and told Pauline she should come to the bowling alley because Paul's brother came with him and he looks just like Ricardo Montalban. Upon seeing Jesse that evening Pauline was so taken that she asked Eleanor if she could get a picture of Jesse sometime later which Eleanor provided and Pauline wore that picture in a locket before they ever went on a date. Jesse and a date attended a dance in Detroit where Pauline was also in attendance and when Jesse spotted Pauline he asked her to dance and spent the entire night dancing with Pauline and abandoned his date. He married Pauline in 1951 and they built their first home in Mount Clemens a few years later where they begin to raise six children.

With a life-long love of sports Jesse would become the manager for two teams in the little league, first a minor league baseball team for four years and then a major league team for another four years. He won little league championships with both teams.

Jesse was working at the new car delivery company while working nights at an assembly plant during the early days of their marriage. Jesse became known in the Detroit car hauling business as a hard-working individual with accounting and corporate taxes expertise. This reputation eventually landed him a job with the Chamber's family, owners of several companies related to the car industry. Jesse was named president of the largest of these automotive car-haul companies and would also hold the title of vice-president in several other sister companies. Jesse became one of the lead management representatives on the labor negotiations board for all of the union car-haul companies in Detroit working on national contracts with the Teamsters including Jimmy Hoffa.

In 1972 Jesse and Pauline moved to Bloomfield Hills and he continued to work in the automotive industry until 1985 when he retired. Jesse worked for the next twenty years on the Bloomfield Hills planning commission where he would eventually become the chairman of the commission. During

those twenty plus years after retirement Jesse provided personal care to Pauline who had been stricken with Multiple Sclerosis 25 years earlier.

Jesse and Pauline enjoyed many travel experiences over the years and throughout their lives family and a strong faith played important roles. Jesse always said La Familia was very important and he lived his life loving his family and was surrounded by that love when he passed on November 5, 2015.