Agapito Mata

March 24, 1926 - March 18, 2022

Agapito “Gaby” Mata, age 95, passed away on March 18, 2022, peacefully and comfortably in his home in Santa Barbara, CA, following a rapid and unexpected decline in his health.

Gaby was born in Goleta, CA, on March 24, 1926 to Avelino and Eleanor Mata. He was ordered to report for induction to the US Navy on August 21, 1944, served as Seamen First Class USNR and was honorably discharged on June 6, 1946.

Gaby worked for several construction companies in Santa Barbara County and later started his own company, M&C Construction, where he became well-respected in the industry and known as the “best blade operator” in Santa Barbara.

In his retirement, Gaby took many trips to Laughlin and Las Vegas, enjoyed managing many projects around his home and spending numerous hours in his backyard with his dogs. He was most happy surrounded by his family and especially lit up with joy when his four great-granddaughters sat with him at the table for breakfast.

He is survived by his daughters Dolores Gonzales, Mary Hardman and Kathleen Mata, and his sons, Gabriel, Richard, Michael, and Tony Mata; and daughter-in-law Letty Martinez (Cruz); his 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandson; his 3 brothers, Lalo, Frank, and Raymond Mata, and his 2 sisters, Josie Zamora and Mary Garcia.

His untimely passing came sooner than expected as he was extremely active,

self-sufficient, and so full of life, laughter, and love that we all thought he'd be with us forever. Although our hearts are shattered to have lost our father, grandfather, brother, and friend, we find comfort in knowing he is at eternal peace. "Apple Grove" will never be the same. We love and miss you Daddy!
Gaby's family would like to express their eternal gratitude to Dr. Darol Joseff, MD, and the care team at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.
Memorial services will be held at Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapel, 15 E Sola St., Santa Barbara, CA, on April 1, 2022, at 1:00 PM.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **1**. 1:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
https://www.wrhsb.com

Tribute Wall

JJ

Jim James sent a virtual gift in memory of Agapito Mata

Jim James - March 31, 2022 at 11:46 PM

SG

I remember meeting our new neighbors on Apple Grove Ln and of course meeting Mr Mata back in 1972. I have many fond memories of him, he was always nice to us kids growing up and through the years as young adults. My deepest sympathy and condolences go out to the Mata family and of course my Tia Mary Garcia (Mata) and family. Sincerely, Steve Garcia

Steve Garcia - March 27, 2022 at 07:12 PM

ME

Mark Euglow lit a candle in memory of Agapito Mata

Mark Euglow - March 23, 2022 at 12:57 AM

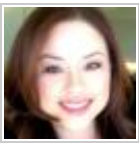
We love you uncle Gabby. You are loved and will be greatly missed.
Love Always , the Garcia family

Monica Garcia-Mendez - March 22, 2022 at 09:15 PM

SG

Sorry for the loss of your Tio Gabby and of course your Mom's brother. Love your cousin , Steve

Steve Garcia - March 27, 2022 at 07:14 PM



Angela Martinez lit a candle in memory of Agapito Mata

Angela Martinez - March 22, 2022 at 04:32 PM

ME

We Love And Miss You Grandpa!
AllStar Grandpa!

- Mark

Mark Euglow - March 22, 2022 at 03:12 PM