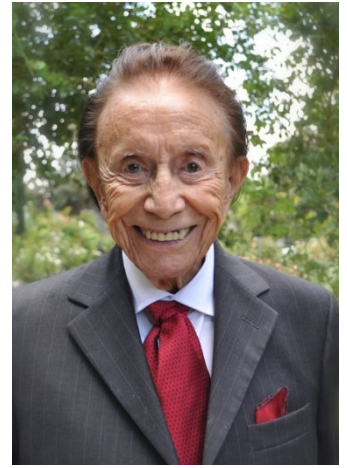


Mauro Pacheco Robles was born 12/8/1923, and passed away peacefully on 5/4/2022 at home in Alhambra, CA, a suburb of Los Angeles at age 98 years old.

In his early years, he was nicknamed by his friends as “Chaparro”, in English, translated to mean “Shorty”. In his later years, his children nicknamed him “El Gato”, translated to “The Cat”. He went way beyond nine lives! Through the years, he overcame numerous life threatening events, including a major car accident, overcame leukemia with a prototype chemotherapy, open heart surgery, macular degeneration and infections that required hospitalization. He always amazed family, friends and even the doctors, at his resilience and his powerful positive mental attitude that certainly contributed to his longevity.



He is survived by his wife, Estela Robles, of sixty eight years. Mauro Robles is survived also by his six children; Marisela, Ricardo, Rene, Marina, Jacqueline, and Nancy, 17 Grandchildren, and 14 Great Grandchildren. There will be a private service for immediate family only. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Mauro was born in the state of Zacatecas, in central Mexico. In his teens he received permission from his father Prudenciano and mother Celsa to find work outside of his home town of Teul de Gonzales. He left home and found work in the states of Durango and Jalisco, Mexico. In 1942, at the age of nineteen, Mauro came to the United States under President Roosevelt newly instituted Brazero Program that addressed the shortage of labor during the war years. He worked in Loraine, Ohio until the end of World War II. After the war in the early 1950's he returned to the United States to find work in Los Angeles. He desired to become a U.S. citizen, and petitioned in 1951. It was during the Korean War, therefore he was obliged to register with the military, and received his Selective Service card which he was required to maintain on his person. He kept the card in his wallet for the rest of his life as a reminder of what he was prepared to do. In 1964 he became a U.S. citizen.

On May 4, 1958, with money he saved from working two jobs, he embarked on his American Dream and started his own company making tortillas. He named the company La Reina, translated to 'The Queen'. He kept his first bank deposit book his whole life, and meticulously recorded the initial \$4,000 loan plus the money he and Estela had saved. He recalled collateralizing all of his [meager]assets to receive the loan. Over the years he bought and sold several businesses. Through his vision, leadership, and business acumen, the businesses thrived. He was a true pioneer of the Mexican Food industry in the United States. He enjoyed the thrill of working every day until his early '80's.

Mauro enjoyed travelling to many destinations around the world, and most especially enjoyed going to Israel where he was able to walk in the same places that Jesus walked which was very inspiring for him. He travelled most frequently to Mexico and enjoyed taking his family on summer trips to Puerto Vallarta. He was an adventurous food eater, an original foodie. When his family was young he took them on Sunday outings regularly to places like China Town, and to the “Original Barbeque” a local hot spot in Los Angeles. He enjoyed seafood immensely, and would reminisce about great meals he enjoyed traveling to the Mexican Pacific coast.

He was a parishioner of St. Therese Church in Alhambra, and attended Mass regularly up until his mid 90's, and was the instrumental donor to the education structure at St. Therese, thus fulfilling two of his passions: education and faith. He maintained a life of private prayer with Estela where his children or grandchildren might catch them praying a rosary together quietly in their bedroom or watching Mass on the television. Upon full remission from leukemia, he travelled to El Nino de Antocha Church in Zacatecas, Mexico on a pilgrimage, in Spanish, a 'Manda' to thank God for sparing his life.

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Mauro P. Robles instilled in his children a great love and respect for the country that made his dreams come true while maintaining the many beautiful traditions of the country of his birth. Many people in the Latino business community saw him as a role model and inspiration, while many everywhere saw him as an inspiration in the way that he conducted himself during physical trials. He was not one to ever complain about any of them, and always maintained a strong mental attitude. After open heart surgery at eighty five years old, the doctors wanted him to walk around the floor two times, to him, that meant he was going to walk the floor twice as many times in order to demonstrate that he was well enough to go home! He was legally blind with macular degeneration, but never said, why me, or felt sorry for himself. It was not in his nature.

Mauro was always of a generous spirit and would love to take people out and have meals together or invite them to play golf. He contributed to the Church and to charities his whole life. At ninety years old he was recognized by the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders (CALL) for his contributions. He often recalled the promise he made to his mother Celsa, that with success, came the obligation to help others.

In that vein, he was one of the founders and initial board members of the Tortilla Industry Association. That spirit of service was instilled in his family as well, with 2 of his children, Ricardo and Jacqueline and one grandson Mauro Gomez also serving on the TIA Board. Additionally, Ricardo Robles and Mauro Gomez also served terms as TIA Board Presidents.

Even while struggling with physical challenges through the years, and especially in his later years struggling with the natural challenges of an elderly body, he always remained grateful to the Good Lord for his life; his many years of marriage, success in business, seeing his children grow up, and experiencing the joy of having many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In his humility he asked for forgiveness for mistakes of the past. Indeed his very last words before passing were, "Quiero darle gracias al Senor" - "I want to go to thank God".

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society www.lls.org or Alta Med www.altamed.org