

"...y la familia?"

Volume 17, Issue 3

Dec. '12/Jan. '13

*Needed for
Future Issues:*

*"Stuff" about
you and yours...*

Announcements

*New baby
Engagement
Graduations
Promotion
New address*

***Upcoming
Events***

*family parties
Reunions
Weddings*

***Article, Photos
and Fillers***

*Nostalgic stories
Photos and
artwork
Original poetry
Vignettes on
your im-
mediate family
Favorite family
recipes
Cute things your
kids have
said
Funny stories*

*This is your
family news-
letter. Fill it
with things
about your
family!*



Isidro Rivera Honored in Washington, D.C.



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¿...y la familia?

They Saved The World!

By Orlando Rivera

There was fighting across the Atlantic. Europe was in total chaos! Asia, too, was in war. Around the world armies were marching across their neighbors, killing and destroying lives, cities, and countries. Many of us don't know what that was like. We were too young. But our fathers and mothers did. They went off to foreign countries to defend our nation and help others, knowing that many would not return. We never truly honored them until recently, building a memorial in Washington D.C. which was paid for by donations made by many of them!

On October 10th, 2012 the Honor Air Flight (sponsored by Caldwell Banker) offered a free flight to World War II veterans to visit the newly constructed WWII Park located in Washington, D.C. Dad, Isidro Rivera, was among those honored, and I was able to go as an Honor Flight Guardian. The day trip consisted of meeting in Roswell, GA (located north of Atlanta) and riding three buses to the airport then taking a flight to D.C. and touring several sites, including WWII Veterans Memorial, Vietnam and Korean Memorials, and return that evening.

At 3:00 a.m. my alarm went off. I picked up Dad and another vet at Dad's house. We drove to Roswell Park to meet the group of veterans. We arrived at 4:30 a.m., being one of the first there. (Dad is not late to any meeting!) Soon the rest arrived (obviously with the same philosophy!) They arrived bearing wheel chairs, walkers, and canes. The average age being 92, I could have made a fortune selling hearing aids! What a hoot! All of them wore hats with symbols of the campaigns they fought in, WWII, Korea and even some with Vietnam. There was one gentleman who wore all three! We anxiously awaited our ride on the bus to the airport with little expectations, but what happened next was truly inspiring.

Boarding the buses was no easy task, with over 100 elderly gentlemen being guided into their appropriate buses, Red White and Blue. Each Veteran was accompanied by an honor air guardian to assist in anyway. We were told that we would have a few motorcycles escort us to the airport. What transposed was just amazing! We had several Roswell Police cars and motorcycles along with a group of the Amvets motorcycles. Blue lights flashing we began our journey! Roads were shut down as the caravan traveled towards Roswell City limits. We were then greeted by the Roswell Fire Department with a two ladder salute! The firemen stood in attention, in full blues, saluting the buses as they passed under the ladders. You could see the pride in the veterans as the buses rolled under the ladders! I must confess that my eyes welled up along with my heart! It was now around 6:00 a.m., with rush hour in process. The police shut down the interstate freeway, stopping the morning rush hour all the way to the airport! Helicopters filmed the action, broadcasting live on TV, as the honorees began their monumental journey. We arrived at the airport, and were then greeted by The Army Reserves and a senator of Georgia thanking them for their service.



“¿...y la familia?”

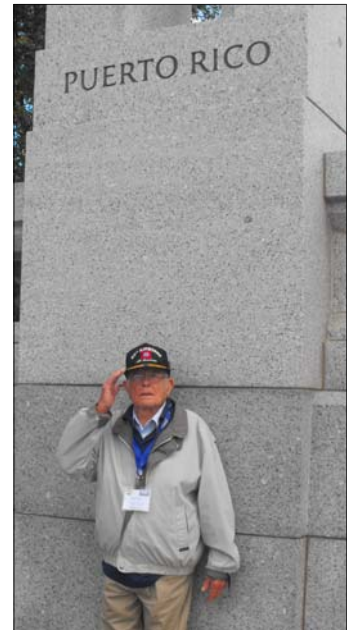
The flight to Washington was smooth; both pilots were veterans also! When we landed in D.C., the plane taxied to the terminal. The D.C. Fire Department was waiting with a two water cannon salute. Two fire trucks with water cannons faced each other, shooting water in a high arch, to form a water tunnel, allowing the plane to go under and through it. The sun was shining just right and you could see a rainbow in the mist. What a sight! We parked and departed the airplane, walked through banners and flags, and were then received by a welcoming committee - a jazz band playing tunes from the 40's, and dancers dressed in costumes from the era!

We loaded the buses—red, white and blue—and again we were escorted by D.C. police department, who shut down the freeway all the way to the WWII Memorial. Upon arriving at the memorial, we were greeted by an Army company that escorted and assisted us for the rest of the day. We were able to visit several sites, including the WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and Iwo Jima Memorial.

On the flight back most of us Honor Guardians were just “plum tuckered out,” but the old vets were still chatting away until one of them started a chorus to which many joined in: “From the sands of Iwo Jima”... the men and women who saved the world!



Orlando and Isidro Rivera

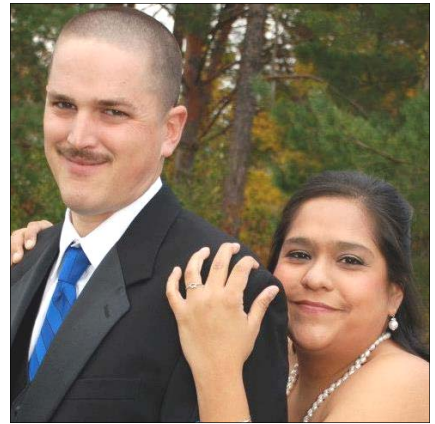
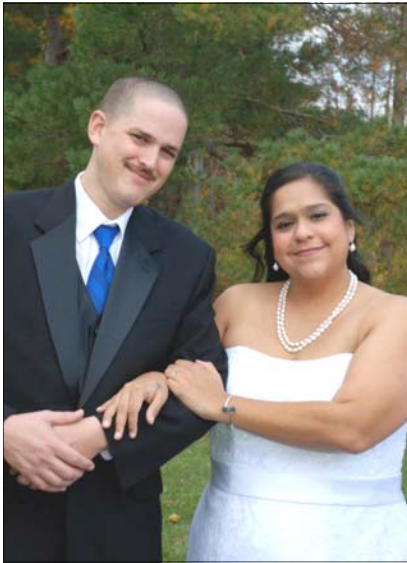


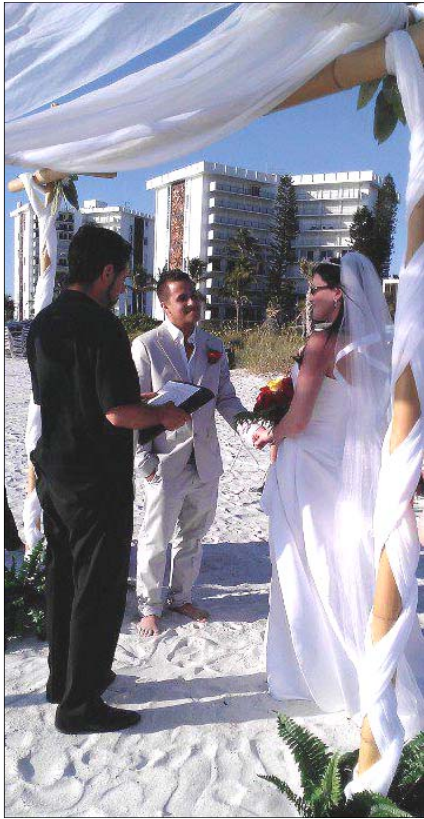
“¿...y la familia?”

Wedding Album of Ryan and Anita Rivera

Oct. 20, 2012

Ryan is the son of Carlos Rivera and
the grandson of
Isidro and Rosita Rivera.

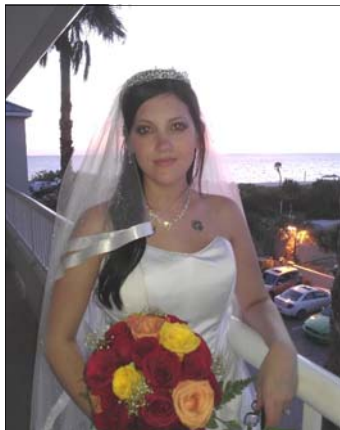




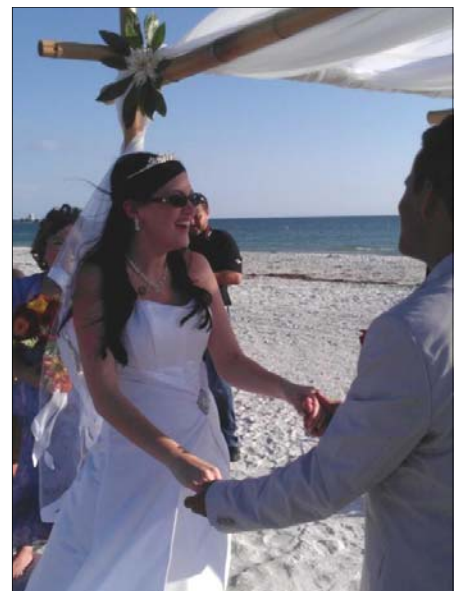
“¿...y la familia?”



*Nando and
Natalie Vázquez*
Sept. 28, 2012



Madeline and Catherine Rivera,
mother and aunt of the groom



New Arrivals! *“¿...y la familia?”*



Adorable is right!! Meet Iriana Chanel Merced, the latest bundle of joy delivered by the stork to Charice Rivera. (Charice is the daughter of René Rivera, Jr.) Iriana came into this world weighing 7lbs, 4 oz. and measuring 20 inches, and is Charice's fourth child. She was welcomed by older siblings, Analee, Lilitana, and Javier Merced. Congratulations, Charice, and may God bless your family!

Congratulations to Raúl Rivera and Janay Argenti on the birth of their baby boy, Nicholas. Nicco was born on November 7th, weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz., and measured 19-3/4 inches. Baby Nicholas is the 2nd great-grandchild of the late Raúl Rivera Sevilla.



On Oct. 20th, Joi and I drove to Concord to meet Marina's baby boy, Jacob. As you can see, we had a mini reunion with Olga's daughter, Michelle, Angie's widower Michael, and grandchildren, Teal, Alura, and Marlin, plus my daughter-in-law, Lisa. The baby girl that Michael is holding (at left) is Alura's daughter, Aluna. In the above pic, we are playing Peanuts, a card game that Auntie Adele taught me some 48 years ago, and which has become the traditional card game in our family. It touched my heart that Marina requested to play Peanuts! We also had a feast that included arroz con gandules, empanadillas, and gazpacho de bacalao, plus a delicious apple pie (made by Alura and Marlin).

Thanksgiving gathering in Carrollton by Carlos Rivera

Garnet and I visited dad on Friday the day after Thanksgiving. When we arrived mid-afternoon, Orlando was already busy in the kitchen preparing a Thanksgiving meal. Each year they celebrate Thanksgiving on Friday because they (dad, Orlando and Jana) are involved with Carrollton's Soup Kitchen on Thanksgiving day, providing hundreds of meals to Carrollton's poor. At our dinner, we were blessed with the presence of Jana's parents, Jana's brother and his girlfriend, Orlando's daughters, Leanna and Monica, and Monica's boyfriend. It was a wonderful meal and so nice to be surrounded by so much family.

Dad is doing exceptionally well for his age. We continue to be amazed with his self-sufficiency. Of course no visit to dad's would be complete without some story telling about his childhood, and he had some funny ones that had us rolling on the floor.

(We will share one of his stories in the February issue of “¿...y la familia?”)



“¿...y la familia?”

*Plans are already underway for the 2013 Family Reunion at
DISNEYWORLD in ORLANDO, FLORIDA, June 21-23, 2013!!!*

We are planning to stay at a hotel inside of the park, which will make the experience more exciting and at the same time more convenient. Some of the benefits of staying at a Disney Resort Hotel include the following:

- More quality time with family—we will be conveniently close to all the attractions and can come and go to our rooms as we please. For families with small children, this could be a huge advantage!
- We can make use of extended park hours.
- There is COMPLIMENTARY transportation between the airport and our hotel, as well as throughout the theme parks (on monorail, motor cars and ferry boats). If you are driving to Disney World instead of flying, there is complimentary parking at our hotel.
- We will avoid the hassles and delays of traffic jams entering the regular parking lot, and the expense of daily parking.

To keep the cost more reasonable, we are planning to stay at one of the “Value Resorts.” If, after looking at the Value Resorts on www.disneyworld.com, you have a preference for a specific Value Resort, please let me know as soon as possible. Cousin Frankie, who works at Disney World, will be working up a package for us that will include the hotel stay, the entrance tickets to the various theme parks, and a meal plan. We are planning to forego a formal banquet hall evening for this reunion, and instead, have an informal dinner gathering that won’t cost us anything extra and that will not take away from time enjoying the theme parks. Keep in mind, however, that for this reunion we will not be having Puerto Rican food or salsa dancing. Although very different from past reunions, it should be an exciting and memorable reunion for all who attend. Already some 50 people have expressed interest!

As more information becomes available, you will be notified via this newsletter, Facebook, e-mail, and/or the family website: www.ylafamilia.org.



“...y la familia?” presents:

THE RIVERA FAMILY COOKBOOK

FEATURING:

- Your favorite family recipes
- Recipes in both Spanish and English
- History of famous Puerto Rican dishes
- Anecdotes about your recipes ...and much more!

Submit your recipes to Norma at mamanony@sbcglobal.net by January 31, 2013

Help us keep our traditions alive!

Tory Pettit wants to create a Puerto Rican cookbook filled with family recipes. This notice was already sent out via e-mail and posted on Facebook, but there are family members who have not yet heard about this project. Although quite a few have expressed an interest in participating and excitement about the cookbook, we are still waiting for your recipes! Please take the time to dig through your family recipe box and send me a few of your favorites. Tory is looking for Puerto Rican recipes, specifically. Don’t worry about whether or not you think yours is the best recipe or whether others will like it...there are as many variations of *pasteles* and *habichuelas guisadas* as there are cooks. We can publish several recipes for the same dish, and people can choose the one they prefer and/or tweak any recipe to their liking.



This is our Christmas greeting to all who receive the “¿...y la familia?” newsletter.

Praying all God’s blessings will be yours this season and that the New Year brings you and yours much joy.

*With love,
The Pettit family*

“This is how God showed His love among us: He sent his one and only Son...” 1 John 4:9 NIV

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c/o Norma I. Pettit
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Visit us on the Web at www.ylafamilia.org.

Birthday Greetings



Monica M. García
(Muñeca Osorio) (38) - Dec 2

Christopher Nicholson (43) -
Dec. 4

Emma Kathleen Thompson
- (9) Dec. 5

Yanelis Aisha González (10)
Dec. 9

William A. González (20)-
Dec. 14

Ryan Rivera (33) -
Dec. 16

Jonathan F. Segarra (15) -
Dec. 17

Kelsey Pombo (23) - Dec. 21

Arlene González (31) -
Dec. 22

Joshua Omar Cabán (7) -
Dec. 22

Cama Klene (45) - Dec. 25

Michelle Harrell (46) -
Dec. 30

Vanessa Braddock (40) -
Dec. 31

Oscar González (53) -
Jan. 1

Mary Lillian Pérez (49)
Jan. 6

Robert Paul Cavino (8) -
Jan. 9

Ada (Pacheco) Rivera (58)
- Jan. 10

Marlin R. Barnes (17) -
Jan. 10

Edward Rivera (64) -
Jan. 11

Bélgica González (32) -
Jan. 12

David Nicholson (49) -
Jan. 18

Sylvia (Atiles) Lovelace
(75) - Jan. 18

Angeleena Ketcher (1) -
Jan. 23

Timothy Ketcher (1) -
Jan. 23

Amber Nicholson (17) -
Jan. 24

**Zachary David
Nicholson** (6) - Jan. 30

Larry Wright (64) -
Jan. 30

William Roig (80) -
Jan. 31

Anniversaries

**Ada (Pacheco) and
Heriberto Rivera** (33)
- Dec. 10

**Joi (De Nardo) and
Vic Stenroos** (32) -
Dec. 26

**Michelle (Rivera) and
Jason Su'a** (6) -
Dec. 30

**Ruben and Lisa
Quiñones** (12) - Jan. 6

**Sephanie (Krause)
and Scott Thompson**
(12) - Jan. 6

