

Scholar, diplomat Ralph Guzman dies

SANTA CRUZ — Dr. Ralph C. Guzman, whose four-decade career as scholar, educator, activist and former deputy assistant Secretary of State in the Carter administration made him one of the most prominent Hispanics in the country, has died, it was reported today. He was 60.

The death of Guzman, described as the consummate role model for under-privileged Mexican-American children and as a man of great personal charisma, was completely unexpected, said Christine D. Guzman, his daughter.

She said Guzman had been in perfect health until he suffered a stroke on Sunday and lapsed into a deep coma. He sustained severe cerebral hemorrhages, and by Thursday was pronounced as brain-dead by physicians, his daughter said.

The family decided, she said, to take him off a life-support system at 4:53 p.m. Thursday, at which time he was pronounced dead at Dominican Hospital.

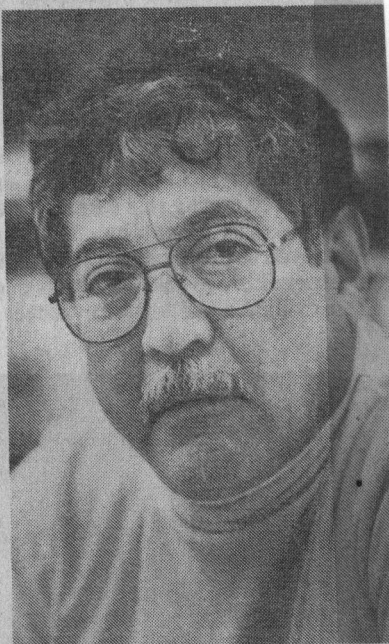
Friends and family will gather tonight for an evening prayer service at White's and Wessendorf Chapel, 138 Walnut Ave., from 7 to 9. Visitations will also be allowed on Saturday morning from 8:30 to 10:30.

Following visitations Saturday a funeral procession will form at the same chapel and proceed to Holy Cross Church, where a Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated commencing at 11 a.m.

Father John Coffield of St. Edwards Catholic Church in San Clemente, and a close friend of Guzman for nearly 40 years, will be officiating.

Interment will follow at IOOF Cemetery.

He is survived by his former wife, Margaret Stella Guzman; his daughter,



Dr. Ralph Guzman

ter, Christine; two nephews, Edward and Frank Guzman of Los Angeles; and two nieces, Carrie and Virginia Guzman, also of Los Angeles.

"I think he's a remarkable example of a Mexican-American who utilized the facilities of public education and made a considerable contribution (to society)," said former UCSC Chancellor Dean McHenry, the man who hired Guzman to teach at the school and who had known Guzman since his days as a UCLA graduate student. "When we were looking for leadership and to find Chicano scholars, he was the first one to whom I turned."

"I think his single greatest contribution was in showing that it could be done," said McHenry of the man who rose from working as a field hand to occupying the post of deputy assistant Secretary of State from 1978 to 1980.

During his time in the State Department, where he was believed to be the highest ranking Hispanic in the U.S. Foreign Service, Guzman was responsible for the formulation and implementation of much of this country's policies in both Central and South America.

"He definitely was an asset to and made a name for Santa Cruz," added Arnoldo Gil-Orsorio, former president of the UCSC Affiliates and a friend of Guzman for the past eight years. "It's a great loss. Too bad. Too bad."

"He was a foremost Hispanic role-model in the Hispanic community," said his daughter. "He worked to improve the plight of all oppressed people in the U.S., particularly Mexican-Americans."

The name Guzman made for himself included the publication of several books which served as one of the first opportunities mainstream America had to look with understanding inside the Mexican-American community.

Among them were such works as "The Political Socialization of Mexican-American People" in 1976, "The Function of Anglo-American Racism in the Political Development of Chicanos" in 1971, and "The Mexican-American: Our Second Minority" in 1970.

Apart from his writings, Guzman was an active Democrat in and around Santa Cruz who also served four years in the U.S. Navy during World War II, participating in the invasion of Okinawa.

Following the war, through the use of his veteran's benefits, he enrolled at California State University, Los Angeles, where he went on to receive a B.A. and an M.A. in political science.

He ultimately was graduated from the UCLA in 1970 with a doctorate in political science. It was there he met McHenry and was persuaded to be-

come an acting associate professor at UCSC.

McHenry and other UCSC officials credit Guzman, a former provost at Merrill College, with the founding of Oakes College and the school's Latin American studies program.

Merrill Provost John Isbister has also announced that the college's graduation ceremony in June will be dedicated to the memory of Ralph Guzman.

From 1970 to 1977, Guzman served as an associate professor of politics and community studies, after which he took the leave of absence to serve under President Jimmy Carter.

He returned to Santa Cruz and UCSC in 1980, where he was a familiar figure both on campus and off until his stroke on Sunday.

Guzman's family has stated that flowers are welcome, but for those who wish, memorial contributions are preferred in his name to help the earthquake victims of the recent earthquakes in Mexico City. This can be done through the local and national offices of the Red Cross and other organizations which have set up collections.