



Jorge L. N. Gonzalez, Sr.

Jorge L. Norat Gonzalez, Sr. (George L. N. Gonzalez), 93, of Stevens, entered into rest at his residence on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

Born in La Plata, Puerto Rico, on April 5, 1915, he was a son of the late Jose Maria and Josefa (Norat) Gonzalez. He migrated to the United States in August 1953 and retired from Victor F. Weaver Poultry in New Holland in 1980.

He was the husband of Emma (Horting) (High) Gonzalez. They would have celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on November 6th of this year.

Jorge was the founder of the Spanish Mennonite Church in Lebanon, PA. The work was started in 1954. He started out by having services in homes and later having services in the afternoon in an English church. In 1965 he started the Followers of Jesus Christ Mennonite Spanish Church in Lebanon.

He retired from there in 1984 and then started Mennonite Followers of Jesus Christ Church in Lancaster where he was the senior pastor until the time of his death.

He was licensed to the Lancaster Mennonite Conference in 1961. He was ordained in 1967 by Fred Hostetler at Good Shepherd Mennonite Church in Neffsville, PA. Jorge has helped numerous families get established here in the United States from Puerto Rico.

In addition to his wife, Jorge is survived by 10 daughters: Mirta I, wife of Pedro Melendez of Cayey, Puerto Rico, Hilda R. Matos of Charlottesville, VA, Norma S. Gonzalez of Stevens, Irma S. Bonilla of Lancaster, Anna Mary, wife of James M. Hoover of New Holland, Miriam, wife of Louis Lauver of Lititz, Rachel, wife of Anthony Rivera, Sr. of Stevens, Naomi, wife of Floyd W. Halteman of Wrightsville, GA, Martha, wife of Gary Schleifenheimer of Birdsboro, and Esther, wife of Kenneth L. Garman of Stevens, 3 sons, Joseph M., husband of Anna Mary (Pfautz) Gonzalez of Reamstown, George L. Gonzalez, Jr. of Wrightsville, GA, and Daniel, husband of Orpha J. (Lehman) Gonzalez of Denver, 2 brothers, Roberto and Jose Gonzalez, both of Cayey, Puerto Rico, a sister, Matilde (Gonzalez) Rivera of La Plata, Puerto Rico, 41 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, and 9 great-great-grandchildren.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Antonia Santos Gonzalez in Oct. 1949 and a daughter, Ruth Gonzalez in Dec. 1995. He was also preceded in death by four sisters, Lydia Ester Gonzalez, Julia (Gonzalez) Gonzalez, Hilda (Gonzalez) Pagan and Carmen (Gonzalez) Santiago.

A Hispanic service will be held at Iglesia Seguidores de Cristo, 624 Lime Street, Lancaster, on Tuesday, October 21st at 7:00 PM. A viewing will also be held on Wednesday, October 22nd at Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church, 140 Pleasant Valley Road, Ephrata, from 2-4 and 6-8 PM, and also one hour prior to services on Thursday at the church. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, October 23, 2008 at the Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church. Interment will follow in the adjoining church cemetery.

Please omit flowers. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Jorge's memory may be sent to Hospice of Lancaster County, PO Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17604.

Arrangements by Stradling Funeral Homes, Akron/Ephrata. For additional information or to send a condolence to the family, visit [www.stradlingfuneralhome.com](http://www.stradlingfuneralhome.com)