



## Leonard Olguin

November 20, 1925 - July 29, 2019

Dr. Leonard Olguin

1925-2019

On Monday, July 29, 2019, Leonard Olguin peacefully slipped his earthly bonds to take his place in eternity, following a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He was 93 years old. Leonard was born on November 20 1925, in San Pedro, CA to Roque and Josephine(Maine) Olguin. He began a career in education by receiving his AA degree from LA City College. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts from Cal State LA, and his Doctorate from the University of Southern California.

During his distinguished career in education Leonard was asked to go to Washington DC, to develop the national Right to Read program in the 1970s for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In 1986 he was inducted into the California School Boards Association Hall of Fame. Dr. Olguin retired from California State University at Long Beach after 22 years as full professor in the College of Education.

He is preceded in death by his parents, spouses, Beatrice (Guerrero) Olguin, and Mary Alice (Budinger) Olguin, and four older brothers, Roy, Gus, John, and Alfonso. Leonard is survived by his devoted wife, Darlene Valdez-Olguin,

(La Habra, CA), who stayed by his side during his 19-year illness, his six sons, Albert "Lefty", (Helendale, CA), Gerald, (Port St John, FL), Edward, (Wilmington, CA), Peter, (West Hartford, CT), Patrick, (Whittier, CA), Paul, (Portland, OR), his younger brother, Albert, (Hesperia, CA), Sisters, Esther Riggs, (Pueblo, CO), and Belia Olguin-Smith, (Rancho Palos Verdes, CA), twenty grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11:00am on August 9, 2019, at St. Angela Merici Catholic Church, in Brea, CA. Viewing will be Wednesday, August 7, from 5-9:00pm, and Memory Gardens Memorial Park and Mortuary, in Brea, CA. Leonard will be interred with military honors at Riverside National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside National Cemetery

22495 Van Buren Blvd.  
Riverside, CA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 7. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (PT)

Memory Garden Memorial Park  
455 West Central Avenue  
Brea, CA 92821  
<http://www.memorygarden.com>

## Funeral Service

AUG 9. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Angela Merici Church  
585 S. Walnut Ave.  
Brea, CA

# Tribute Wall



“ I have known Leonard Olguin since 1960 -- when he taught me the guitar. I was just ten. One year later he became my 6th grade teacher in the Los Nietos School district -- the oldest in California. Ten years later, I knew him at Cal State Univ Long Beach and we have connected many times over the years. Over the decades he has taught me so many things I cannot even count. I became a teacher, a historian, and now a teacher of teachers -- all because of Leonard. As this great man passes from our lives, we have lost much more than we even know.  
Best Always, Douglas Westfall

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**Douglas Westfall** - August 23, 2019 at 11:47 AM

EO

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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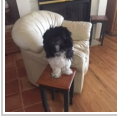
**Edward Olguin** - August 04, 2019 at 11:36 AM

SS

what a beautiful tribute for such a remarkable man! His legacy will live on through his family. I happen to have the opportunity to work with his son, Edward, and I see that drive, caring, and education influence in him everyday! 🍷

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**Sara Smith** - August 04, 2019 at 11:56 AM



*Recently, I remembered Dr. Olguin again, because I've met a man who reminds me of him, Dionicio Pena, Stanford graduate, bright and handsome and funny. Leonard was brilliant but he was completely down to earth, a warm, loving and funny man. When I was principal of Nampa High School, I invited him several times to speak to the teachers and to the students, to help them appreciate Chicano culture. He made a HUGE difference to all of us, in a warm, sweet, kind and loving way. Unlike some cultural awareness presenters, he did not confront; he shared! I think I fell in love with him a little. My husband and I picked him up from the airport in our Firebird. He was a little round and getting into that car was a bit of a challenge, but he made a joke of it and had all of us laughing. Poor Nampa High School needs Dr. Olguin worse than ever. The DOJ will be issuing "remedies" to the district any day now. Yo me meti, retired and sad that we have the same battles to fight all over again.--Shirley Reeder de Vendrell, 6-24.*

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**Shirley Vendrell** - June 19, 2024 at 11:33 AM