



## 1st Sgt Alfred Urrabazo

January 9, 1928 - August 18, 2019

First Sergeant Alfred Urrabazo, beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, entered into eternal rest on August, 18, 2019 at the age of 91. Alfred was born in D'Hanis, Texas on January 9, 1928. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 48 years, Socorro Urrabazo, parents Jose & Juanita Urrabazo, son Alfred Urrabazo Jr., siblings Paul, Joe, Johnny, Santos, Antonia, Florencia, and Guadalupe. He is survived by his daughters Sandra Urrabazo-Busanet (Juan) and JoAnn Ludwig, sons Spencer Urrabazo (Elida), Paul Urrabazo (Minerva), Oscar Hernandez (Esther), Larry Hernandez (Joe), and sister Mary Oliva. Alfred was blessed with twelve grandchildren Veronica (Lee), Vanessa, Samantha (Lyle), Sidney (Richard), David, Daniel, Sara, Paul James, Stephanie, Joshua, Ashley, Eric, and Daniella, 7 great grand-children, 2 great great-granddaughters, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Alfred joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1944 and served honorably in the U.S. Air Force, retiring after 44 years of combined service through World War II, Cold War, Korean War, and Vietnam War. He earned many medals of honor for having served above and beyond the call of duty. In his last assignment, he proudly served the 433rd Airlift Wing, also known as the "Alamo Wing", where he often quoted his favorite saying, "Us Airmen never die, we just take a long flight to heaven." He indeed took a long and blessed flight of ninety-one years.

During his years as a reservist in the U.S. Air Force, he joined the Via Metropolitan Transit Company where he worked for many years as a bus driver before retiring in 1992. He was a lifetime active member of the Amalgamated Transit Union 694 until his death. During his tenure, he also held the seat of union president for a period of time. His goal was to pave the way for drivers behind him ensuring great working conditions and fair and just treatment.

Other organizations that he proudly belonged to were the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion.

Above his lifetime careers, Alfred had a deep love for his family. "Papo" was everyone's favorite and friends of kids and grandkids also called him Papo. He loved to tell stories of growing up in D'Hanis with his parents and siblings. His favorite stories to tell were of the good 'ol Air Force days as an Airman. He never ran out of stories and always had a new one that no one had heard. Papo was the life of the party and could always be found on the dance floor, no matter the song. He had a heart of gold, willing to help anyone with anything anytime. He always had the best advice and greatest words of wisdom and in his own words, "Life is sweet. Life is short. Live a good and happy life."

First Sergeant Alfred Urrabazo, the best Dad and most wonderful Papo will be dearly missed by many. May his beautiful soul rest in peace.

Services will begin on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at Mission Park Funeral Home North with a viewing at 5:00 p.m. and rosary at 7:00 p.m. Mass will be held Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 600 Oblate Dr., San Antonio, TX followed by interment with full military honors at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the 360 Veterans' Association ([360va.org](http://360va.org)).

# Cemetery

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## **Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery**

1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX, 78209

# Events

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**AUG 28 Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

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Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr, San Antonio, TX, US,  
78230

**AUG 28 Rosary** 07:00PM

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Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr, San Antonio, TX, US,  
78230

**AUG 29 Funeral Mass** 09:30AM

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Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
600 Oblate, San Antonio, TX, US, 78216

**AUG 29 Interment** 11:00AM

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Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery  
1520 Harry Wurzbach, San Antonio, TX, US,  
78209

# Comments

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of 1st Sgt Alfred Urrabazo.



August 28, 2019 at 08:37 AM

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“ Tio, others may never know how you helped me back in 1981 but I know and our Father in heaven is aware of it. Tio, you come to the end of this journey but still you began another in God's Kingdom. I salute you for your service to our country and you are relieve of your post.. Two steps back, SALUTE. .... ROBERT VALDILLEZ

Robert L Valdillez - August 27, 2019 at 10:37 PM

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“ Uncle Fred was very special. He and his wife Socorro would visit our mom Santos, his sister and family frequently. He was always so handsome and very kind, friendly, and always happy. Sandra and JoAnne would come as well when they were young children. My mom and dad and all of us loved for them to visit us in the country. But the one memory that I will cherish is when my husband Roger Wood and his gospel group Solid Rock3 sang in San Antonio and we all went out to eat at Mi Tierra afterwards. I went around the big table to personally greet about 20 family members there. I reached over to greet and hug Tia Socorro and Tio Fred. Tio pulled me over so he could kiss me on the cheek and whispered to me, "You know I love you, mija." That was so special to me and the rest of the day I had a big smile on my face! I loved hearing stories about his other children, my primos, and about his siblings as well. His military career is impressive and I am so glad he is getting the full honor military tribute he deserves for serving our country. I'm so lucky to have had him in my life and I will cherish his blessings forever, just like his immediate family. I will miss him at our family reunions as well. RIP, Tio, and you know I love you too!

Linda Rodriguez - August 25, 2019 at 07:16 PM

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“ He gave me a clipping of an evergreen bush he had received from my Dad's house after my Dad passed. 26 years and many moves later, I still have the bush. It brings a smile to my face each day. He and my aunt visited me in Hawaii to make sure I was ok without family there. I was over 40 years old. They predicted I would marry

my friend who gave them a tour of the island. I married him and 26 years later, still married to Lou. Love and miss him.

**Rose Mesa Oana** - August 24, 2019 at 05:06 PM

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“ I'll always remember the talks we had at the reunions about his little brother, my Dad. He shared things with me about my Dad I'd never heard before. He also said my Dad would have been proud of the man I had become. I'll cherish those talks with my uncle for the rest of my life. Love your nephew. Rest In Peace Tio!

**Leroy Urrabazo** - August 23, 2019 at 05:04 PM