



Capt. Alfonso T. Carmona USAF (Ret)

April 8, 1939 - September 2, 2017

CAPT. ALFONSO TRINIDAD CARMONA, USAF (Ret)

Beloved Husband, Devoted Father,
Adoring Grandfather, Generous Relative, Loyal Friend

Capt. Alfonso Trinidad Carmona Jr, USAF (Ret) age 78 of San Antonio passed from this life, surrounded by his loving family, on Saturday, September 2, 2017 after a long battle with heart disease.

Trini was born on Galveston Island in 1939 to immigrant parents with a large and loving family. He cherished his deep and tested Catholic faith and took pride in his Mexican American heritage. From a young age, he exuded a true zest for life and immersed himself in his community by singing in church, acting in school plays and actively joining several civic organizations like the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Knights of Columbus (KC), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), and Aurora Borealis Toastmasters Club.

After graduating from Kirwin High School in 1957, Al joined the United States Marine Corps. He often joked that he quickly realized he was “a lover not a fighter,” so he enlisted in the United States Air Force where he honorably served his country for more than 25 years. He was sent to the Korean

Conflict; was stationed at Goose Bay AFB in Labrador, Canada, Chenault AFB in Louisiana, Eielson AFB in Fairbanks, Alaska, Lackland and Medina AFB in San Antonio, Texas and Zaragoza AFB in Spain. During his 15 year enlisted career, he served as both an Academic and Training Instructor, where he influenced the lives of many soldiers. Al played a significant role in forming and implementing social actions training to promote understanding and communication between officers and enlisted members and between different racial groups. He worked hard to earn his B.A. from William Carey College and became an officer, dedicating over 10 more years of his life as a social actions pioneer and director to create equal opportunities and treatment for all serving in the Air Force. Capt. Carmona believed Social Actions was not just an Air Force program, but a way of life. After retiring from the Air Force, he continued to serve his country by working with the Veterans Administration, the Selective Service System and St. Philips College as Director of Veterans Affairs. He instilled in his children and grandchildren, his values of education and community service, which they all pursued. Throughout his military service, he earned numerous honors & commendations and developed countless lifelong friendships.

Trini/Al was a gracious host with a loving and generous heart. His home was always open to make room for soldiers away from home; beloved relatives; and close friends who immediately became like family. Al knew no strangers. He carried out a moving tradition during holiday meals by setting an extra place in honor of all those who could not be there; so they would never be forgotten. His family will carry on this tradition in his honor.

He loved to entertain friends and family with his strong tenor voice, singing "Ave Maria" at church; performing "Volver" and "Cielito Lindo" for Hispanic Heritage Month and "My Way" with the Clara Reid Show in Zaragoza; harmonizing to "Stand by Me" with the Street Corner Six at St. Philips College; and spontaneously accompanying mariachis at many celebrations with

passionate renditions of “El Rey” and other favorites.

Al/Trini inherited heart disease, having his first heart attack at only 35 years of age. The surgeon who performed his first bypass surgery stated that he had never seen such a damaged heart and warned him that he would not live to be 50. That doctor had no idea what a loving heart and strong will this miraculous man possessed. He suffered through additional heart attacks, procedures and surgeries, but was thankful for the exceptional team of medical professionals at Wilford Hall, San Antonio Army Medical Center and Methodist Hospital. With their compassion and care, Capt. Carmona was able to continue to live his life to its fullest. Because he lived his life 5 years at a time, he treasured every priceless moment.

Carmona delighted in: making up songs on his guitar to play for his loving daughters during their youth; singing with his brothers and ex-wife Rose Marie; dancing with his nieces and sisters-in-law; travelling the world with his family; playing golf with his buddies; visiting his cousins in Mexico; dressing up at Halloween with his creative wife Cynthia; teaching his daughter Stephanie how to cook and helping her raise her child; visiting wineries with his daughter Cathy and his favorite son-in-law; listening to his granddaughter Jacque sing; cheering for his grandson Steven at basketball games; seeing his granddaughter Elena grow into a beautiful young woman; playing Santa for the children in the family at Christmas time; helping his daughter Sylvia fight breast cancer; spending Easter at Raymond Russell Park with the Rodriguez clan; taking pictures with the Bud light girls; rooting for the Spurs and Cowboys from his recliner with his hero dog Rico laying comfortably on his lap; betting on boxing matches with his brother-in-law David; welcoming his stepson home; and sharing good food while reminiscing with his dear friends and family. Al/Trini was not a perfect man, but he was a charming, giving, larger than life being, whose absence will be profoundly felt. He has

left behind many precious memories for his loved ones to cherish and wanted us all to celebrate his life.

Trini was preceded in death by his parents Otilia Rodriguez and Alfonso Carmona; sister Rachel; and brother-in-law Jesse Hernandez; brothers Salvador, Frank, John, Jesse, and Xavier Carmona; and former wife Rose Marie Martinez Carmona.

He is survived and will be deeply missed by his wife Cynthia Castro Carmona; daughters Sylvia Carmona, Catherine Carmona-Reed (Diego), Stephanie Carmona; stepson Xavier Gonzalez; grandchildren Jacqueline Carmona, Steven and Elena Reed; honorary grandson Jared Hernandez; brother Jose Alfonso (Rachel), sister Vangie Rodriguez (Robert), numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

SERVICES

All services will be held in San Antonio. Visitation will begin at 5:30 P.M. with a Rosary to follow at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North, 3401 Cherry Ridge Drive. Funeral Mass will be held at 12:00 PM. on Friday, September 22, 2017 at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church; burial with Full Military Honors immediately following at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. For personal acknowledgement, you may sign the online guestbook at www.missionparks.com in the Tributes section. Because Alfonso was a charitable man, the family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent in his memory to either The Sunshine Center Inc in Galveston, The Ronald McDonald House of Galveston, The Wounded Warrior Project, or The American Heart Association.

Cemetery Details

Mission Burial Park North

20900 IH 10 West
San Antonio, TX 78257

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 21. 5:30 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Rosary

SEP 21. 7:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Mass

SEP **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church
Clower Street
San Antonio, TX 78201

Tribute Wall

LS

“ WOW! We just found this & are saddened to learn he's no longer with us. As newly weds in 1962 at Eielson AFB, Alaska we shared a duplex with he, Rose Marie, Sylvia & a younger daughter. - sharing a bathroom & telephone in a hallway between us. He was bigger than life - loved everyone - a great mentor to us on our new journey of marriage in the Air Force! And Sylvia - a doll-baby! She was then and still is to this day probably the cutest, smartest little gal ever! I just loved her and she'd come running to me - flinging those little arms around my neck and her eyes just flashing love! You couldn't help falling madly in love with her. Wish I knew where she was now. We're in Brooksville, FL - north OF Tampa- also retired from the USAF - married 61 years - 80 years old - still in love! Cell 727-366-7481 if she sees this & would like to talk❤️ Both her parents were jewels to us! So glad our paths crossed in this world. Our best to his family!

Lyle & Dianne Steckelberg - March 31, 2023 at 05:17 PM

SU

“ Am so very sorry I missed him, and feel I shouldn't have done so. I tried to find him once years ago without success. And, there is absolutely no reason he should remember me. I was just an Airman Basic at Lackland in February of 1966 during a terrible spinal meningitis out break. But this morning in my kitchen, I again quoted Staff Sergeant Alfonso T. Carmona who told me ,among many other things, the best dietary advise I ever got- " If your running a bit heavy, layoff the bread and potatoes a while", . And " I have a better command of the English language than that " He had a better command of many other things ,too, and got me ready for my Fighter Wing service in the Pacific under the command of Col. Chuck Yeager. Vietnam 67-68.

I hope to see my favorite Sergeant again! I owe him a lot.
Steve Cree
svcree19@gmail.com

Steve Cree former USAF - May 16, 2022 at 11:59 PM

CJ

“ Cris, Esperanza, & Milton Jones purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Capt. Alfonso T. Carmona USAF (Ret).



Cris, Esperanza, & Milton Jones - September 19, 2017 at 12:37 PM

GC

“ Al Carmona was one of the finest human beings I ever met. He was always friendly, compassionate, and very generous with his time and resources. No question he was loved by all that knew him. My wife Helen and I are deeply saddened by his passing yet feel forever blessed that the Good Lord made it possible for us to cross paths on our life's journey. Al, you have done your Duty - and excelled in all. RIP my friend.

GIL CORONADO

Gil Coronado - September 19, 2017 at 10:29 AM

TV

I knew when I met Mr. Carmona, he was a person who would be missed deeply, when he passed. He was such a joyful soul and very handsome. He reminded me of Zorba the Greek, all heart, passion and emotions. He played hard, worked harder and loved with complete devotion and compassion. I worked with him at St. Philip's College here in San Antonio, Texas in the Veteran's Affairs Office, where he made sure every veteran received the educational benefits they had coming to them. He knew how to combine work and play. He had a glorious voice, singing from his soul. He often would say, "Mas Triste". Yes, Mr. Carmona, "Mas Triste". I am better to have met you. I adored you. Toni Villarreal

Toni Villarreal - September 26, 2017 at 10:19 PM

LB

“ Our sincere condolences and prayers are with you "girls" and your families. The Bryant's Ron, Debbie, Mike and Lou



Lou Bryant - September 18, 2017 at 10:35 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Capt. Alfonso T. Carmona USAF (Ret).*



September 18, 2017 at 09:40 PM



“ *My most sincere condolences to you and your family Stephanie. I would like to send flowers but per the request I will be making a donation in your fathers name to the Sunshine cernter. You will continue to be in our prayers.*
Kathleen and Bruce



Kathleen n Bruce - September 18, 2017 at 08:00 PM



“ *RIH,CAPT/ALFONSO TRINIDAD CARMONA,FROM THE JAMES FAMILY WE ARE SENDING PRAYERS TO YOUR FAMILY.*



ANTHONY P. JAMES - September 17, 2017 at 10:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Capt. Alfonso T. Carmona USAF (Ret).*



September 16, 2017 at 01:40 AM



“ *May God fill your hearts full of warm wonderful memories of your sweet dad. I'm so sorry for your loss*

Wendy Adams - September 16, 2017 at 12:21 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Capt. Alfonso T. Carmona USAF (Ret).*



September 15, 2017 at 11:08 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



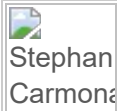
Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - September 15, 2017 at 02:59 PM

EJ

“ *Esperanza W Jones lit a candle in memory of Capt. Alfonso T. Carmona USAF (Ret)*



Esperanza W Jones - September 15, 2017 at 11:07 AM



Thank you Hope.

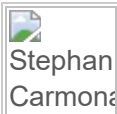
Stephanie Carmona - September 15, 2017 at 05:42 PM

CJ

“ *Cristina M Jones lit a candle in memory of Capt. Alfonso T. Carmona USAF (Ret)*



Cristina M Jones - September 15, 2017 at 11:06 AM



Thanks so much Cristina!

Stephanie Carmona - September 15, 2017 at 05:42 PM

BT

“ *Britt Larsson, Dawn & Anthony Tolbert purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Capt. Alfonso T. Carmona USAF (Ret).*



Britt Larsson, Dawn & Anthony Tolbert - September 13, 2017 at 11:45 AM

NF

“ *AL was a kind and supportive coworker, always professional and a credit to the USAF. I have noting but good memories and great respect for AI. Nancy Sanford, Lt. Col, USAF (Retired)*

Nancy ford - September 04, 2017 at 08:51 PM