

Antonio Sustaita Sr.

December 10, 1939 - August 15, 2020

Our loving father, Antonio Sustaita Sr, passed away peacefully at the age of 80 with family at his side on August 15, 2020 in Boerne, Texas after a long battle with Alzheimer's. He was an incredible father, caring brother, doting grand-father, supportive uncle and loyal friend. We were blessed to have him in our lives, and he will be missed tremendously.

Antonio was born December 10, 1939 to Jesus Sustaita and Francisca Torres Sustaita in Edcouch, Texas where he lived with his siblings and parents on the family homestead. He worked alongside his family as a migrant worker and joined the Air Force in 1962 to serve his country. He served two tours in Vietnam as a Senior Aeromedical Evacuation Specialist and flew 96 combat missions. While in Vietnam he earned a Bronze Star for his courageous actions. His fellow soldiers described him as "above reproach", "maintains the best patient care possible even under adverse conditions", "has intense loyalty", and "outstanding in every respect."

He had a long Air Force career stationed mainly at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, retiring as a Master Sergeant after 21 years of active duty service and an additional 22 years in civil service. He made significant contributions in several departments as he worked as a perfusionist, senior surgical research technologist, biomedical engineering laboratory technician and a cardio-pulmonary laboratory specialist. In addition to the Bronze Star, Antonio earned numerous commendations including the Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation

Medal, and a Meritorious Service Medal. He retired from Wilford Hall Medical Center in 2005.

Antonio spent many years volunteering at the Fisher House on Lackland Air Force Base. He offered words of encouragement to families, made necessary repairs at the facility and aided wherever he could. Our father loved to help people. Neighbors, family and friends would call on him for medical guidance at all hours. We remember many dinners where he would have to leave the table to go help a neighbor in need or rush to be by the bedside with a family. He was a listening ear to many and knew how to give such wise and loving guidance. He served as Chaplain in the local VFW chapter as well.

We are forever grateful for our father, the way he selflessly put others first and loved with all he had. He was full of life! He valued family above anything else and went to great lengths to spend as much time as he could with each of us. He could be found around the BBQ pit at any family gathering during the day, making sure everything ran just right (and sneaking us the first bites off the grill), and around the fire at night with a guitar in his hand and a smile on his face. He loved music and cherished playing the harmonica and guitar with his family and friends. We will miss the sound of his voice singing his favorite songs from the old days. Antonio also loved feeding his deer. At any visit to his home he would offer to bring out a bag of bread and bring the deer right up to his door.

Antonio is survived by his children: Michelle Sustaita Martinez (Abraham), Elizabeth Sustaita Monney (Chuck), Jesse Sustaita (Michelle), David Sustaita, Antonio Sustaita Jr; his siblings: Herlinda Gonzales, Aurora Elizondo, Elida Contreras, Paulita Herrera, Magdalena Sustaita, Arnulfo Sustaita, Oralia Watson, Hilda Gonzales, Mary Lou Cantu; and his dear grandchildren: Katelyn, Taylor, Caleb, Elianna, Riley, Nicole, Austin, Joel, Marisa, Jake, and Christopher; his former spouse Mary Sustaita; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Antonio was preceded in death by his parents and his sisters Herminia Reyes, Odulia Ramos, Eloisa Contreras and Jesusa Hernandez.

Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation on Thursday, August 27th anytime from 6-9pm at Mission Park North Funeral Home, located at 3401 Cherry Ridge Dr, San Antonio, Texas 78230. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a private service and burial will be held for immediate family only, with burial at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his honor to the Fisher House (www.fisherhouse.org). To express condolences, visit www.missionparks.com.

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13

Cemetery Details

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

BR

“ *Becky, Sulema, Veli Ramos purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Antonio Sustaita Sr..*



Becky, Sulema, Veli Ramos - August 25, 2020 at 01:52 PM

BE

“ *Uncle Tony was very much loved and looked up to. He will be missed.*

Becky / Sulema / Veli Ramos



Becky - August 25, 2020 at 01:38 PM

HF

“ *Herrera Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Antonio Sustaita Sr..*



Herrera Family - August 24, 2020 at 10:41 AM



“ *Tony was a kind and loving man, husband, father, and friend. He made a way for me to move to Castroville. He will be missed by many..God bless you all..Cherish the memories...*

Mell FitzSimon - August 23, 2020 at 11:57 AM

BE

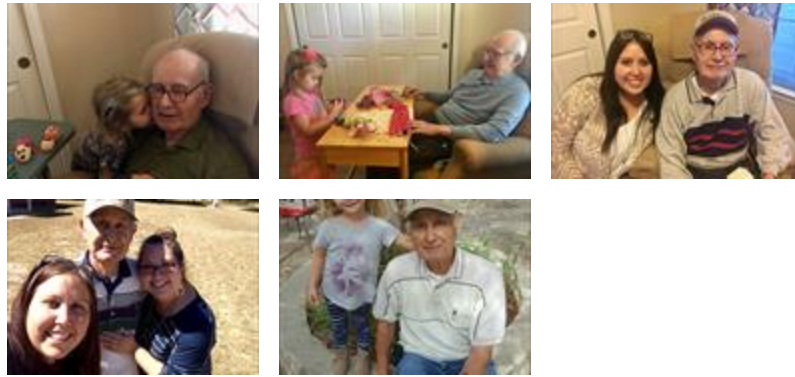
“ Bruce & Lisa Eberling purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Antonio Sustaita Sr..



Bruce & Lisa Eberling - August 22, 2020 at 12:24 PM

EM

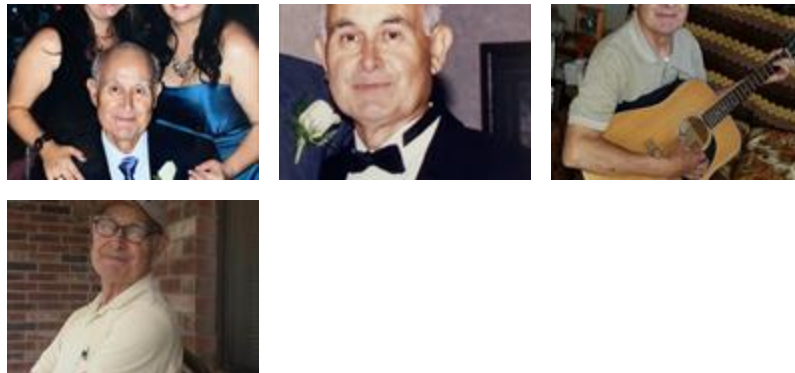
“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Elizabeth Monney - August 21, 2020 at 05:48 PM

EM

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Elizabeth Monney - August 21, 2020 at 05:43 PM