



Ernesto T. Leal

November 13, 1926 - September 4, 2018

Ernesto T. Leal passed away after an eight-year battle against Alzheimer's disease on September 4, 2018, at the age of 91. Ernesto was born November 13, 1926, to Agapito Leal and Manuela Treviño Leal, in Weslaco, Texas. He married Irma Castillo of Elsa, Texas, on April 24, 1949.

He is preceded in death by his parents and sons, Ernesto Jr. and Richard, who died as an infant, and his brothers John, Eliberto, and Eleazar Leal. He is survived by Irma, his wife of 69 years; his children, Cynthia (David) Massey, of Helotes; Johnnie (Laura) Leal, Denise (David) Holgado, and Ricky (Diana) Leal, all of San Antonio, and daughter-in-law Linda Browning Leal, of Charleston, Illinois: nine grandchildren: Ernesto Leal III, Leah (Jim) Lanman, LTJG Michael Massey, U.S. Navy; LTJG Meghan Massey, U.S. Navy; Zachary (Erica) Leal and Abigail Leal, Marissa Leal, Samuel and Angel Grace Holgado, and five great-grandchildren: Nick, Ross, Ella, and Emily Lanman, and Declan Leal; sisters Cristela Silva, Mary Leal, and Beatriz Rodriguez, all of Weslaco, and brothers Frank Hernandez, of League City, Texas, and George Hernandez of Fort Worth.

A Vietnam veteran, Ernesto was in the U.S. Army from 1945-47, serving as a PFC in Company A, 501st Infantry, Parachute Battalion, and the Army Reserves from 1950-51. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1951, where he served until his retirement as a Staff Sergeant in 1969. His military service took him all over the world: Seoul, Korea; Casablanca, Morocco; Yokohama and Yokota, Japan; Saigon, Vietnam; and stateside in Fort Benning, Georgia;

Pratt, Kansas; Topeka, Kansas; Burns Flat, Oklahoma; and San Antonio, Texas.

Ernesto received the Victory Medal WWII, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal, Army of Occupation Medal w/WWII Japan clasp, Vietnam Service Medal w/1 star, AF Longevity Medal, Small Arms Expert Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Medal with Device.

Ernesto settled in San Antonio in 1955 with his family. After his military service, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service from 1970-89—he had also worked for the post office in Chicago from 1947-49. In 1987, he received a service award for 35 years of government service.

After his retirement in 1989, Ernesto got more involved at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, where he was a longtime member. In 1999, he became a Catholic Deacon. Ernesto was humbled by his selection and service as a deacon and considered it, along with his military service, a highlight of his life. Ernesto was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, a devoted husband and beloved father. He leaves a legacy of love. “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Matthew 25:21.

The family would like to acknowledge with gratitude Ernesto’s many caregivers over the years, and the support from Vitas Hospice and the VA, neighbors, friends, and extended family.

Visitation will begin on Sunday, September 16, at 5:00 p.m., with a Rosary to be recited at 7:00 p.m., followed by a Celebration of Life Tribute at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South. Funeral procession to depart the funeral home at 9:00 a.m. for a funeral mass at St. Lawrence Catholic Church at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, September 17, 2018. Interment to follow at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **16**. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Rosary

SEP **16**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Mass

SEP 17. 9:30 AM (CT)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
236 E. Petaluma
San Antonio, TX 78221

Graveside Service with Full Military Honors

SEP 17. 11:15 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ernesto T. Leal.* ”



September 15, 2018 at 11:37 PM



“ *Tio I will always carry you in my heart. You were such a wonderful person. Love always Jennifer, Rochelle, and Chloe* ”



Jennifer Sanchez - September 15, 2018 at 10:45 PM



“ *Dan, Janan Eric, Jenna and Alissa Massey purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ernesto T. Leal.* ”



Dan, Janan Eric, Jenna and Alissa Massey - September 15, 2018 at 03:19 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ernesto T. Leal.* ”



September 15, 2018 at 11:24 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Ernesto T. Leal.*



September 15, 2018 at 11:22 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Ernesto T. Leal.*



September 14, 2018 at 06:49 PM



“ *Historical Society of Helotes purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Ernesto T. Leal.*



Historical Society of Helotes - September 11, 2018 at 03:16 PM



“ *Cristela Silva and the Silva Family. purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Ernesto T. Leal.*



Cristela Silva and the Silva Family. - September 11, 2018 at 03:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ernesto T. Leal.*



September 09, 2018 at 06:27 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ernesto T. Leal.*



September 08, 2018 at 11:44 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Ernesto T. Leal.*



September 06, 2018 at 02:11 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - September 06, 2018 at 08:36 AM