



## SMSgt Leonelo Edward Escamilla

October 13, 1918 - November 24, 2018

On November 24, 2018 SMSgt Leonelo Edward Escamilla passed away peacefully after 100 years surrounded by loved ones. He is preceded in death by his parents Gertrudis Gonzales Escamilla and Martin Escamilla, 13 siblings, his loving wife Darlene Marie Escamilla, and his oldest daughter Sue Barber. He is survived by daughters Peggy Foltz and Mindy Martinez and their families, and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren. Leonelo was born in Cerralbo, Mexico October 13, 1918.

He began his service to the USA in the Calvary on October 26, 1940 at Ft. Sam Houston where he got his horse Top Kick. He fought battles in Normandy and Northern France as a surgical technician. He received the European Theater Ribbon and was honorably discharged with the ability to re-enlist. September 1, 1942 he entered into the Air Force and served until his retirement on April 20, 1970. During his Air Force service he fought in WWII, Vietnam, and Korea. He received numerous awards and commendations including: National Defense Service Medal November 26, 1949 and Good Conduct medal November 14, 1956.

After retirement Leonelo began working in insurance. He became a Hall of Famer in the insurance industry, won numerous awards, and was a trailblazer when he provided American Insurance to Mexican Nationals. He loved and provided for his family and gave generously without expecting anything in

return. He was a caring, devout Catholic dedicated to family, country, and friends. He will be greatly missed.

Special thanks to Anthony Jansen for the great, loving care of his grandfather, making his last years exciting, fun, and most of all filled with love!

A viewing will be held January 10, 2019 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM with a Rosary beginning at 7:00 PM. A funeral mass will begin at St. Brigid's Catholic Church, 6907 Kitchener St., San Antonio, TX 78240 at 10:00 AM followed by a procession to Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery for a committal service with full military honors scheduled to begin at 11:30 AM.

In lieu of flowers please consider memorial contributions to the National Adult Protective Services Association [www.NAPSA-Now.org](http://www.NAPSA-Now.org).

# Cemetery Details

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

1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Previous Events

## **Visitation**

**JAN 10.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## **Rosary**

**JAN 10.** 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/>

## Mass

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JAN 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Brigid Catholic Church  
6907 Kitchener  
San Antonio, TX 78240

# Tribute Wall



“ On September 3, 2012 I got to hang out with Grandpa all day. He shared his stories of war, his horse Top Kick, and so much more. We played bingo together and he won a birdhouse for me in blackout bingo! I truly enjoyed all memories with Grandpa and know that he's home now and we'll see each other again. He was funny, kind, and serious when he needed to be. I'm going to miss his humor, his hugs, kisses, and strength. He gave this Earth 100 years. I'm blessed to have witnessed a bit of his journey here. Rest peacefully Grandpa. I love you!



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**Ashley Henderson** - January 07, 2019 at 09:20 PM

RV

“ Our Prayers go out to the Escamilla family. May God give you strength, love and peace. Leo was an AMAZING....Biggest Heart ever man. I had the honor of working with him for many many years. Thank you God for Blessing me and my family with Leo in our Life for over 40 years. Love, Gilbert & Rita Villareal.

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**RITA Villareal** - January 06, 2019 at 07:40 PM

DW

Mindy I know both your Mama and Daddy were very special to have had you for a precious, so sweet and thoughtful daughter! I am praying your hurt is quickly replaced with an abundance of happy, joy fulfilled memories ❤️❤️❤️

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**Donna Waller** - January 09, 2019 at 09:26 PM

RV

“ *RITA Villareal lit a candle in memory of SMSgt Leonelo Edward Escamilla*



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**RITA Villareal** - January 06, 2019 at 07:29 PM

“ We were very lucky to have a Mom and Dad who taught us valuable life lessons. Our inheritance is the great work ethic, unconditional love, and the importance of family that we witnessed throughout our lives.

*In our younger days, my siblings Sue, Edward, Mindy, and I were called the “Rat Pack”. We were never quite sure why we were given that title, I have a feeling it was because four children are always busy and differently have many treasures. The memories I have of our many military moves, many laughs, some “good bye tears” and the closeness we felt in our family will never be forgotten. Dad was always so involved with our lives, here are some memories I have to share:*

*-As a young girl, Sue was taking swimming lessons at the base pool, Dad took a break to go watch her. As Dad got to the pool he noticed she was drowning and yelled to the life guard to “save that girl!” (and the lifeguard did save her!).*

*-When we went on a trip to Nuevo Laredo- I was an adult, and Dad insisted that we take a carriage ride together- just him and me. I was scared because of the rickety carriage and the busy and crowded traffic, but what a sweet memory.*

*-Edward was always coached in baseball by Dad. As a youngster, Dad took him to Yankee Stadium so they could watch the “Mighty New York Yankees”. Dad was also a die hard Dallas Cowboys fan, Edward took him to a home game at the new Dallas Cowboys Stadium- they had so many stories to share.*

*-The baby blue 1942 Lincoln convertible Dad purchased became a ride that Mindy, his sidekick, enjoyed. I have many memories of Dad and Mindy in that car.*

*Dad, I appreciate your wisdom which I’ve used and continue to share. What a wonderful role model you were for us.*

*Congratulations on accomplishing one of your bucket list wishes of living to be one hundred years old.*

*“At Ease”, Dad! Enjoy your well-deserved after life in Heaven. God*

*Bless You! I love you.*

*Peggy*

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**Peggy Foltz** - January 05, 2019 at 11:30 AM

“ We were very lucky to have a Mom and Dad who taught us valuable life lessons. Our inheritance is the great work ethic, unconditional love, and the importance of family that we witnessed throughout our lives.

*In our younger days, my siblings Sue, Edward, Mindy, and I were called the “Rat Pack”. We were never quite sure why we were given that title, I have a feeling it was because four children are always busy and differently have many treasures.*

*The memories I have of our many military moves, many laughs, some “good bye tears” and the closeness we felt in our family will never be forgotten. Dad was always so involved with our lives:*

*- Sue was taking swimming lessons at the base pool, Dad took a break to go watch her. As Dad got to the pool he noticed Sue was drowning and yelled to the life guard to “Save that girl!” (and the life guard did!)*

*- When we went on a trip to Nuevo Laredo- I was an adult, and Dad insisted that we take a carriage ride together- just him and me. I was scared because of the rickety carriage and the busy and crowded traffic, but what a sweet memory.*

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*Dad, I appreciate your wisdom which I’ve used and continue to share. What a wonderful role model you were for us.*

*Congratulations on accomplishing one of your many bucket list wishes of living to be one hundred years old.*

*“At Ease”, Dad! Enjoy your well-deserved after life in Heaven.  
God Bless You! I love you.*

*Peggy*

**Peggy Foltz** - January 04, 2019 at 12:49 AM