



Neftali Balderas

December 3, 1927 - October 24, 2012

Neftali "Luis" Balderas, best known in San Antonio for forming the first official Mariachi group "Eco de Mexico" in 1961, passed away October 24, 2012, at age 84. Mr. Balderas performed at numerous events and celebrations for over 40 years, including the 1968 World's Fair at Hemisfare Park and at Fiesta Noche Del Rio with Rosita Fernandez. He was also featured in "The Spirit of San Antonio" commercial for KMOL/WOAI TV Channel 4. His career included 42 years as an artist/illustrator at Kelly Air Force Base and traveled around the country as a civilian with the Air Force Reserve mariachi. He is preceded in death by his wife, Hortense H. Balderas; sister, Graciela Cisneros; brother, Joel Balderas. He is survived by current wife, Sulema O. Hernandez; daughter, Jo Ann Balderas-Kelley and son-in-law, Rob Kelley; sons, Lou and Steve Balderas; grandson, Richard C. Barcenas; sisters, Elena L. Balderas, Olivia Traczyk-Thomas and husband, Richard; brother, Efrain Balderas and wife, Bernice; step-mother, Amelia Mora Balderas; step-sons, Burt Hernandez and wife, Leticia; Arturo Hernandez and wife, Sylvia; Tony Hernandez and wife, Rosa; Danny Hernandez and wife, Delfina; and many other family members.