



## Raymond Benavides Figueroa

March 3, 1933 - December 26, 2020

Raymond B. Figueroa 1933 – 2020

Raymond B. Figueroa passed away peacefully on December 26, 2020. He was born to Agapito Figueroa and Consuelo Benavides in San Antonio, Texas.

Raymond worked at the San Antonio Zoo for 47 ½ years. He had a vast knowledge of animals and their behaviors and his love of animals was evident. Raymond had the ability to develop special relationships with all the animals that he cared for. He was able to understand what animals were doing based on years of behavior and observation. He trained elephants, ponies, chimpanzees, sea lions and others. He was a real life “Dr. Doolittle.” Because of his long-time dedication to the care and training of elephants, Raymond became known affectionately as the “elephant man” and will be missed by adults and children alike.

Raymond loved life, fishing, hunting and traveling. Some highlights included a trip to Australia with his wife, and trips with his son, Raymond Jr., while his son served in the United States Navy. Raymond served as an usher for many years at First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio. He enjoyed talking with people. He loved the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Raymond is survived by Sheila, his wife of 36 years, brothers, Robert and Gilbert, sisters, Mary Rose, Diana, Elizabeth and Denise, five children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and numerous extended family and dear friends.

A heartfelt thank you to niece, Stephanie Carrillo and her daughter, Harley, sister, Mary Rose Figueroa Elizondo, Dr. Kate Lathrop, the fifth floor nursing staff at University Hospital and VITAS Hospice for their care and comfort to Raymond in these recent months.

Due to COVID restrictions, a memorial service and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio, the San Antonio Zoo, or a charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall

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“ *This man will be missed unmeasurably. So many memories of living and learning from him and the many shenanigans we got into. He loved our children like his own.*

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**Sue Fleshman** - January 01, 2021 at 09:30 PM