



Manuel C. Leal, Jr.

October 8, 1931 - January 20, 2020

On Monday, January 20, 2020, Manuel C. Leal Jr., of Fairfax, VA passed away with his beloved children by his side, he was 88 years old.

Manuel was born on October 8, 1931 in Santa Rosa, Texas to Manuel and Luz Leal. A proud patriot, Manuel served in the United States Army over twenty years. A veteran of both Korea and Vietnam, Leal was awarded a Bronze Star and retired as a Master Sergeant with honors.

In 1958, Manuel married the love of his life, Martha, in Alexandria, VA. Shortly after they married, Manuel's military career took the couple to Orleans, France; while there, the couple welcomed their two children, Diana and Ray. Manuel's assignments lead the family to Missouri, Illinois, Augsburg, Germany, and back to Virginia. In 1972 Manuel joined the United States Government in the Food and Drug Administration where he stayed until 1993.

Upon his retirement, Manuel devoted time to traveling with Martha to visit family in Texas, West Virginia, Florida, and California; he joined Martha in caring for their school-aged grandchildren (whom lovingly referred to the pair as Nanny and Papa) and hosted countless family cookouts. Throughout his life Manuel made time to fish, read westerns, and tend to Martha's beautiful roses in the couple's garden.

Manuel lost his beloved Martha to ovarian cancer in 2008. As a widow,

Manuel honored his late wife by continuing to visit her family in West Virginia. He spent time with his children and regularly traveled to Texas to visit his cousin and best friend, the late Gumecindo Leal Sr. He was a devoted grandfather, attending graduations, holidays, and the wedding of his second granddaughter.

A man of faith, Manuel was a parishioner of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale, VA for over thirty years.

Manuel is preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Martha; brothers, Santos and Servando Leal; and cousin, Gumecindo Leal Sr. He is survived by his daughter Diana (Kurt) Christensen of Garner, NC; son Ray Leal of Stafford, VA; grandchildren Melissa Christensen of Boston, MA; Lindsay (David) Zappala of Raleigh, NC; Kaleigh and Austin Leal of Richmond, VA; brother Esequiel Leal of Santa Maria, CA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends may call at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Dr., Alexandria, VA on Sunday, January 26, 2020 from 3:00-7:00PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 5121 Woodland Way, Annandale, VA on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 10:30AM. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Manuel's memory to Wounded Warrior Project or Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 26. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Service

JAN 27. 10:30 AM (ET)

Holy Spirit Catholic Church
5121 Woodland Way
Annandale, VA 22003

Tribute Wall



“ *Manuel C. Leal, Jr.*

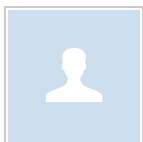
October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *Hello, my name is Norma L. Leal Bruno. Several years ago I was in D.C. with my husband Mike who at the time was in the Army. My dad Gumecindo Leal Sr. quickly told me that's where Primo Manuel lives, and said make sure you call him! So indeed I did, and wow was he the best tour guide ever! He picked me up at the hotel, we spent the day chatting and sharing our family stories and site seeing. He spoke of his children and lovely wife Martha and how he missed her every day. That evening Primo took Mike and I to dinner they talked Army stuff all through dinner. And what a perfect gentleman he insisted on buying dinner that night. My dad was so very happy that Primo and I were able to share some time together on that trip and so am I. Afterwards everytime we seen each other in the Valley he would say "come see me in D.C. and bring the family" RIP Primo Manuel. My prayer is that you and Martha are reunited and with our Heavenly Father.*

My most sincere condolences to his family.

Norma L. Bruno - January 26, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Manuel C. Leal, Jr..*



January 24, 2020 at 03:01 PM