



Raul Cavazos Jr.

AUG 13, 1938 - FEB 16, 2024



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Raul Cavazos Jr.

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Raul Cavazos Jr. passed away on Friday, February 16, 2024, at Mid Valley Nursing and Rehab in Mercedes, Texas. Raul was born and raised in Brownsville, Texas, the son and eldest child of Raul and Elisa Zepeda Cavazos. Raul received his early Education via Moye Military Academy in Castroville, Texas, St. Joseph's Academy in Brownsville, and ultimately finished his senior year at Brownsville High. Athletics and Education were always a big part of Raul's life as he had the propensity to succeed in both endeavors due to his parents' encouragement and drive to stand out. Raul participated on the football, basketball, and baseball teams during the early 50s at St. Joseph's Academy and was a senior at Brownsville High in 1956. He continued his athletic and academic endeavors at the University of Texas at Austin, participating on the baseball team and the first weightlifting team. He ultimately graduated and received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1960. Raul then joined the Army, serving in the 7th Infantry Division in Korea. Along the way, Raul (Sgt. Cavazos) was selected as an Officer Candidate for the U.S. Army Artillery and Missile Office School. He received recognition for his outstanding performance of duties in Headquarters Company 2nd Brigade. Raul then returned to civilian life and went on to pursue a professional career in Federal Probation, working with the U.S. District Courts, rising to the position of Deputy Chief, overseeing the Southern District, which encompassed the Laredo, Corpus, McAllen, and Brownsville areas. Raul, "Junior," as his friends called him, was fluent in English and Spanish and even passed the Army's Foreign Language Proficiency test in French (He was able to figure out, due to some French classes he had taken as a young man, that the exam he took in Spanish ended up being the same test in French so the answers were the same). He enjoyed playing softball, slow and fast pitch, during the 70's, 80's, and 90's. He wanted an eclectic range of music, from Elvis and Frank Sinatra to Freddy Fender. In his later years, Raul enjoyed completing the word searches and jumbles



Obituary

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from the New York Times and other prominent newspapers. He was a great husband, father, and grandfather; of course, he will be deeply missed. We are so thankful for his 85 years and grateful that he remained faithful to God. Raul lived by the axiom Life is DEAR (Acronym) - DEAR being Diet, Exercise, Attitude, and Reverence/Rest. Raul is preceded in death by his parents, Raul and Elisa Cavazos, and sisters, Elisa "Celeste" Mullen in 2020 and Vera Ticer in 2000. Raul is survived by his wife of 46 years, Brunilda "Bruni" Benavides Cavazos; his three sons, Marcos Andres Cavazos (Crystal) of Weslaco, Carlos Cavazos (Christina) of Edinburg, and Christopher Cavazos of Edinburg; grandchildren Dominique, Marcus, and Connor Cavazos, sister, Mary Lou Freiheit of Canyon Lake, Texas (Gene), brothers in law, Patrick Mullen and Kenneth Ticer, and numerous nieces and nephews. Rest in Peace, Raul (Husband, Dad, Grandpa, Brother, Friend, Child of God). We love you. Visitation will be on Friday, March 1, 2024, from 4 to 8 pm at McCaleb Funeral Home. There will be a blessing at 4 pm and military honors at 6 pm, followed by a celebration of life.



Tribute Wall

Raul Cavazos Jr.

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Anonymous shared a **Video**.

August 7 at 4:20 PM



Domingo Cavazos posted:

Bruni and family, my deepest condolences on the passing of Raul, or RAC as we referred to him. He was my first supervisor at the McAllen Office. When I was preparing my retirement letter, I looked back at the people who had been instrumental in my career in law enforcement. RAC was one of these. He exhibited qualities that left a lasting impression on me. He had a clear focus as to our mission; that is, to administer due process in each and every case we supervised and/or investigated. He was fair across the board. RAC was not timid in either correcting or praising our work. An officer's continued improvement was paramount with him. The probation office has two primary tasks; supervise offenders given suspended sentences and conduct presentence investigations. These are very diverse tasks often requiring specialization. RAC was adept at both. The implementation of the U. S. Sentencing Guidelines in 1987 made the job of presentence investigator much more challenging. RAC became an expert in not only interpreting the novel sentencing guidelines but also in staying abreast of their ever changing and evolving nature. He became the go to person for guideline issues not only at the McAllen office but throughout the district. Just a brief anecdote. Early on in my career, RAC told me he was impressed by my writing and investigative skills. He indicated that I had the makings of a good presentence investigator and that I should consider applying for any future openings. Truthfully, the job of presentence investigator intimidated me. I replied that I preferred to stay in the supervision role. RAC stated that he respected this. Not long after, he was sending me to a presentence investigation workshop. I got the hint and embraced the challenge. During the latter part of my career, I became the go to person for sentencing guideline issues at the McAllen office. This was due in large part to RAC's initial mentorship and leadership. He had a way of recognizing a person's potential even when that person didn't recognize it. Further he found ways to nudge a person to full fill that potential in a way that benefited both the officer and the department. Raul you made a positive impact on so many of our careers. Rest in peace my friend. Domingo Cavazos Jr. Supervising U. S. Probation Officer Retired

February 27 at 1:53 PM



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Media

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