



SMSgt. Benito J. Escalante

December 29, 2012

SMSgt. Benito J. Escalante, retired United States Air Force and Korean Conflict veteran, succumbed to cancer on December 29, 2012, at the age of 83. Mr. Escalante was stationed at Homestead AFB Strategic Air Command during the Cuban Missile Crisis. His favorite duty station was at the USAF School for Latin America/Inter-American Air Forces Academy, in the former Panama Canal Zone, at which he served three tours of duty. Mr. Escalante also taught Spanish at Seminole High School and is a retiree of the Pinellas County School System. Mr. Escalante, the son of Spanish immigrants, was born March 21, 1929 in Astoria, New York. He enjoyed jazz and Latin American music and filmography. He is survived by his loving widow, Ellie, to whom he was married for 63 years; three daughters- Christine DeFeyer, Seffner; Belinda Brown, Memphis, TN; Lidia Victoria, Clearwater Beach; one son- Michael Escalante, Gainesville; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Graveside services will be conducted Saturday, January 12, 2013 at Royal Palm Cemetery South at 1 P.M. www.rlwilliams.com

R. Lee Williams & Son

49th St. No./727-527-1177

Tribute Wall



“ *The family of SMSgt. Benito J. Escalante uploaded a photo*

August 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *Robert Copeskey - Friend posted a condolence Our deepest condolences to the Escalante Family. We served with the Escalante's while in the USAF at Albrook AFB in the Panama Canal Zone from 1969-74. Their son Michael has been one of our son Peter's closest friends from the time they met in 1969 to the present. Over the years we met with Ben & Ellie at the bi-annual Albrook reunions which were held at various locations in the southwest U.S. We thoroughly enjoyed reminiscing with them about the good times our families were part of while in Panama! Ben will be surely missed by his family and by his many friends from the Latino/American community of the Canal Zone.*

Robert Copeskey - Friend - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM