



Dr. Ralph Edward Jones

August 31, 1940 - April 11, 2020

Harlingen - Dr. Ralph Edward Jones, Sr., PhD, age 79 of Harlingen, TX, went home to be with the Lord, Saturday, April 11, 2020. He is preceded in death by his father Ralph Boyd Jones, his mother, Leatha Leola Render, his brother Wayne Jones, his sister Susie Jones, and his granddaughter Lynnette Marie Jones.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 58 years, Maria Arcelia Jones (Chela), his son Ralph Edward Jones, Jr. (Eddie), and wife Lisa, and their daughter Lindsey Jane, his son Randall Edgar Jones (Randy), his daughter, Rosabel Arcelia Defendorf, and her husband Darin, their children, Drew Arthur, Rachel Marie, and Dean Edward. He is also survived by his sister Emily Jones.

Dr. Jones was born on August 31, 1940, in Crescent City, Florida. In March of 1958, he joined the United States Air Force, and served in Southeast Asia, Korea, Philippines, and through out the United States. He started in Avionic Maintenance and later served as a Substance Abuse Counselor in Social Actions. He rose to the rank of Master Sergeant, and retired from Air Force in 1979.

While in the service, Dr. Jones' love for education began as a young Airmen attending night school. He earned a Bachelor's Degree, two Master's

Degrees, and a PhD in Counseling Psychology. He also had a love for teaching, and taught for numerous colleges, and universities.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1979, Dr. Jones served as the Mental Health Clinic Director in Del Rio, TX. He and Chela later moved back to Harlingen, Texas, where Dr. Jones worked as a Counselor and Psychologist at the Rio Grande State Center. He retired from the state in 2003.

Dr. Jones served on various committees and boards, to include President of the Valley Association of Addiction Professionals, and on Governor Greg Abbott's Independent Living Council. He received many awards including Counselor of the Year by the Texas Association of Addiction Professionals, and was inducted into their Hall of Fame.

Dr. Jones had a passion for writing, for which resulted in four books, and a weekly "Mental Health" column for the Valley Morning Star newspaper. He loved history, anthropology, archeology, and the study of indigenous people and societies. He loved traveling with his wife Chela to various national parks and taking cruises. He served as an Assistant Boy Scout Leader, a Civil Air Patrol officer, and was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans of America, and the Sons of the American Revolution.

A graveside service will begin Friday, April 17, 2020 at 11:30 AM at Mont Meta Memorial Park in San Benito, Texas.

Cemetery Details

Mont Meta Memorial Park

26170 Texas 345
San Benito, TX 78586
(956) 399-3097

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 17. 11:30 AM (CT)

Mont Meta Memorial Park
26170 Texas 345
San Benito, TX 78586
(956) 399-3097

Tribute Wall

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“ It's very difficult to talk about or write this... it feels like if I don't acknowledge this loss, I can somehow keep it from being real... My heart is heavy in thinking about a time where I can't visit or confide in Dr. Jones. Dr. Jones has been an amazing role model, mentor, and friend over the past 12 years. I haven't been inspired more to be the best man that I can be in what ever I do or attempt, even more in living an honorable life. His guidance came not only his words, but in the life he led. A retired Vietnam Veteran, he later retired from the state in a career of social service. He assisted thousands with mental health needs. I met Dr. Jones in his retirement, where he was volunteering with the VA, he was instrumental in setting up the regional SUD program that served 19 counties. Dr. Jones received Counselor of The Year and was Inducted into the Hall of Fame with the Texas Association for Addiction Professionals for his social service works in Texas over the past 30 plus years. Later in his retirement he wrote several books and promoted mental health weekly at the Harlingen local newspaper to share his knowledge and experience with his community. He did all this while living with cancer for over the last 20 years of his life, never having it gone in remission. Such an amazing man and example of service to us all. My heart is heavy, and so thankful for my time with you on this earth. Love always,
Stephen Vega

Stephen Vega - April 18, 2020 at 08:50 PM