

LTC (Ret) Felix Cruz

August 6, 1935 - December 15, 2010



Funeral mass for Felix Cruz, 75, Lawton, will be at 11 a.m. Monday in Holy Family Catholic Church with the Rev. Marvin F. Leven officiating. Wake service will be at 6 p.m. Sunday in Becker Funeral Home Memorial Chapel. Mr. Cruz died Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at his home. Burial with full military honors will be in Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, under direction of Becker Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

Felix Cruz was born in Agana, Guam, on August 6, 1935. He attended the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, graduating in 1958, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1974 with a master's degree in public administration and from Oklahoma City University in December 1981, with a doctorate of law. He was a distinguished military graduate at UD in the ROTC Program, and received a U.S. Army commission in the field artillery as a second lieutenant. Following graduation from the University of Dayton, he returned to Guam and taught at Agana Junior High School for one year.

He married Mary Untalan in Chalan Pago, Guam, on August 9, 1958. He reported to Fort Sill in August 1959 to attend the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course. He completed the Field Artillery Officer Advance Course, the Nuclear Weapons Employment Officer Course and the Command and Staff General College Course. He completed the Military Assistance Training Advisory Course at Fort Bragg, N.C., the Vietnamese Language Short Course at the Naval Language School, Monterey, Calif.; and the USAF Air Ground Operation School. He served tours of duty at Fort Sill, Korea and Okinawa and two tours in Vietnam. On his first tour, he was an advisor to an artillery battalion and later as an infantry battalion advisor. On his second tour he served as a staff officer with the 1st Brigade, 5th Inf Div (Mech) in Quang Tri. He served one tour at Cameron University as an ROTC instructor and was the senior class instructor and advisor for the first commissioned class which graduated from Cameron University in 1970. He retired from the U.S. Army in August 1979, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. His military decorations included: Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star medal with 2 oak leaf clusters; Armed Forces Honor Medal, first class; National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with one oak leaf cluster; National Defense Service Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with four overseas service bars; Republic of Vietnam campaign medal with 60 device; Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Unit Citation with palm; Vietnam Service Medal; and Vietnam staff medal, first class. He was also inducted into the Order of Saint Barbara. In addition to

his military commendations, he received a Legislative Resolution from the Seventh Guam Legislature recognizing and congratulating him on his military accomplishments and services as an attorney for the City of Lawton.

Following retirement from the Army, he was employed by the City of Lawton as a grants management officer. While working for the city, he attended law school at night at Oklahoma City University graduating in December 1981. He later served as the City's Public Defender and as an assistant city attorney. He was appointed city attorney and served in that capacity until his retirement on July 31, 1998. He subsequently served as an alternate municipal judge for the City of Lawton. He organized the Cub Scout Pack at Woodland Hills School in 1968 and became its first pack leader. He served as the athletic coordinator and organizer for the Woodland Hills School football and basketball midget teams from 1968 through 1970. He was a member of Saint Barbara and Holy Family Catholic Church, the Noon Optimist Club, the Chamorro Society of Texoma, American Bar Association, Oklahoma Bar Association, Comanche County Bar Association, the International Festival Committee, and was a life time member of VFW Post 5263 and Chapter 751 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He served on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Association of Municipal Attorney, the Great Plains Improvement Foundation, Hospice of Southwest Oklahoma, Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra and HELPLINE. He served as a commissioner of the Lawton Housing Authority and was a member of the Oklahoma Chapter and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officers (NAHRO) and served as vice-president for Commissioners for the Oklahoma Chapter of NAHRO. He was selected in 2007 as Commissioner of the Year of Oklahoma Chapter of NAHRO. He was a parishioner of Holy Family Church, served as a member of the Holy Family Catholic Church Parish Council and served the Parish in several lay ministries. Cruz was an avid fisherman, a decent gardener, and a savvy poker player. He especially enjoyed spending time with all his grandchildren and was very active in the Lawton chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Survivors include his dearly beloved wife, Mary, of 52 years; his elder son, Felix Cruz and wife, Lisa, and their children: Marissa, Jason, and Caroline, all of Norman; younger son, Robert Cruz and wife, Leesa, and their children: Genevieve, Veronica, Felicia, and Madelyn, all of Palmdale, Calif.; and daughter Debbie and favorite son-in-law, Mike Mitchell, and their children: Rowdy and Luke, all of Cache; and sisters: Rita Okada, Maria Belanger and Pilar Lujan, all of Guam. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jose and Josefa Cruz; and his brothers: Ben, Francisco, Vicente, Juan, and Jose.

An online guest book and sympathy cards are available at www.beckerfuneral.com.