



## Ernest B. Duarte, Jr.

August 17, 1936 - October 17, 2019

Ernest B. Duarte Jr., age 83 of Alexandria, VA, passed away on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at his residence in Lincoln, DE. He was born on August 17, 1936 in Brownsville, TX, son of the late Ernest B. Sr. and Mary Ella (Dorsett) Duarte.

Mr. Duarte was married to the late Kay (Dismukes) Peña, for 14 years. They had five children.

Mr. Duarte retired January 8th, 2017 after 42 years and 6 months of Federal service, almost all of which he served with the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and USCIS.

Mr. Duarte, an honors graduate from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX, worked in media-related positions for several years. He was an active political supporter, contributing to political campaigns and organizations that fought for the environment and social justice.

He was named public affairs director for a White House Cabinet Committee in 1972 until he joined INS in 1976.

He served initially as a special assistant before his selection as the outreach director under the Examinations and Adjudications programs in 1978, a position he held for more than 20 years.

Following his transition to USCIS in 2003, E.B. served as a branch chief and senior program manager in the Offices of Customer Service, Performance and Quality, Records. His last assignment was in the Office of Intake and Document Production's Document Management Division, where he directed forms and printing and coordinated forms development and production, particularly focused on secure documents.

Accumulating many awards during his long tenure in Federal service, E.B. was honored by the DHS Secretary for Outstanding Achievements in enhancing the security features in

USCIS' naturalization, citizenship and other secure forms and items. Among all his accolades he cherished those he worked with dearly, believing in the mission and the people he worked with energized his years of service.

E.B. was also a devoted fan of the performing arts. He was a longtime member and supporter of the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap among many other theaters in the area. He enjoyed attending plays, operas, and concerts alike. Likewise, he was an enthusiastic foodie always in search of a good meal and eager to share his finds with friends and family.

He was an avid sports fan and a long-time tennis player. Always looking forward to the time with his friends to get out and play a few sets on the weekends. In addition to tennis, he was a loyal Washington Redskins and Chicago White Sox fan.

Above all, E.B. cherished time with those he held most dear. He was a kind and giving father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He loved conversation on everything from history to politics to art and sports and was a gifted storyteller.

E.B. is survived by his children: Bart Duarte (Donna) of Wilmington, NC, Jane-Anne Duarte of San Antonio, TX, Chris Duarte of Austin, TX, Stephanie Duarte (Dimien) of Lincoln, DE, and Bill Duarte (Sherri) of Martinsville, VA; his grandchildren: Celeste Duarte of Austin, TX and Haley Shufelt and Tylar Shufelt, both of Lincoln, DE; his great granddaughter: Ivory Rose Fox of Austin, TX; and his sisters: Ella Mae Najera of Lewisville, TX and Evelyn Walraven of Ft. Worth, TX; and his beloved, Mary-Beth O'Donnell of Alexandria, VA

Services will be held at St. Louis Catholic Church in Alexandria, VA at 12 pm on Friday, October 25, 2019.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in Mr. Duarte's memory to Johns Hopkins - Bladder Cancer Research, 750 East Pratt Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 361-6391.

Please sign Mr. Duarte's online guest book located on this site.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VA ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, BY 11:30 AM.



# Events

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**OCT**   **Service**                      12:00PM  
**25**

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St. Louis Catholic Church

2907 Popkins Lane, Alexandria, VA, US, 22306

# Comments

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“ I was very saddened to learn after the fact that E.B. had passed.

We shared a love, and passion, for excellence in dealing with our INS and then DHS customers.

In these difficult political days, I can't help but look at EB's more than 40 years of civil service as very meaningful to thousands he gave critical guidance to. Even more important to communicating EB's legacy is his deserving to be remembered as a true American Patriot.

We have known a beautiful man, an example of integrity, humbleness and professionalism.

Most of all, however, we lost a person who would offer you anything he could to help you. There's not very many of those around anymore.

Goodbye my friend. I will continue to think of you often... always with a smile.

To EB's family, I hope all these testimonials give you a proper vision of how your Dad was held in highest esteem.

Peace.

**Sheldon Lehner** - November 07, 2019 at 09:24 PM

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“ Although a homie from Brownsville, Tx, -- EB's hometown -- our paths crossed not there but in DC. We met often for lunch at a Capitol Hill restaurant where his quick wit and artful expression made for a wonderful experience. He loved politics and seem to know just every Chicano political activist near and far. He had a brilliant knack for challenging your views and make you like him more. We played tennis many times and he was very proud of his quirky serve. In fact, that is how I will always remember him: a delightful combination of smarts, generosity, quick wit, and knowledge topped off with a fine touch of class. Buen Camino, EB. Al Perez

**al perez** - November 02, 2019 at 09:13 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of EB . He was a colleague of mine at INS and I treasured the opportunity to have worked with such a noble and professional man. My condolences. Rosie Lacot

**rosalina Lacot** - October 30, 2019 at 03:55 PM

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“ E.B. was one of the kindest gentlemen I've ever known or I'll ever know. He taught me so much about immigration law and humane administration of law. He was a font of knowledge and always took the time to share it along with his wit and wisdom. I missed him dearly when he retired and the world will miss him now that he has passed. He was truly “one of the good guys”. R.I.P., my friend.

**Bill Merchant** - October 30, 2019 at 02:41 PM

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“ Richard Sloan lit a candle in memory of Ernest B. Duarte, Jr.



**Richard Sloan** - October 23, 2019 at 04:39 PM

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“ When I heard the news today, I felt as if someone had hit me with a baseball bat. First let me express my deepest condolences to the entire family.

I worked with EB at legacy INS and later DHS-USCIS on many projects. He was my mentor when I was a young manager and I consulted with EB on many issues concerning not only supervision and management but also program issues. He was a huge proponent of the program that I led, Regulations and Forms Management Services and also helped to mentor members of my team. Later, when I moved onto other assignments, we were there for each other while facing numerous work-related challenges.

While navigating the rough seas of immigration and naturalization issues, it was EB whom I reached out and he would explain things so fully that I was able to guide and help my staff to ensure excellent performance of their tasks in support of projects and daily taskings.

Outside of the job he guided me with minor sports betting and taught me how to be a better person in my personal, professional and civic life. We shared so many stories at the office and during our lunch breaks about politics, life issues and sports. I know he would be ecstatic to see the Nationals playing in the World Series. I remember during my retirement he honored me with his words of appreciation and so enjoyed the event and conversing in Spanish with my wife who teaches both Spanish and now also French. My wife remembers that he said her Spanish was very good. Funny thing was I did not understand one word of what they said to each other that day! He was simply an awesome colleague and so cultured, witty, knowledgeable

and worldly.

I have so many memories of our relationship but what I recall most was his keen appreciation for hard work and his meticulous focus on detail, excellence and accuracy. In my opinion, he was the epitome of a civil servant that executed his immigration services responsibilities with dignity, honor, outstanding service and empathy during my tenure at legacy INS and DHS-USCIS.

It was EB whom I turned to and I know that many others reached out to him as well when there was an issue or problem. He was a great friend and colleague who simply was there to help me and many others while navigating work, personal and civic life issues. His loss is heartfelt, and it is difficult for me to express in this short narrative what he meant to me personally.

Be at peace my friend and rest with the Angels!

Most sincerely,

Richard Sloan

**Richard Sloan** - October 23, 2019 at 04:38 PM

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“ It's very sad to say “good bye” to EB. It's a painful loss for my sister, Mary Beth O'Donnell, and all of the O'Donnell's will miss him. Selfishly, we'll miss the dinners he cooked at Beth's home and delivered across the road to Mom's home, mostly on Sundays. Like an angel, he floated in, dropped-off his delicious blessings and disappeared. If we were patient, we found him later that evening in Mom's kitchen eating the leftovers that Beth saved for him. Sitting at the table, drinking a beer, he was ready to discuss almost anything: the Redskins, the best restaurants that charge a reasonable price, history, opera, Shakespeare, World War II aircraft (in minute detail) and so much more. He was a man for all seasons, a renaissance man but always a humble man. He will be well remembered by all of us.

Jack O'Donnell

**Jack O'Donnell** - October 23, 2019 at 01:34 PM



“ So sad to hear, but know that because our dear friend and colleague lived such a highly respected and righteous Christian life, he will be called to immortal life in Heaven. Those of us who had the privilege of working with E.B. for decades feel blessed and will never forget him. Vaya con Dios, mi amigo!

**Don Crocetti** - October 30, 2019 at 01:48 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ernest B. Duarte, Jr..



October 23, 2019 at 10:26 AM

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“ A sad loss for all who knew E.B. I will miss him and the times we had at BHS and were waiting to have since my move to the D.C. area. Our prayers are with his family that he talked about often and also with Mary Beth. Rest in peace good and true friend.

Another Eagle soars!

Bob and Laura Brockman

**Robert Brockman** - October 22, 2019 at 09:48 PM



“ A Brownsville, Texas family name never to be forgotten. Thanks to Bobby Brockman that always kept us informed as to E, B, Duarte's life & impeccable work. He leaves a large imprint. Condolences to the family. Mrs. Bob (Rachel) Torres

**Mrs. Bob (Rachel) Torres** - October 24, 2019 at 11:55 AM