

## SAMANIEGO

Leonardo Samaniego, 75, Sheriff of El Paso County was a native of El Paso, Texas. He graduated from El



Paso High School, El Paso Community College and the FBI National Academy. He served five years in the United States Navy, and joined the El Paso Police Department in 1956. He

advanced through the ranks of the police department and eventually retired after 28 years of service as Deputy Chief of Police. He was elected Sheriff of El Paso County in 1984 and was re-elected five times. He assumed control of a substandard Sheriff's Department and quickly transformed it into one of the most respected law enforcement agencies in Texas and the nation. Sheriff Samaniego has distinguished himself in the advancement of professionalism in law enforcement throughout his career. Some of his most noteworthy accomplishments are the establishment of Crime Stoppers of El Paso, establishment of the first neighborhood watch program in Texas and the creation of Operation Identification. Sheriff Samaniego brought his vast experience and management ability to the El Paso County Sheriff's office and immediately set forth the task of improving the department by setting higher standards for his personnel through training and clearly defining policies and procedures and promotional steps which have been instrumental in the department's achievements. His leadership in every aspect of this agency is clearly demonstrated by the achievement of national accreditation in law enforcement and detention. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office was the first Sheriff's office in the state of Texas to achieve these honors. He has been recognized with numerous distinguished awards and recognitions. Among them: The City of El Paso Conquistador, County of El Paso Eagle award, Sons of The American Revolution Law Enforcement Commendation Medal, Leonore E. Walker First Annual Award, El Paso County Task Force on Domestic Violence, The Military Order of World Wars National Law Enforcement Officer Of The Year for 2006, FBI National Academy Associates Livio A. Becaccio Award and many, many others. Sheriff Samaniego served as the chairman of the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition, chairman of the West

Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), and the chairman of The Southwest Border HIDTA Executive Board. He is preceded in death by his father, Leonardo Samaniego, his mother, Carmen Sievers Samaniego, brothers, Guillermo Samaniego and Uriel Samaniego, and sisters, Lillian Samaniego and Carmen Samaniego Farrell. He is survived by his daughter Cecilia Samaniego Sambrano, his sons, Gilbert A. Samaniego, and Samuel Arnold Samaniego, his son-in-law Steven M. Sambrano and daughters-in-law, Lety Samaniego and Fran Montoya Samaniego and grandchildren Samantha Sambrano, Steven Sambrano, II, Benjamin Sambrano, Ryan Samaniego, Timothy Samaniego, and Melissa Samaniego. Mr. Samaniego is also survived by his brothers Octavio (Aurora) Samaniego and Hector Samaniego and his sisters, Teresa Cordero, Maria Luisa (Juan) Provencio and Christina Wood. Leo was a loving and generous father, father-in-law, brother and grandfather and was well known and respected as one of Texas' finest law enforcement professionals. He will be greatly missed. Visitation for Sheriff Samaniego will be held Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at Harvest Christian Center, 1345 Export Place, with funeral services commencing at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Eddie Lee will be officiating. Pallbearers will be Chief Deputy, Jimmy Apodaca, Asst. Chiefs, Ralph Mitchell, and Dolores Messick, and Commanders Gilbert Pinon, Tony Morales, Angel Colorado, Al Hernandez, and Clint Porter, and members of the El Paso County Sheriff's Honor Guard. Honorary Pallbearers will be Leon Metz, Ray Gilbert, Ralph Seitsinger, Lupe Dominguez, Paco Aguirre, John Douglas, Frank Burrola, Jack Farrell, Frank Portillo, Col. Juan Provencio, Chuck Mattox, Martin Holguin, Edmundo Franco, Rick Glancey, Dick Glancey, Travis Kuykendal, Eddie Ortega, Eddie Padilla and members of the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition. Interment will follow at Memory Gardens of the Valley Cemetery with law enforcement honors. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the United Way and the March of Dimes. Arrangements by HILLCREST FUNERAL HOME. 5054 Doniphan Dr. (915) 587-0202

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