

RET. SERGEANT MAJOR SOTERO FONTANEZ-CUADRADO was born in Humacao, Puerto Rico on April 12, 1950, to the parents of the late Mr. Sotero Fontanez and the late Mrs. Marta Cuadrado.

He was a graduate of the Ana Roque High School and the University of Puerto Rico. He was of the Catholic faith.

He served in the United States Army from 1969-1994, having received numerous medals and awards which included the National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device and with two OLC Vietnam Service Medals with two Bronze Service Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device Air Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Achievement Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Good Conduct Medal, and a few other awards. He was honorably discharged in 1994.

After his retirement from the Army, he worked as store manager at Home Depot in Albany, GA and later at Lowe's in Americus, GA until he "decided not to work anymore."

Sotero is survived by his wife of four years, Mrs. Bernita Howard Fontanez-Cuadrado, Americus, GA; his daughter, Martha Leann Fontanez; his sisters: Maria Ester Ramirez and husband, Pete; Nereida Solorio and husband, Marco and Martita Fontanez; his stepson, Benjamin Ferguson; his goddaughter, Eliza Gene; his sisters and brothers-in-law: Henry Howard and wife, Geneva Roberts; Sidney Howard and wife, Della Reid; Rufus Howard and wife, Geneva Marshall and Melvin Powell and wife, Nora Howard; a host nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends also survive.