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In Memoriam: Rafael C. Benitez

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RICHARD A. HAUSLER*

Rafael C. Benitez, "The Admiral," one of the many titles by which he was known, had many admirable qualities. Administrative and leadership talents were only the beginning of a long list of reasons that military ribbons and titles were deservedly bestowed upon him.

Yet other titles such as "executive officer" or "vice-president" were applied to him in an entirely different arena—the corporate world of international business. Business acumen and innovative leadership qualities, necessary in the commercial airline world, led to spectacular success.

Perhaps his family's personal favorite characterization of him was that of a dedicated family man who had the right priorities in an objective value system. His wife and children were given a beautiful legacy of these qualities.

Military man, international businessman, dedicated family man—wonderful, indeed! But to this trio must be added a fourth dimension of Rafael Benitez: his work in the world of international academia where he made the titles of "professor of law" and "dean" appropriate. The list of these virtues could go on and on, but the list would start with his warmth and sincerity of personality, sensitivity to the resolution of issues, and adherence to an objective standard of values. The academic part of his life was deeply appreciated by law faculty, staff, and, most of all, by students who eventually became proud alumni. Is it any wonder that a special issue of the *University of Miami Inter-American Law Review* would be comprised of articles in his honor written by these devoted admirers?

His academic robes had ribbons given for reasons similar to the ribbons on his military uniform—for very special service. You see, this "Man of Good Titles" sought not a single one of them; he sought only the opportunity to be of service in the implementation of these various ideals.

Military parades and academic processions were only a small part of the public's response to his catalytic influence. This issue of the *University of Miami Inter-American Law Review* is in

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honor of a man who was gloriously entitled to his titles—none of which came easily and all of which were richly desired.