



## Frank Padilla Jr.

October 18, 1946 - February 28, 2026

Frank Levi Padilla, Jr., 79, of Bell, Florida, passed away on February 28, 2026. He was born October 18, 1946, in Fort Myers, Florida, to the late Helen and Frank Padilla, Sr. In 2006, he and his wife, Mary Jo, moved to Bell from Biloxi, Mississippi to be closer to his parents and sisters.

Frank served in the United States Air Force, retiring as a First Sergeant at Keesler Air Force Base. He was a Vietnam Veteran. After retiring from the military, he worked as a civilian contractor, teaching electronics and radar.

He was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Biloxi and later Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Bell. He served with Gideons International in Mississippi and Florida.

Frank was a Florida Gators fan. He enjoyed attending games with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Jo Padilla; sons Frank Padilla, III and Brian Padilla; daughter Ashley Padilla Burke (Brian); sisters Penny Miller and Melody Rollison (Top); grandchildren M'Leigh Padilla Budnich (Tyler), Marley Padilla, Landon Burke, Parker Burke, and Levi Padilla; great-grandchild Brooks Budnich. He was preceded in death by his sister, Candy Dyson.

The family will receive friends at 10:00 AM, with funeral services at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Bell, with Rev. Jimmy Corbin and Pastor Jonathan Jones officiating. Private interment will follow at Sonshine Memorial Gardens.

The family requests donations be made in memory of Frank Padilla, Jr, to The Gideons International, Suwannee South Camp, PO Box 405, Chiefland, FL 32644.

Arrangements have been placed under the care of Rick Gooding Funeral Home Cross City Chapel, with locations in Cross City 352-498-5400 and Chiefland 352-493-0050. Please sign the online guest book at [rickgoodingfuneralhomes.com](http://rickgoodingfuneralhomes.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Sonshine Memorial Garden

NW 15th St  
Bell, FL 32619

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church  
4200 NW County Road 340  
Bell, FL 32619

## Funeral Service

MAR 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church  
4200 NW County Road 340  
Bell, FL 32619

# Tribute Wall



“ Rick Gooding Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Frank Padilla Jr.



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**Rick Gooding Funeral Homes** - March 04 at 02:06 PM

MB

“ Frank was my boss, mentor and friend while we both were instructors at the Airborne Borne Command Post technical school. At that time, was the longest technical training course in the Air Force. I knew he was a religious man, but he never tried to push it overtly and showed his faith through humor and subtle guidance.

*I have not been in contact with him for over 30 years, but it seems he lived a good life surrounded by a devoted family. He will live in my memories.*

*Mike Balzer*

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**Mike Balzer** - March 10 at 03:22 PM

WF

“ Wyley & Deborah Seals and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frank Padilla Jr..

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**Wyley & Deborah Seals and Family** - March 03 at 06:53 PM

WF

“ *Wyley & Deborah Seals and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Frank Padilla Jr..*



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**Wyley & Deborah Seals and Family** - March 03 at 06:53 PM