

FAREWELL TO TONY CANTU (1941-2018)**DESPEDIDA A TONY CANTU (1941-2018)**

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Dr Antonio (Tony) Cantu was Chief Scientist of the U.S. Secret Service Forensic Services Division Laboratory from 1985 until his retirement in 2007. Prior to that he had worked at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms from 1972 and briefly for the FBI. He was probably best known for his work on the chemistry of documents in particular ink analysis. From 1985 however, his position in the USSS, led him to take an active interest in the chemistry of latent fingerprint detection. He worked closely with the University of Pennsylvania on the development of new amino acid reagents and subsequently took an active interest in the chemistry of the physical developer silver deposition process for detection of the more sebaceous deposits from fingerprints.

It was during the late 1980s that he made a major contribution to the future of fingerprint research internationally by hosting a series of meetings between researchers from the USA, Canada, Australia, the UK and Israel. This initiated further, more formal expansion, of international cooperation which is now the International Fingerprint Research Group, this meets biennially and is a lasting tribute to his contribution to forensic science.

But those of us who worked with him will remember him for his generous good-hearted nature, and cheerful enthusiastic perspective on life and research. He is sadly missed by his many friends, not just in the US, but around the world.

