



Alonso Gomez Zamora Jr.

May 10, 1941 - March 21, 2021

Maj. Alonso Gomez Zamora, Jr. passed away March 21, 2021. Born in Matamoros, Mexico he graduated from Brownsville High School in 1959. The first person in his family to attend college, Al received his BBA from the University of Texas at Austin in 1963 and his MBA from the University of Missouri in 1971. His career as an international air logistics officer in the Air Force took him all over the United States and the world including Guam, Hong Kong, and Kenya but the highlight of his career was being stationed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he met his wife of 45 years, Marilene.

Known for his incredible work ethic, after retiring from the USAF he taught courses at Career Point Business School while owning and operating a successful vending machine business. When he wasn't working, Al enjoyed both spending time and volunteering in his community. He was a permanent fixture at the Dub Farris Athletic Complex for Friday night high school football games and every Monday morning at Whataburger for breakfast with his "ROMEO Group" (Retired Old Men Eating Out). His favorite volunteer role was shelving books in the Wanke Elementary School library where he had the added bonus of getting to spend a little bit of extra time with the Halstead family that he adored.

A multi-sport athlete his whole life he excelled at baseball, badminton, and racquetball. His true passion was tennis, and he took great pride in the fact

that his Oak Hills Country Club team won the US Tennis Association National Championship in 1993. Al could be found every Sunday morning playing doubles with his friends and neighbors at the Braun Station East tennis courts. When knee problems signaled the end of his tennis career, he became a star on the Alicia Treviño Lopez Senior Center's chair volleyball team.

Known as Chato by his family or Big Al by everyone else, he loved and was loved beyond measure by all who had the privilege of spending time with him, most especially his wife and daughter Jennifer. He was a father figure to many and the de facto mayor of his cul-de-sac. A friend to all who knew him, if you needed Al for anything at all you simply had to ask and he would be there. He gave the best advice, always had an opinion on how the Texas Longhorn athletic program was performing, and never had a problem telling you when the tortillas weren't up to par.

Al was preceded in death by his parents Alonso and Maria Gomez Zamora. He is survived by his beloved wife Marilene Zamora and daughter Dr. Jennifer Zamora; his brothers Oscar (BJ) and Mario (Bobbi) Zamora, and sister Niddia Zamora; his in-laws in Brazil and Switzerland; uncles, aunts and many cousins in Mexico; also beloved nieces and nephews, and countless friends and neighbors who were his chosen family. Services and a celebration of Al's life will be held at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on Monday October 18, 2021 at 10:15 am. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Al's name be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **18**. 10:15 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd
San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 820-3891

Tribute Wall



“ *Ever Upward Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alonso Gomez Zamora Jr..*



October 07, 2021 at 12:40 PM

“ Al and I met while we were still on active duty in the 60s in International Logistics at East Kelly. We became immediate friends, and soon thereafter so did our families. As it happened, we lived only blocks from each other. I eventually received orders to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH and from there to two other assignments. Even though we were separated we stayed in touch. When I retired and came back to San Antonio it transpired that we bought a home only minutes from Al and Marilene and we continued our personal friendship as though there had been no interruption. I became Al's computer fix-it guy and we spend many pleasant and sometimes frustrating hours in his home wrangling with stubborn computers. Al, Marilene, my wife, Maria, and I ate out on numerous occasions where we enjoyed different Mexican dishes and always sampled the house frozen margaritas. We watched each other and commiserated with each other as our Golden Years ailments piled up. In the inevitable end GOD called Al away from us and the grief in our hearts was almost unbearable. Yet there was joy in the realization that my buddy, my friend and my pal was now free of the ailments and hurts that plagued him in this world. Al, you weren't a pilot but there's a poem called High Flight by John Gillespie Magee, Jr. which gives me some sense of what your final journey to GOD must have been like -

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air . . .
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew —
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,*

Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

GOD speed, Al. We love you.



Frank Harmon - April 19, 2021 at 05:07 PM

JB

“ *We got to know Al at the Lopez Senior center where we played chair volleyball together. Such a nice man and we're so sorry to hear that he passed. Our condolences to the family.*

Joe & Ginger Bialowas

Joe & Ginger Bialowas - April 14, 2021 at 05:51 PM



“ *Love you forever...*



Erika Santos - April 14, 2021 at 03:11 PM

CG

“ Dear Marilene, Jennifer and Zamora relatives,

Our love and prayers are with you at this difficult time. We remember Chato with very fond memories as being a wonderful friend to Ciro and Carmen. Friends like Chato and Marilene are not only friends but family to not only Carmen and Ciro but to us. Chato will be remembered for his kindness, loyalty and friendship and he will be greatly missed.

*Love,
Carlos, Rosemary & Cristina*

Carlos & Rosemary Gonzalez - April 06, 2021 at 02:28 PM

CR

“ *It was a great privilege and honor to have known Al. He was such a kind and “simpático” person and will not be forgotten by his friends in Rio de Janeiro.*

Constance Renny - March 31, 2021 at 04:52 PM

LS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Lissia dos Santos - March 31, 2021 at 04:04 PM

DO

“ *See my like comments under Pat O's!!*

Dick Oberpriller - March 31, 2021 at 12:47 PM

PO

“ *What a beautiful and descriptive obituary for Al! Braun Station will certainly miss him - as will Dick and I. Prayers for you and Jennifer.*
Pat & Dick Oberpriller

Pat Oberpriller - March 31, 2021 at 12:23 PM

DO

Al was a great friend for the past 43 yrs.!! I knew what kind of "bowler" & tennis player he was but not the other sports!! He will be with us in spirit!

Dick Oberpriller - March 31, 2021 at 12:40 PM

DO

Al was a great friend for the past 43 years!! I knew what kind of bowler and tennis player he was but not the other sports! He will be with us in spirit!

Dick Oberpriller - March 31, 2021 at 12:44 PM

BM

“ *I had the great honor of serving as Al's commander from 1975 to 1978 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I have never known a better man nor a finer officer than Al Zamora. He was unexcelled in work ethic and knowledge of his job. He was admired and respected by members of the Brazilian Air Force as well as his US comrades. I have had the great privilege of knowing and calling Al Zamora my dear friend for 46 years. Rest In Peace my friend assured that you have left footprints on this earth.*

Billy Mobley - March 31, 2021 at 12:03 PM