



## Louis D. DePanfilis

October 20, 1916 - January 14, 2009

Louis D. DePanfilis

"Gino"

Louis D. "Gino" DePanfilis, beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend to many, passed away peacefully on January 14, 2009 in San Antonio, at the age of 92. His giant-sized love of life carried him in many directions and his love for people gave joy to everyone who crossed his path. Gino was born in Stamford, Connecticut on October 20, 1916, the middle child of five, to Italian immigrants Frank and Anna Silvestri. After his father died and mother became ill, Gino went to work at an early age to help support his siblings. After high school graduation, he joined the newly formed Civilian Conservation Corps, then joined the Army and worked his way to the rank of captain. He was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and served in WWII. One of his adventures in the war included a period being missing behind enemy lines. Short on details, he always told his family it was just a game to him. His service won him the Bronze Star for courage and valor. After serving, he continued for many years in the Army Reserves. Gino had a lifelong love of learning and a stubborn determination to master new things. Since he "wasn't good at math" he decided to study civil engineering. He earned his bachelor's degree from Texas Western University now UTEP. It was during this time in west Texas that he married Elizabeth Nell Ogden, who was a perfect match in playfulness and zeal for life. They recently celebrated 54 years of marriage.

Even in the last few weeks of his life he could be caught sitting out on the back porch holding hands with the love of his life. As a professional civil engineer, he worked for many years with H.B. Zachary on interesting projects like the Kyle Field extension and the Hilton Palacio del Rio. Gino then worked for Binkley & Holmes Engineering in Houston and retired. Gino spent spare time enjoying gardening, scouting, horses, physical fitness, golfing and professional organizations. He spoke several foreign languages. He and Nell were members of University United Methodist Church. The biggest gift you could give him was time with his family. He is survived by wife Nell, his son Nick; his daughter and son-in-law Cynthia and William Himstedt; and three grandchildren, Dylan, Jackson and Julia DePanfilis; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. He taught us all to be adventurous, inquisitive and to enjoy life to the fullest. He was always there for everyone and we will miss him dearly. He is in God's hands now. Visitation will be held on Sunday-January 18, 2009 from 5:00PM until 8:00PM at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. Graveside Services & Interment for Louis DePanfilis will be on Monday, January 19, 2009 at 1:45PM at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall

HJ

“ *HéctorHolguin jr*

Hector Holguin Jr - June 28, 2025 at 10:21 AM

HJ

*I graduated with Gino in 1958' Civil Engineering from Texas Western College now UTEP. Hope to make contact with son and you have my email. Great stories about Gino and his grand example as student and friend. Cheers Hector*

Hector Holguin Jr - June 28, 2025 at 10:28 AM

SB

“ *Cindy,  
I have not seen you in years and was trying to see what you were up to and ran accross your dad's obituary. I an truly sorry to hear of his passing. I would love to keep in touch. I know it has been since january, but I will keep your family in my*

Sandra Brownrigg - July 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ *Cindy, I haven't seen you in a very long time but wanted to send my condolences to you and your family. I remember how much you loved your Dad. My thoughts are with you all.*

Anne Heller - April 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AE

“ *I too worked with Gino at the 69th St. Plant construction. I made many friends during my time there and Gino was certainly one of them. I'll never forget the first time I saw him standing toe to toe with a contractor nearly twice his size calmly explainin*

Andy Edwards - February 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ I worked with Gino at the 69th St. WWTP in the 1980s and will never forget him racing about the site putting up with all of us. He set a great example of what it takes to get hard headed people to get along and get the job built.

*Some day if you are at*

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**Tom Davis** - February 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ I worked with Gino at the 69th street project in Houston back in the 70's. What a great asset he was to the project. He provided me with much "construction knowledge".As a person, I can't remember him ever without a smile on his face, whether it was playi

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**Reed Eichelberger** - February 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Dear DePanfilis Family:

*It is with deepest sadness that I extend my condolences to you on the loss of your beloved.*

*As Chair of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations, I am sincerely thankful for his valiant service an*

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**Senator Leticia Van de Putte** - January 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Not so many live in this world and make it a better place. Uncle Gino truly did. He deeply loved and cared for family. He bravely served his country. He set an incredible example for all of us to follow. He will always live in our hearts and in our m

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**Paul Gallo & family** - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ Gino, I will always remember, and miss you when I walked into Bally's fitness center. I will think about the times you would be talking, drinking coffee among many friends you have at the center. Thank you for caring and always asking about my disabled son!

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**ED GARCIA** - January 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RV

“ I have taken the liberty of sending notice of Mr. DePanfilis's death to Static Line, the Airborne newspaper, where it will be posted in the TAPS column so that his fellow paratroopers may know of his passing and render a final salute.

Russ Vaughn  
101

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**Russ Vaughn** - January 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ I met Mr. Depanfilis at Bally's. He always light up the room with his smile. I could count on him to bring a little sunshine to my day. He would sit in drink his coffee, with his friend Sal. His smile will be missed at the gym. Thank you Gino for your wisdom

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**Thomas Lee Villarreal** - January 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ Gino was a great friend and golfing buddy. He will be missed and thought of many times. He was kind and thoughtful and always in good spirits. I miss our lunches and occasional golf ventures. Goodbye Gino

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**Lucille and Powell England** - January 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *Nell, its been a very long time since we have seen you guys but we were your neighbors on Goodhue. We were sorry to hear of Ginos passing and to let you know our thoughts and prays are with you all. With love, Wilton and Arlene Walker*

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**arlene walker** - January 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *My memories of Mr. DePanfilis are from the "Scouting" days in the 1970's.*

*On the campouts he attended, he took over the adult cooking chores, and what cooking it was. It was a privilidge to visit the adult camp table and sample his culinary treats.*

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**Robert John Casares** - January 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *The kindness and joy that Gino brought to the world will live on as a memorial in the hearts of those who were lucky enough to have known him. Gino - you will be missed.*

*Love,  
The Mills Family*

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**Mark Mills** - January 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *We have fond memories of a great gentle man. Our deepest sympathy to Nell and family.*

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**Ruth & Russ Farringer** - January 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ To "Gino" family:  
*I am sadden to have read of Gino's passing. I knew him from Bally's. His shining and bright smile would warm the place up every time he came. I loved hearing his stories about WW II and about him in general. He always teased me about re*

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**Roberta Abelman** - January 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *A true hero to me. I will miss him as one of my very best friends.*

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**Robert & Ilene Shelton** - January 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *We are sorry not to be with you at this time. We are thinking about you and praying for you. We have wonderful memories of Gino. His sense of humor, strength, balance, and passion for life will be with us always.*  
*Love to you,*  
*Angie and Jim*

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**Angela Wormser** - January 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *Dear Nell, Nick, and Cindy,*  
*We were so sad to hear of Gino's passing. He will be greatly missed. He had such a special way about him. Everywhere he went, and everything he touched, he made better. Dad recalls stories of "dueling lawnmower" days when Gino*

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**Michelle Garbrecht Robertson** - January 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM