



## Walter E. Gonzales

May 23, 1960 - April 21, 2018

Walter E. Gonzales

May 23, 1960 – April 21, 2018

Walter E. Gonzales was born on May 23, 1960 in San Antonio, Texas and went to be with the Lord on April 21, 2018. He is preceded in death by his parents, John Baptist and Susana Gonzales; brothers, Rudolph Gonzales and Raymond Gonzales. Walter is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Diane Gonzales; children, Alison K. Gonzales, Katherine M. Gonzales and Michael A. Gonzales; sisters Gloria Wells, Mary Christine Onofre, Delia Linda Alderete and husband Ynocencio Alderete brother John Gonzales and wife Donna; and grandson Hunter L. Gonzales. He is a retired U.S Navy veteran of 23 years; total military service of 25 years. Employed 10 years with Reyes Automotive Group. He loved playing golf with friends/family and co-workers along with watching his favorite NFL team the Dallas Cowboys at Buffalo Wild Wings. Walter will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will take place on Friday, April 27, 2018 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South. Funeral Services will be held Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South with interment to follow at Mission Burial Park South.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 27. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories  
1700 SE Military Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
(210) 924-4242  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Funeral Service

APR 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories  
1700 SE Military Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
(210) 924-4242  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

# Tribute Wall

AG

“ My Dad was someone who was easily liked, love, and well respected by so many. He was the life of the party, always knew how to turn a bad situation into something good. He was wise and gave great advice to not just myself and my family but to his friends and mentors as well. I never got to tell him Thank you for giving myself and my siblings the best life him and my mom provided for us. Traveling the world, meeting so many people which turned into a forever lasting family, our Navy family. The military was a big part of my dads life, he loved it and it helped shaped him to be the person he was. The one thing I remember most growing up was him always playing horseshoes, it was always fun watching our Navy family playing together and watching everyone laugh so much and bond at the BBQs everyone threw. Horseshoes has become apart of my life with my husband and we enjoying playing together. I'm sorry it took me a bit over two years to finally write something and to say something about my you, but Dad you will forever be loved, missed and never forgotten. Please keep watching over us. We love you and I wish you could of meet Isaac, you would of loved him so much and tou two would of gotten along great. Just know he takes good care of me and loves me for me and supports everything I do. Thank you to everyone who came out to show love and support to our family, it truly meant so much to us!! I know my dad loved every single one of you in his own way and thank you for being true friends to him and us.

Love,

Your daughter Alison.

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**Alison Godoy** - June 24, 2020 at 10:42 AM

DH

“ I served with Walt aboard the USS Princeton (CG-59) in the early 90’s for about three years. Very few people ever made an impression on me like Walt did. He was equal parts mentor, supervisor, friend and mischief-maker. I spent a lot of time under his tutelage, both personal and professional. I didn’t have the common sense or the maturity to follow his every example, but his influence and friendship has stuck with me for nearly 30 years.

Walt invited me to hang out at his home on many occasions. I got to know his wife Diane and their two young girls. To this day, I still love grilling and playing horseshoes; something I first experienced with the Gonzales family and some of our shipmates. Sometimes we played basketball even though neither one of us could jump over a Ritz cracker. Other times we watched football. It was a home away from home.

One of my favorite experiences in the Navy happened with Walt in Hong Kong. We crossed over to the Kowloon side, near mainland China. There we found a small pub in a business district that was packed with neighborhood locals. They were playing a game with coasters by laying one flat on a table and flipping it high enough to do a full 360 rotation and catching it before it landed. If done successfully, you then try with two coasters stacked, then three, then four, etc.... After several beers we somehow ended up in an international coaster flipping contest – a couple talented locals versus me and Walt. We each made it through the first four rounds and had a stack of five coasters in front of us, ready to be flipped. Every single person in the pub had their full attention on the game – literally dozens of locals. The lady competing against us flipped her stack of five and caught them like a pro. A round of applause and relief went around the room. Then it was up to me to flip our stack of five. I blew the catch and coasters went flying everywhere. The pub exploded into celebration like they had won gold in the Olympics. Walt and I were laughing practically rolling on the floor as he tried to tell me I had disgraced the USA. None of the locals spoke English, or if they did, they never let on. I think we got a beer on the house

*after our tragic loss, but Walt never let me live it down. I still play that game with my wife when we go out to eat, and I'm teaching my kids how to play – slowly.*

*In the years since the internet became available, I've reconnected with those who meant the most to me thanks to the Princeton alumni sites, reunion sites, Facebook page and Twitter. But I never could find Walt on any of them. About once a year I would do an extensive Google search for him that yielded hundreds of results for Walter Gonzales, but none of them were for THE Walter Gonzales.*

*Until today.*

*I just found his obituary. I'm devastated, but glad to see he made Chief, had a great career, and the love and support of his family. He deserved it all. He was a great man and a great friend. I will miss him and I sure wish I would have found him a long time ago.*

*To Diane, Alison and Katherine, my deepest sympathy.*

*Doug (Pogue) Higgins*

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**Doug Higgins** - February 14, 2019 at 05:56 PM

DG

“ *Will always remember how Walter encouraged me to stay in the Air Force at my 10 year mark! He said, “You need to complete the mission”! I did and retired at 20 years! Thank you Walter! I am fortunate and honored to have known you as a military man but most importantly as my brother-in-law. Rest In Peace, Walter, you will have smooth sailing from now on!!*

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**Donna Gonzales** - April 28, 2018 at 02:27 AM

TF

“ *The John J. Gonzales Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Walter E. Gonzales .*



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**The John J. Gonzales Family** - April 27, 2018 at 09:49 AM

SF

“ *Sharon Green and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Walter E. Gonzales .*



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**Sharon Green and family** - April 27, 2018 at 08:36 AM

MF

“ *Michael Hayes and the Aldez family. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Walter E. Gonzales .*



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**Michael Hayes and the Aldez family.** - April 26, 2018 at 05:10 PM

CS

“ Back in 1984, I met Walter as he returned from leave after his honeymoon with Diane. On the ship (USS John King DDG-3), Walter was always senior to me and was essentially my immediate supervisor for about 3 years. Man...we used to butt heads a lot, but Walter was always trying to motivate me, offer some advise or feedback, whether I liked it or not. But once Navy work was over, all of us would go out for a few beers and have a good time. Over the last 34 years, I was very fortunate to have a friend like Walter. I always enjoyed the emails, Christmas cards, 10 minute phone call or occasional visit. He was a great guy and will be sorely missed.

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**Chuck Semanchick** - April 25, 2018 at 07:34 PM

CS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



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**Chuck Semanchick** - April 25, 2018 at 06:46 PM

CS

*In October 2001 (?), Walter was stationed on the USS Robert G Bradley, which was a small Frigate that was visiting the USMA @ West Point NY on the Hudson river. Walter was just selected as OSC and I got to spend the weekend touring the ship & USMA campus during an Army home football game. What a great time. The hat was a gift that I still wear around today.*

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**Chuck Semanchick** - April 25, 2018 at 07:52 PM

CS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Chuck Semanchick** - April 25, 2018 at 06:38 PM

CS

*This picture is a classic. We were in Martinique, on the way back to the ship, probably with no money in our pockets. The weird license plate looked like a good souvenir, so Walter helped me pop it off the car. The picture and license plate hang in a frame on a wall in my man cave.....What's really funny, I didn't have any clean civilian clothes to wear that night....So I wore a bathing suit and Walter's red shirt...He complained that I stretched it out. Good times*

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**Chuck Semanchick** - April 25, 2018 at 07:44 PM

CS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Chuck Semanchick** - April 25, 2018 at 06:35 PM

CS

*Just to add to Mike Philips story...Here is Walter, in charge of the rental car in San Juan PR, along with Gary Smith in the middle & myself on the right. Photo credit to Mike Philips*

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**Chuck Semanchick** - April 25, 2018 at 07:37 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter E. Gonzales .



April 25, 2018 at 01:23 PM



“ Vanessa, Peter, Belinda & Alex Chavarria purchased the Tranquil Seas for the family of Walter E. Gonzales .



**Vanessa, Peter, Belinda & Alex Chavarria** - April 25, 2018 at 01:07 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter E. Gonzales .



April 25, 2018 at 10:42 AM

MP

“ Funny story.....Walt, Chuck and I (Mike) were watching the Dallas Cowboys playing against the New York Giants at the Gitmo bowling alley. Obviously, Chuck's team was the Giant's (We know whose Walt's team was). Every time the giants made a play Chuck cheered loudly for his team and Walt would do the same for his team until they were both warned to keep the noise down. Each warning would only last for so long before we were all finally asked to leave the bowling alley. Those were good times.

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Mike phillips - April 24, 2018 at 10:18 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter E. Gonzales .



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April 24, 2018 at 10:06 PM

MP

“ Walt was the first guy I met in Operations department when I checked on board in 1983. He is one of the few shipmates I talk with to this day. Walt was always the one to keep us on the straight and narrow while overseas on liberty, he made sure we got back to the ship just in time before curfew and was the designated driver when we rented cars overseas. Thanks for always looking out for us, you will truly be missed. "Fair Winds and Following Seas", until our next deployment together my good buddy Wally. Thinking of you and your family, Mike Phillips

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Mike phillips - April 24, 2018 at 09:35 PM

MP

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Mike phillips** - April 24, 2018 at 08:50 PM