



## Ralph Gonzales, Jr.

Ralph Gonzales, Jr. resided in the city of Santa Ana, California, passed away at the age of 77 on July 23, 2022. He was born January 10, 1945, in Kingsburg, California to Ralph A. Gonzales Sr. and Nico Ayala Ontiveros. He was one of five children and survived by his remaining brother, Benny Gonzales. A beloved father of 4 children, Christina, Mariaelena, Cecilia and Jonathan. A grandfather of 11 and a loving husband of 50 years to Socorro M. Gonzales.

Ralph grew up on the farms in Joaquin Valley and Tulare, California. There he joined his parents, brothers, and sister in picking a variety of crops, traveling from farm to farm.

In the late 50's, the Gonzales family decided to leave the farm life and moved to the City Terrace, a neighborhood in East Los Angeles. His parents opened a poultry store and there you could find Ralph, along with his siblings working. He graduated from Woodrow High School in 1963.

Soon after graduating high school, Ralph joined the military. From 1963-1967, Ralph was in the Army. In 1967, Ralph transferred to the Marines. In his military career, he did both active and reserves. Finally retiring in 2000. A total of 37 years, 8 months and 23 days and being honorably discharged as Master Sergeant. His perseverance led him to be awarded medals for National Defense Service, Good Conduct, Vietnam Campaign Service, Pistol Sharpshooter, and a Rifle Marksman Badge Cal30. He was a veteran of the Peacetime, Vietnam Era, and Cold War. He was stationed in Hawaii, Japan, Alaska, New Orleans, El Toro, Tustin, and Miramar.

After living in Monterey Park and City Terrace, Ralph and Socorro finally settled in Santa Ana in 1975. When Ralph wasn't serving his country, he worked in the Aerospace industry for 5 years. After being laid off, he then found employment at Pacific Rubber Stamp. From there, he sought out employment at the United States Postal Office. Being a devoted postal worker and retiring after 14 years. Ralph loved the outdoors. Taking his family on memorable camping trips to Kelly Beach. Going down the Kings River, Sequoia National Park, La Jolla Campground or planning a day at the beach. He showed his loved ones what the value of family time is and to cherish every moment we had with each other to the fullest.





Ralph enjoyed his retired days sitting outside looking at the traffic pass by. He would start a lively conversation with anyone that walked by, leaving them with a smile on their face with his great sense of humor. If his ankles weren't crossed like a grasshopper, his arms were crossed like the pondering man. He woke up every morning and read the daily newspaper while he drank his hot cup of coffee. He would read the comic section first then move on to the crossword puzzle. He couldn't forget about Dear Abby. Oh, how he loved reading her articles.

Ralph was not only an amazing husband and dad, but he was also an extraordinary grandfather. Better known as Papa. He loved to spoil them and the smile on his face when he saw his grandchildren. Running up to him and screaming Papa. Taking them to Thrifty for ice cream, stopping the palatero that passed by or walking them to the 7-11 by the house for a Slurpee on hot summer days. As you can see, Ralph loved his ice cream!

Music was a special passion of Ralph's, and he would always have his music playing in the background while his family accompanied him at BBQ's. The night almost always ended with a bonfire which Papa enjoyed most.

Ralph Gonzales, Jr. was an astounding well-known man. His legacy as a man, son, brother, husband, dad, and papa will not be forgotten. Instead, be remembered by many people telling stories of his well lived life. May he be standing guard at Peter's Gates watching over everyone. Soar high Marine, Oorah!

