



Gilbert Gonzales Jr.

August 10, 1960 - March 6, 2023

Gilbert P. "Punky" Gonzales, Jr., 62, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Monday, March 6, 2023.

Punky was born August 10, 1960, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the son of Gilbert, Sr. and Sheila McGinley Gonzales. He was a 1978 graduate of Hayden High School and attended Hutchinson Junior College. He was an accomplished cross country runner at both schools. Punky loved to play basketball, was a huge Miami Dolphins fan, and loved his Jayhawks. He thoroughly enjoyed coaching his children's teams as well.

Punky currently worked at Frito-Lay and many years ago had been a DJ both in Topeka and Florida. Music was a big part of his life. While in Florida, Punky also worked for the United States Postal Service.

Punky married Suzanne Bonadonna, July 31, 1993, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and to this union three beautiful children were born, Nicholas, Jonathan and Rio. They later divorced.

Punky was a man of faith who really loved the Lord and was a member of Lakeview Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors include his children, Nicholas Michael, Jonathan James and Rio

Alexa Gonzales; his parents, Gilbert P. and Sheila A. Gonzales; his sister, Lisa M. Gonzales-Engert (Leo G. Jr.); his brother, John T. Gonzales (Kendra V.); nieces and nephew, Jayden, Kallan and Korin Gonzales; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Visitation will be 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Punky's funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 23, at the funeral home and will be livestreamed on the funeral home's Facebook page. Burial will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lakeview Church of the Nazarene sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Funeral Service

MAR 23. 10:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
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info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gilbert Gonzales Jr.



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - March 22, 2023 at 03:57 PM

1M

“ I knew him when I was a child, and my experience with him was very different from what is being described here. I have carried something for decades that I never had the chance or courage to speak out loud. When I was young, I was groomed and sexually abused by him. Something that has affected me for most of my life. I am not posting this to argue with anyone or disrespect anyone's grief. I am posting it because silence protected him, not me. Understanding what happened in finding the strength to speak has taken me years. Not every victim speaks up in time. Not every predator looks like one. and not every obituary tells the whole story. I'm writing this for myself, because my truth matters, too, and because I deserve to release what I've carried for far too long.

11 year old me - November 06, 2025 at 04:38 PM

KJ

“ There will always be a tender, loving spot in our hearts for “Punky” as he will always be in our families hearts of wonderful memories. With love, Kathy, Brian, Brad, Alisa and Seana.



Kathy Jones - March 22, 2023 at 04:05 PM

JS

“ I'm saddened to hear about the passing of my friend, classmate, and distance running buddy Gilbert (his other nickname "Speedy") Gonzales. He was such a good-natured guy. We were fortunate to have had a runner of his ability on the Hayden cross-country and track teams. Under the direction of our coaches (Casper, Meseke and McGraw) we practiced hard and made each other better. Gilbert was talented in other sports too, especially basketball. My intramural basketball team (the Chiselheads) always had a tough game when we played Gilbert's team (the Irish).

We went our separate ways after high school and competed against each other in JuCo but we remained good friends.

My sincere condolences to Gilbert's family, he's left us too soon. I'm blessed to have a lot of happy memories of Gilbert.

Jeff Stein

Jeff Stein - March 22, 2023 at 01:13 AM

FF

“ *Frito Lay Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gilbert Gonzales Jr..*



Frito Lay Family - March 21, 2023 at 04:09 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gilbert Gonzales Jr..*



March 21, 2023 at 03:32 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Gilbert Gonzales Jr..*



March 21, 2023 at 02:36 PM

TA

“ *Sending our prayers to Gilbert, Sheila and Punky's family. Punky was a good guy and we know he will be missed. May your memories bring you comfort and a smile to your hearts.*

The family of Joey Padilla (Padrino)

Tish (Padilla) & Adrian Alcalá - March 21, 2023 at 09:28 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gilbert Gonzales Jr..*



March 20, 2023 at 02:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gilbert Gonzales Jr..*



March 20, 2023 at 09:10 AM

NI

“ Working together at Sam Goody was so much fun. But I'll never forget that night in 1992 when we went to see your most favorite band, Kansas. When the music started you pushed through the crowd until we were leaning on the stage. You wouldn't see Kansas any other way. And you were right.. Words can't describe the experience of having the Dust in the Wind electric violin solo being played live, right in front of you! 🎻 And when it wasn't Kansas, it was Journey, or Duran Duran or...the music was always part of you. Punky, wherever your next "Journey" takes you, I know your energy has been welcomed with "Open Arms". 🙏🥹🎵💜 Prayers, Love, and Light to the Gonzales family.

#carryonmywaywardson

#saveaprayer



Niki - March 19, 2023 at 03:29 PM

SO

“ I'll always have fond memories of Punky...Rest Peacefully ♡



Sue Obrien - March 18, 2023 at 01:35 PM

SO

My sincere condolences to the family ♡

Sue Obrien - March 18, 2023 at 01:37 PM

ME

“ *Gilbert was one of the kindest souls that I've ever met. I'm so sorry for your loss. He will be missed. Prayers going up. Godspeed for the family*

Megan - March 18, 2023 at 01:01 PM

LZ

“ *So sorry to hear about Gilbert's passing. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Lisa Zeller - March 15, 2023 at 08:09 AM

RF

“ *Richard and Sharon Gonzales and Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Gilbert Gonzales Jr..*



Richard and Sharon Gonzales and Family - March 13, 2023 at 05:17 PM

JS

“ *I have some wonderful memories of my time with Gilbert (Punky). I first met him thru my brother Terry. I had some interesting times with him and it makes me smile. My prayers are for his family's for comfort at this time.*

Jerry & Becky Smith

Jerry Smith - March 12, 2023 at 11:09 PM

DA

“ I am so sorry to hear about Punky, He was a good guy and I have a lot of good memories of Gilbert from the Rainbow days and a few other clubs he was always a lot of fun. He will be missed Rest In Peace Punky

Danny - March 12, 2023 at 10:42 PM

PC

“ I'm so sorry to hear about punky! Your family is like family to me! My dear friend Lisa we went to hayden together & played softball together , love Gilbert & Sheila, like a little brother John played baseball with my brother Jr. I have so many find memories of punky and he ran track with my hubby Paul. May Punky rest in peace!



Paul & Margie- Barajas Cervantez - March 11, 2023 at 05:00 PM

CM

“ We are so sorry to hear for your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. From Cathy & Carol Cervantez

Carol (Cervantez) Martindale - March 11, 2023 at 11:45 AM

AH

“ I remember Punky as very handsome and very nice in high school!

Anna Hernandez - March 11, 2023 at 11:16 AM

BE

“ *Had many great times with Gilbert back in my post high school days. I remember his big smile and long black hair. Peace to family and friends.*

Bernie - March 11, 2023 at 07:58 AM