



## Vincente Gonzalez Sr.

April 17, 1925 - August 3, 2020

Vincente “Vince” Gonzalez, 95, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Monday, August 3, 2020, at the House at Midland Care.

Vince was born to Jose and Inez Alfaro Gonzales on April 17, 1925, in Atchison County, Kansas. He grew up and attended school in Nortonville, Kansas. In February 1946, Vincente and Esperanza (Hope) Rojas were united in marriage. Vince was employed as a welder for Santa Fe Railroad, retiring with 42 years of service.

Vince was deeply involved in civic affairs including; serving on the Topeka NAACP Council, Topeka Interracial Council, Secretary of Kansas Advisory Council on Civil Rights, Topeka Human Relations Commission, the Mayor’s Citizens Advisory Committee, Chairman of Topeka Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, President of East Topeka Civic Association, President of Ripley Park Advisory Board, Goals for Topeka, and served on the boards of Lafayette Elementary School PTA and East Topeka Day Care Center.

Baseball, particularly youth baseball, was of major importance to Vince, who was named to the Shawnee County Baseball Hall of Fame. He was a charter member of the Topeka Baseball Federation and was active in the organization, expanding baseball opportunities for the youth of Topeka in an era when demand was outgrowing the availability of teams and playing

facilities. Vince managed and coached youth baseball in the Cosmopolitan League, Babe Ruth League, Connie Mack League, Knights of Columbus Baseball League and later umpired for Knights of Columbus Baseball. Over his span of more than 45 years serving youth baseball in Topeka, he organized, served on the Boards and was instrumental in the success of the Topeka Babe Ruth Baseball League, Topeka Connie Mack Baseball League, Sunflower Stan Musial Baseball League and Tee-Ball League for Knights of Columbus.

Vince was a member of Mater Dei Catholic Parish, Knights of Columbus Council No. 534 and the James W. Gibbons Fourth Degree Assembly.

Vince leaves to cherish his memory his son, Vincent Gonzales, Jr.; daughter, Lorraine "Lorrie" Gonzales; grandsons, Roger (Theresa) and Brian (Erin) Gonzales; granddaughters, Heather Holloway and Helena Adams; great-grandchildren, Owen, Isaac, Gabriel, Lariha, Elysia, Justice, Bella and Justin; and granddog, Chloe Marie Gonzales.

Preceding Vince in death are his wife, Esperanza, his parents, granddaughter, Elena Gonzales and all his siblings, Sophie Gonzales, Phillip Gonzales, William Carl Gonzales, Edward, Gonzales, John Gonzales, Manuel Gonzales, Joe Gonzales, JoAnn Gonzales, Anthony "Tony" Gonzales and Julius "Speedy" Gonzales.

Masks and social distancing are absolutely required at all services.

Visitation will be Monday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where the Knights of Columbus will lead a rosary at 6:30 followed by the Fourth Degree Chalice Ceremony and a time for family and friends to share memories.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Mater Dei Holy Name Church.

Cremation follows with inurnment at a later date in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to P.A.N.T. – Pet Assistance Network of Topeka and sent in care of the funeral home. P.A.N.T. is an organization to assist pet owners who find themselves temporarily unable to care for their pets due to overwhelming circumstances such as homelessness.

This is all part of celebrating Vincente! And in these current times of COVID-19 pandemic requiring social distancing, Vince's family knows that each presence at his visitation and Mass, each sympathy card, each Mass intention, each condolence, each memorial contribution are all meant as virtual hugs to his beloved family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 10. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

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

## Rosary & Chalice Ceremony

AUG 10. 6:30 PM (CT)

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

## Sharing Memories

AUG 10. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

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

## **Mass of Christian Burial**

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AUG **11**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church  
1114 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Vincente Gonzalez Sr.*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - August 10, 2020 at 04:59 PM



“ *Vincente Gonzalez Sr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Vincent may you rest in peace and may the Lord have Mercy on your beautiful soul. Thank you for being my baseball coach, my counterpart on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and my friend. You are very special. Lord Bless.*  
*Dick Thornburg*

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**Richard Thornburg** - August 11, 2020 at 11:09 AM



“ *I had the pleasure of knowing him. Am sorry for everyone loss. He was a great man and very caring person. I will pray for everyone that God can comfort everyone that he has blessed.*

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**Monica** - August 11, 2020 at 12:11 AM

WR

“ *William And Mary Roach lit a candle in memory of Vincente Gonzalez Sr.*



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**William and Mary Roach** - August 10, 2020 at 02:05 AM

DG

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Uncle Vince's passing. What a wonderful long life he had. I am sending you all a big hug from Florida.*

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**Denise (one of the Hutton girls)** - August 09, 2020 at 10:59 AM

DP

“ *I first met Mr Gonzales when he was one of my first baseball coaches as a young kid.He was an a extremely great person and coach and would always tell me that I was one of his favorite players that he coached . I would run into him later in my life at Walmart a lot and we would sit and talk about when I was younger and how much he enjoyed being my coach!!! I will always cherish those talks !!!! My thoughts and prayers go out to Roger and Bryan and the rest of the family during this time*

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**David Perry** - August 08, 2020 at 08:11 PM

RR

“ *Mr. Gonzalez (Vince) was one of those people that entered my life as a young boy and continued as a life long friend. As my baseball coach with the East Topeka Cardinals and throughout the years when I would run into Vince I was always greeted with a big smile and friendly words of an old friend.*

*Vince served the Topeka community well for many years and will be remembered . Junior My thoughts are with you and your family at this time.*

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**Russ Reynolds** - August 08, 2020 at 12:34 PM

EM

“ *Mr. Gonzalez was one of my favorite adults I meet as a 7 year old. He coached my Cosmo baseball team 1953 and then the East Topeka Cardinals little league team. When I didn't have a way to get to practice he would come to East Hill and pick me up and take me to practice. Over all these years if we met he always called me by my first and last name. I can here him now "Hi Eddie Michael". He was a great coach and took an interest in helping Topeka youth thru out his life. To Junior and Mr Gonzalez's family I want to extend my sincere condolences.*

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**Eddie Michael** - August 08, 2020 at 09:30 AM

SA

“ My name is cece, I had the awesome pleasure of being one of Vince's caregiver for about 10 months. I enjoyed coming to care for Vince because he always had a story to share. He talked about being a coach and he talked about his children and wife. He always would shower me with positive words and encourage me to be the best me. He'd always comment on how professional I looked and acted and started calling me his crazy wuabitt as well as the Puerto Rican energizer bunny because everything I did in his home to assist him with I was constantly on the go-go. He said he'd turned around and all he saw was a "flash if something" go by. He enjoyed his music on TV from Etta James, Frank Sinatra, ella Fitzgerald, Eartha katt and Nat King Cole. He'd danced in his chair and I'd danced on the floor he'd put on a big smile on. He enjoyed his meals especially his "monkey food" (bananas), his pastries and his "Peanut butter" slams. I'm going to miss you so much papi chulo but knowing that you are not suffering anymore and at peace comforts my heart very much. R.I.P love you.

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**Sarai Alvarado** - August 07, 2020 at 10:19 PM

MR

*He had the most giving and WONDERFUL daughter I could of ever known and loved*

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**Michael Rusher** - August 11, 2020 at 01:05 AM

MR

*I know*

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**Michael Rusher** - August 11, 2020 at 01:28 AM