



Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez Jr.

March 1, 1945 - January 6, 2024

Former Kleberg County Sheriff Tony Gonzalez was summoned by the Lord to be with Him on January 6th, 2024, at the age of 78. He was born in Kingsville, Texas on March 1st, 1945, to Antonio V. Gonzalez, Sr., and Sensoria Vela Gonzalez.

Participating in football, basketball, track, and field in his senior year at Henrietta M. King High School, Tony placed highly in pole vault competition at the state meet in 1963. He was awarded a scholarship in football from Henderson County Junior College and received a Bachelor of Arts degree with Master's Degree credits from Corpus Christi State University.

The Chief of Police of Kingsville, Fred Toler, appointed Tony to the Kingsville Department as a member of the police department as an officer. Having graduated from the Rio Grande Police Academy, Tony earned the highest certification for law enforcement and major certification for trainers and instructors from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Rising through the ranks, he was promoted to lieutenant in the Kingsville Police Department.

After serving in the police department, Tony began working for the Missouri Pacific Railroad legal department where he served for four years. With his vast experience, he was hired by the Texas A&I University Campus Police Department where he ended a twenty-one-year career as the University's

Chief of Police. During his tenure as Chief of Police, Tony served as a law enforcement instructor at the Texas Southwest College for several years.

In 1995, when former Sheriff of Kleberg County, Adan Munoz left office to work in the office of the Governor of Texas, Tony ran for the office of Sheriff in 1996 and was elected where he served for two, four-year terms. While Sheriff Adan Munoz was in office, a new jail was constructed and as the new Sheriff, Tony initiated new procedures and within a year in office, the jail was fully occupied and served as a positive for the citizens of Kleberg County.

Within these new modern approaches to incarceration, Sheriff Gonzalez initiated a youth scholarship program at Texas A&M Kingsville with 250,000 dollars which had been garnered from drug law violation penalties which would help at-risk youth.

Coordinating with federal agencies, Sheriff Gonzalez began to house, “off-site” federal inmates which brought revenue to Kleberg County in the amount of over a million dollars a year.

After leaving elected office, Tony became Principal/CEO of the G.E. Bass Consulting Corporation which served to coordinate the creation of two detention facilities in Texas and assisting in the establishment of a new facility for inmates of Nueces County.

In 2013, Tony began working with his family and initiated the process that created the Can-Go Insurance Agency.

Tony Gonzalez will always be recognized as a true icon of Texas. Both for his values of family, community, and his unending commitment to his country. These efforts were recognized throughout his life as attested by his award in 1991 as the Javelina Booster of the Year, his recognition as Outstanding Young Men of America in 1988.

Previously, Tony was designated as a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus in 1985 and in 2002 Tony made the National Register "Who's Who" of Executive and Professionals.

An outstanding athlete throughout his life and receiving college scholarships, Tony enjoys fishing, hunting, and golf. Age has never diminished his sense of community and South Texas and his life will serve as an example of what altruistic citizenship should be.

Antonio Gonzalez' death is preceded by that of his parents, Antonio Gonzalez, Sr. and Sensoria V. Gonzalez, his brothers, Enrique, Gonzalo, Heriberto and sister, Sarita G. Sandoval.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Canales Gonzalez of 42 years of marriage, son Omar Antonio Gonzalez (Audrianna) of Rockport, TX, and Mark Anthony Rankin.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 26, 2024 beginning at 8:00 a.m., with a Holy Rosary to be recited at 10:00 a.m. A Funeral Mass will follow at 12:00 p.m. at St. Martin Catholic Church with Father Alfredo Villarreal officiating. Burial services will be private.

Services are entrusted to Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 26. 8:00 AM (CT)

Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home
230 East Ella Avenue
Kingsville, TX 78363
(361) 592-2413

Rosary

JAN 26. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ramirez-Salinas Funeral Home
230 East Ella Avenue
Kingsville, TX 78363
(361) 592-2413

Funeral Mass

JAN 26. 12:00 PM (CT)

St Martin Catholic Church
715 N 8th St
Kingsville, TX 78363-4515
(361) 592-4602

Tribute Wall



“ *I am so sorry for your loss he was a good man and good sheriff!
Kingsville was fortunate to have him!*

Laura Harris - January 12, 2024 at 01:02 PM



*Condolences to your family from La Familia de Manuel C. Gonzalez y
Eva F. Gonzalez of Kingaville (RIP) buried in Houston where families
live. May Tony rest in peace and have his shining perpetual light on his
soul. From daughter Connie Gonzalez Ramirez. 713.834.4087.*

Connie G. Ramirez - January 29, 2024 at 09:29 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez Jr..*



January 11, 2024 at 09:53 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez Jr..*



January 11, 2024 at 11:33 AM

SV

“ My deepest sympathy, Mary Lou and Omar. In spite of all the sadness, there is the great memory of our trip to Spain and all the laughter that Tony initiated.

Your wit will always be remembered, old friend. (Sylvia M. Villarreal, McAllen, TX)

Sylvia Mendoza Villarreal - January 09, 2024 at 08:55 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez Jr..



January 09, 2024 at 04:38 PM

DM

“ Donna M. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez Jr..



Donna M. - January 09, 2024 at 01:38 PM

DM

“ Donna M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez Jr..

Donna M. - January 09, 2024 at 01:38 PM

DB

“ Dianne Brown lit a candle in memory of Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez Jr.



dianne brown - January 08, 2024 at 10:48 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez Jr..



January 08, 2024 at 08:29 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez Jr..



January 08, 2024 at 07:30 PM

TG

“ I had the honor and privilege of working for Sheriff Gonzalez, and will forever be grateful for the career opportunities he provided me. Rest easy Sheriff, we got it from here...Former CID Sergeant Tony "T-Bone" Gonzales.

Tony Gonzales - January 08, 2024 at 07:21 PM

JV

I had the privilege of working with Tony at Texas A&I University. Through the years we have been friends an he was truly a very kind hearted person. Mary Lou an him were great partners a both have been there all this years for each other a their son's. A couple of months ago I saw him an his wife at a Del Mar College Art Show. To my surprise my son an his son are friends an both have a love for Art. Both Tony an I cherished the moment we both found out that are boys are Amigos. For both of us it was a blessing that they have bonded as friends. Rest In Peace Amigo, En Verdad Un Buen Hombre Y Un Fiel Amigo.

Juan Villarreal - January 08, 2024 at 08:40 PM

SG

It was a pleasure to have worked with him, offered me the opportunity to be the Asst. Jail Administrator. He truly was a character, funny and his door was always open to his employees. Always enjoyed running into him on occasion. Thank you Sir for your service....Godspeed. Ya descanse y relajese por una eternidad...

Sandra Guzman - January 09, 2024 at 09:56 PM

CF

*I am so sad to hear of Tony's passing. The world is a lesser place without him. I admired him so much. Mary Lou - my heart cries for you. He is gone too soon! May God bless the Gonzalez family.
Clifford Fry*

Clifford L. Fry - January 20, 2024 at 08:43 PM