



Ronald Alan Gonzales

March 12, 2021

Ronald Alan Gonzales, 66, died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on March 12, 2021, after a valiant battle with myelodysplastic syndrome and Parkinson's Disease.

Ron was born in Barstow, CA, to Rudy and Rosemary Gonzales, and was the oldest of seven children. He grew up in Corpus Christi, TX, where he loved participating in competitive swimming for many of his younger years. He was a natural athlete, always enjoying competition in any sport he tried. Ron decided to follow in his dad's footsteps with a career in the fire service. He chose to attend Oklahoma State University where he received an associate's degree in Fire Prevention and a bachelor's degree in Technical Education. He loved living in the fire house on the edge of campus during his college years and working for the Stillwater Fire Department. While attending OSU, he met and fell in love with Sara Gresham. They were married soon after graduating from college and shared a wonderful life together, raising 3 children while living in Corpus Christi, TX, Farmers Branch, TX and Fort Collins, CO.

Ron had a fulfilling 28-year career with Poudre Fire Authority beginning as a Hazardous Materials Specialist and became Assistant Fire Marshal. He was a plans examiner, conducted development reviews and was an original member of the PFA Fire Behavior Committee. Ron had a true servant's heart with his philosophy of always helping his customers find a way to meet fire code

requirements, sometimes with highly creative ways to do just that. For many years, he helped draft national fire code language and taught classes on using the fire code. He was an arson investigator for PFA and found solving the riddle of how fires started rewarding. He was deeply respected by the PFA organization, and members of the development and construction community.

Most important in Ron's life was his faith and his family. His servant heart came directly from his love of Jesus. He served Faith Church as an elder, Stephen Minister, Awana leader and Sunday School leader. His children and their activities were central to his life and he never missed a game or performance. Ron was an avid hunter and fisherman. He lived for his yearly elk hunt with friends and the annual deer hunt in Oklahoma with family. Many a Sunday afternoon was spent at various fishing holes around Fort Collins. He loved being outdoors.

Ron is survived by his wife, Sara, their children Stephanie (husband Justin) Rolfs, Nathan Gonzales, and Leah (husband Joel) Riffle and his grandson, Levi Riffle. Ron is also survived by his mother, 3 sisters, and 2 brothers.

A service to honor and celebrate Ron's life will be held at Faith Church on Friday, March 19, 2021 at 10 am (social distancing and masks required). The service will also be live streamed directly from this page.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to Christ Clinic (<http://www.christclinicfc.org/>) or Josiah Venture Ministry (<https://www.josiahventure.com/give>).

Cemetery Details

Grandview Cemetery

1900 West Mountain Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521
<http://www.fcgov.com/parks/grandview.php>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 19. 10:00 AM (MT)

Faith Church
3920 S Shields Street
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald Alan Gonzales*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Ron was an amazing presence in any conversation or meeting. Always taking care of business, but making a point of connecting personally too. To touch base on family, fishing, stories, etc. He was a pleasure to know and he will be missed. T. Knauer*

Tammie Knauer - March 19, 2021 at 01:02 PM



“ *Ron was a great work friend and a strong Christian warrior. I know he is dancing with the angels now and walking and talking with Jesus. I pray for Love and Comfort to surround all of his family as they continue on this path of life. He is with you in spirit always I am certain. I am glad you are free of the pain now buddy. Save a spot for me up there okay? God bless you and your family in all ways, always.*

Stan Griep



Stan Griep - March 19, 2021 at 11:53 AM

TD

“ Sara and Family,

I am saddened with the loss of our loved on Ron. He was a true hero to our community saving lives every day with his work. I loved learning from him and I did learn a bunch. I will always remember the lengthy "discussions" we would have along with Joe about codes and standards and life in general. His quiet approach to problems was a strength few possess. He was not respected by the members of the PFA he was also so respected by the development, building and oil and gas community. He was a man that could find solutions to problems when there seemed to be no answer. He taught me things about fire codes and standards that no book could teach, he introduced me to people around the country that helped me and most of all he shared his friendship, his love of family and his love of God with me. May he rest in peace and we all look forward to that day when we see him again.

I'm sorry that we are unable to be there for his service but we will be watching on the video stream.

Tom and Kathy DeMint

Tom DeMint - March 19, 2021 at 11:45 AM

JH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Herman - March 19, 2021 at 11:21 AM

MM

“ Sara, Stephanie, Nathan, and Leah,

I'm deeply sorry for the loss of your husband and father. I knew Ron from the Awana days at Faith Church on Drake road until the present.

If there was anything that stood out to me above anything else, it was Ron's faith in Jesus and his unfaltering consistency in sharing his belief with others. He always talked highly of you, his family, and I know he loved you all with all of his heart.

As you grieve for the loss of such a great man, I pray that you will feel peace knowing he is now, due to his faith, in the Lord's presence without the troubles of this world.

Mike McCoy

Mike McCoy - March 19, 2021 at 11:02 AM

WW

“ Dear Sara and Family,
My heart is saddened with the loss of my buddy, Ron. I will cherish the time I had with Ron, not only over our careers together but especially over the last year. We were able to fish, grab lunch and drive around the foothills in search of deer. Ron would bring his camera and binoculars. We were so successful finding deer, that he mentioned taking me hunting someday. Ron also had a passion for his career. He not only provided assistance, he would teach you how to maneuver through the code books and find the answer. Occasionally, while I was visiting, he would disappear to his basement and come back with code books and try to loan them to me.
Ron loved his family and was a true man of faith. I can only hope he is visiting my dad now, as he would always ask me, “what would your dad think?”, and he’d give that little grin.
Ron, Rest In Peace!

Wayne Wiggins

Wayne Wiggins - March 19, 2021 at 04:45 AM

NG

“ Uncle Henry asked me to upload these pics of dad that were some of his favorite.



Nathan Gonzales - March 18, 2021 at 10:07 PM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Ronald Alan Gonzales*



Mary Lou Gresham - March 18, 2021 at 06:34 PM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Mary Lou Gresham - March 18, 2021 at 06:26 PM

TH

“ Dear Sara, Stephanie, Nathan and Leah,

I sit here saddened with tears in my eyes at the loss of a wonderful man, father and husband. I spent quite a bit of time with Ron at work and always admired and appreciated his love of knowledge. He always wanted to be the best at whatever he did, whether it was Haz. Mat., fire and building codes or fire investigation. One example is we spent many hours together learning and using cutting edge structural fire behavior modeling software. We were fascinated with it's ability to re-enforce our investigative conclusions on fire spread on certain structure fires. He loved what he did and he was good at it.

Having met his family many years ago when his kids were young the conversation would usually turn to what they were up to over the years. He was so proud of all of you.

Rest in Peace my brother!

Tom Hatfield

Tom Hatfield - March 18, 2021 at 02:54 PM

KW

“ Dear Gonzales family,

My heart was heavy as I read of Ron's passing, but also filled with thanksgiving, hope and gratitude. Ron loved the Lord with all his heart, and I rejoice at his homecoming. We interfaced on a number of projects here at Walker Manufacturing Company. He was a tremendous help, but also a good friend. He had a rare combination of incredible knowledge and a humble heart. As the years passed, I'd look for Ron each year at the Walker Hymn Sing just to say hi and catch up. I will miss that a lot.

Thank you, Gonzales family, for sharing Ron with our community.

Ken Weaver - March 18, 2021 at 02:05 PM

KP

“ Dear Gonzalez Family,

I'm so sorry for your loss and can only hope that peace will cover you in this difficult time. I only got to meet Ron a hand full of times, but it was obvious to me how big his heart was. He was a kind and patient man who loved his family dearly. My fondest memory was fishing in Fort Collins with him and Nathan. He was quite the fisherman and we bonded over our shared love of the sport. He will be greatly missed by those he impacted in his time with us.

Love, Kris and Kara

Kris Pointer - March 18, 2021 at 12:50 PM

MA

“ Dear Gonzales Family,

I was saddened to hear of Ron's passing today. I interfaced with Ron multiple times on construction projects in Fort Collins. Ron was patient with a young construction professional and always willing to share his knowledge making me a better constructor. My career has taken me around this country but I look back on people that impacted me personally and professionally and count myself lucky to have had to opportunity to work with Ron. My condolences and wish to you all that memories of your husband, father and friend bring smiles versus tears.

Mike Austin - March 17, 2021 at 04:38 PM

YF

“ Your fellow OSU "Student" Vol. Firefighters purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Ronald Alan Gonzales.



Your fellow OSU "Student" Vol. Firefighters - March 17, 2021 at 04:36 PM

SS

“ Dear Mrs. Gonzales, Though you and I have never met, Ron spoke of you often. I write today to express my sadness that Ron has passed. I knew him well, from our mutual association with Poudre Valley Hospital, as I was the Fire Safety Coordinator there for 20 some years. Ron was very kind and generous with his knowledge and experience when I first took the job, as were all of the PFA staff at Fire Prevention. They all stood by me when my wife passed suddenly in 2009. Ron and I had a first rate working partnership and I treasure his friendship as well. I hope you find some comfort in the memory of the love you shared with Ron throughout the years.

Stephen Stabler - March 17, 2021 at 03:27 PM

DM

“ Dear Sara and Family,
Thank you for sharing Ron with us. He was an incredible man! He truly loved his God and his Family. So sorry his life on earth with us was short, but I know he is sitting next to the Lord. He will continue to watch over and protect his Family. Love to all of you,
Dan and Tammy

Dan Mackey - March 17, 2021 at 10:08 AM

MG

“ Sara, If I recently shared this with you forgive my memory lapse. I know I meant to share it with Ron while he was still with us. I will always hold dear my memory of the day Henry and I and you and Ron went to the beach off Corpus Christi. After supper at your home you and Henry were whacked and went to bed but Ron and I stayed up for HOURS talking. He had just recently become a Christian and his excitement made me so excited that we just talked about God; Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and all He meant to us. I don't remember how late it was before we crept into bed with our spouses though it was well after midnight. By the way, I love the picture you chose of Ron on this site. His loving personality really shows. You two ran a tough race together. You got him to the finish line and now he's with that Jesus who so excited him all those years ago and forever more.
Love, Mary Lou (and Henry)

Mary Lou Gresham - March 15, 2021 at 06:55 PM

JM

“ Hello Gonzales Family,

We were quite saddened when we heard of Ron's passing from our daughter-in-law, Angela. Wow! What a wonderful man, Ron was.

The first memory Brice remembered of Ron was after our son, Josh passed away. Ron came to our house and said he wanted all the shoes of the family. What a true servant he was. He polished all the shoes for us for Josh's memorial service that January.

Love and prayers for you all! May God make Himself very real to each of you in a special way that will minister to each of you and bring you much comfort.

Brice and Jeanne Miller

Jeanne Miller - March 15, 2021 at 04:42 PM