



## Walter "Jim" Gonzales

August 14, 1940 - August 20, 2015

Walter James "Jim" Gonzales, 75, passed away unexpectedly on Aug. 20, 2015.

Jim lived most of his life in Pueblo. He was a graduate of Pueblo Catholic High and served in the U.S. Army as a Green Beret in the 101st Airborne Division. As a gifted athlete, he received numerous awards and recognition – hundreds over his lifetime. He played fast-pitch softball, ran track and field, as well as participated in numerous running events over the years through the current time including dozens of endurance races. Jim was inducted into the Mexican-American Sports Hall of Fame for his many accomplishments in weightlifting. He was extremely vibrant and active having walked and run with his beloved dogs, Shiva and Kan, several miles a day until the time of his death.

Jim earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in K-12, P.E. and Special Education. He served as a special education teacher to the most severely physically and mentally disabled children, predominantly at Pitts Middle School, Pueblo East High School and throughout Colorado in other school districts.

He was a rare combination of physical strength, intellect, artistic talent, genuine compassion and generosity. Jim would share a story; play a song on the trumpet, offer encouragement and share wisdom to anyone who was in need. He was curious and always engaged in learning and growing as a person. His later years were simple yet vast in the impact of his daily kindness and presence. He met obstacles with optimism and courage - he never gave up and showed others a path to healing through his spiritual nature and being.

Family love and care were paramount to Jim. He enjoyed spending time with each of his children and was so proud to become a grandfather. He was delighted in the happiness of his family and the people they became, always holding them in the light of his love, no matter the distance or time apart. He looked forward to sharing a meal, going for a walk/run, talking on the phone, sharing a sweet treat and being in the company of his kids. Jim loved his parents, brothers and sisters dearly. He had many joyous memories of adventures and time spent together.

While he was humble and could be perceived as having a quiet nature, Jim loved to spend time in conversation with others and had a very playful sense of humor – not to mention a great dance. He could find connection with people from all walks of life. He has returned to

the light and will live on in the memory and good works of those who were touched by his life of service and gentle spirit.

# Comments

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“ At a very fragile time in my life, this man acknowledged me and made it clear that he cared about. I will never forget what he did for me.

**Don Begier** - January 17, 2016 at 08:12 AM

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“ I send my deepest condolences to the family, I was at the service and the family did an great job. Granddaughter singing, beautiful! I am a neighbor and I feel Jim's loss tremendously. He was my biggest cheerleader, we talked often and he knew me and my family. He looked after me and made me feel safe. He always let me know "what was up in the hood". I can't believe he's gone, I still look over and want to see the light on... and now he is a new light up in the sky an angel looking over us....Denni Jordan

**Denni Jordan** - August 29, 2015 at 10:30 PM

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“ I was so very sorry to hear about Jim. I am Joella Greco's cousin from Oklahoma. Many times when I visited my cousin we would meet Jim and have drinks at a few bars. I always cared about Jim and loved him as my cousin. I have plans to come to Pueblo next month and was looking forward to visiting with Jim. He was a very special person to me and touched many lives of people who loved and knew him. Many memories will always be with me, please accept my dear sympathy on behalf of his family, Carl Cunningham, Colbert, Oklahoma.

**Carl Cunningham** - August 29, 2015 at 11:43 AM

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“ Jim was my mother's neighbor, he seemed to be a quiet person, but whenever my husband and I saw him walking his beloved dogs, he'd always take the time to "wave" and say "hello". Since I live in Westcliffe and visited my mother as much as I could, he once said " don't worry about your mom, I'll watch her." My mother passed away last year and he attended the funeral, jim gave such an eloquent memorial send off, I was impressed by the beautiful words he said. He was a caring man and had a wonderful soul. Our deepest sympathys to all the family..... Lupe & Jack Gillespie

**Lupe & Joel Gillespie** - August 28, 2015 at 08:02 PM

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“ Rocha Family lit a candle in memory of Walter "Jim" Gonzales



**Rocha Family** - August 28, 2015 at 07:42 PM



“ The Rocha Family would like to share a particular memory...when we first met Jim, we thought he told us his name was Tim, so for many years we have called him Tim. He has always greeted us neighbors with a wave or "Hey" and with a great big smile. When our mother died we seen him walking down Sante Fe going to Roselawn to her burial site and even spoke at her services about her beautiful yard full of flowers they were the best of friends. We are honored to have known Jim he will always be in our memories.

**Rocha Family** - August 28, 2015 at 07:56 PM



“ Dear Rocha Family, thanks for sharing the memory of our Dad.

**Derek** - January 16, 2016 at 10:40 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He and I have had many interesting discussions over the years and I had much respect for him. Many times when I visited Pueblo he would pass by my mother's house with his dog Sheeba. Sheeba always greeted me by raising up on her hind legs and giving me a big hug. I will miss Jim very much as I admired his kindness and knowledge about life. May he rest in peace. Fred Carillo

**Fred Carillo** - August 27, 2015 at 09:26 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



**nathaniel hernandez** - August 27, 2015 at 09:18 AM



“ It was a beautiful 4th of July spending it with Jim. What an inspiration he is. Elsira

**Elsira Gutierrez** - August 27, 2015 at 09:23 AM



“ Thank you for sharing the memory, Elsira.

**Robyn** - August 27, 2015 at 10:30 AM



“ Nathaniel, this is a great photo! Thanks for posting it.

**Robyn** - August 27, 2015 at 10:32 AM



“ Jim was a very close friend of mine. We were neighbors when we live above the old Irish Pub from 1992-96. One time I was having a cold beer at the now defunct Bruno's and in walks Jim with a trophy. I said where did you get that from? He said there was a power lifting contest nearby. He walked in and won it in street clothes! I was amazed. He really helped me take my own life to the next level in many ways. He was kind of a "spiritual guru" to me. On occasion we would broach the subject of death. His words were always comforting. Knowing that living on this earth is very temporary. Jim was kind of a quiet rebel in his own way. He did things his way. I will miss him. He made a lasting imprint on my life.

**Tony Wright** - August 27, 2015 at 10:24 PM



“ Coach Jim was a great man. He was a patient teacher/weightlifting coach for Mike Begier, Bob Vigil, Jeff Sanchez, Mark Oliva, Carlos Alvarez, myself and many others while we were at East High fall 1978 - spring 1982. He was more knowledgeable than any other coach and helped us win a lot of games. More than that, he made us better young men. Mike and I had the pleasure to serve as aides all 4 years in his LIF/special ed classes. Being around Jim and those wonderful kids touched me spiritually and made me a better person to this day. He continued to mentor us after graduation for a while at "Jim's Gym" on Santa Fe. He was a special man. RIP.

**David Devendorf** - August 28, 2015 at 12:36 PM



“ IN CELEBRATION OF YOU! I have tried to imagine my world without you: Soaring geese in formation, mountain peaks hidden in snow, splendor of fall along a country road, The whirr of a ring-necked pheasant at midday, The bleating of a horned owl at midnight, And know that none of it would be the same without you. But most of all, I could never replace your smile, your eyes, Your gentleness and giving, your loyalty and caring. The memories we've filed, the secrets we've shared. The love that is forever there despite time or distance. So, today I celebrate your very existence, Thank all of life for your life, Express my deepest gratitude that of the millions of people and possibilities, Our lives were destined to be intermingled. And as I celebrate your being, I want you to know, clearly and forever, That

my world will never be the same without you. Loving you always, Joella Greco

**Joella Greco** - August 30, 2015 at 02:56 PM

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“ You, John, the girls and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Heartfelt condolences to all of you during the difficult time.

**Claudia Azpeitia** - August 27, 2015 at 06:55 AM



“ Thank you, Clau. We feel your love and thank you for the thoughts and prayers.

**Robyn** - August 27, 2015 at 10:29 AM



“ The memorial was lovely. The family did a wonderful job honoring their father, grandfather, and brother. The overflow crowd was a great honor for a good man.

**David Devendorf** - August 29, 2015 at 01:28 PM

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“ What an a, amazing man. Always had a warm smile and a positive word for the day. He came out to Franks meat market for many years to buy scraps for his dogs and I always kidded with him of what he would buy for himself, and he said he was just gonna spoil his babies. He had such a kind and gentle spirit . We would talk about the races he was doing and he inspired us for his diligence. He would come dressed as an Eskimo (haha) in the winter and sweating in the summer just to make sure those dogs were cared for properly. Our lives was enriched by his life. May God Bless All of you and give you peace through this trial. Blessings from the staff at Franks Meat Market

**carol gazette** - August 26, 2015 at 10:54 PM



“ Thank you for the lovely words and memories, Carol and everyone at Franks Meat Market. We have found so many receipts from your store! Dad loved Shiva and Kan so much. Such a rare person to be equally strong and gentle.

**Robyn** - August 27, 2015 at 01:23 AM



“ Thanks for remembering Dad. He often talked about his trips to Frank's. Thanks for being his friend.

**Derek** - January 16, 2016 at 10:46 PM

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“ He loved walking his dogs around the neighborhood and by our house. He would stop to chat about his dogs and running in a recent 5k. I'm sure going to miss his chats and seeing him around the neighborhood and at the race events. My condolences to his family and his furry friends. He will be missed. Shari and John K.

**Shari Krasovic** - August 26, 2015 at 06:17 PM



“ Thank you, Shari and John. If you see us around his house, please say 'hi'. We would love to meet you. Dad had many nice neighbors that looked out for him and we are grateful for that.

**Robyn** - August 27, 2015 at 01:21 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter "Jim" Gonzales.



August 26, 2015 at 01:35 PM

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“ Robyn is following this tribute.

**Robyn** - August 26, 2015 at 12:38 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Robyn Azpeitia** - August 26, 2015 at 10:52 AM

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“ So sorry to hear. New Jim way back when. Enjoy his company and friendship. Coach Tom Brockman

**Tom Brockman** - August 26, 2015 at 09:33 AM



“ Thank you, Tom. We are comforted knowing he is remembered by friends throughout the years.

**Robyn** - August 26, 2015 at 12:33 PM

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“ We are sorry for your loss, me and my husband work at lanne's pizzeria he would come in and always have a small spaghetti. He would also always walk his dogs or jog by our house. We always enjoyed talking to him, we will miss him very much.

Prudence Aragon & Mike Montao

prudence aragon - August 26, 2015 at 08:32 AM



“ Thank you for your kind words and condolences, Prudence and Mike. We love to hear about Dad's daily life and the many people who appreciated him.

**Robyn** - August 26, 2015 at 12:25 PM



“ He was my friend and I loved him. Gloria Gonzales

**Gloria Gonzales** - August 27, 2015 at 12:12 AM



“ RIP cousin! I hadn't seen him since granpo Severo passed in 1979, but I enjoyed seeing him on fb. Prayers to the family. Love Ramona Esther Stallings. Alex Adame's daughter

**Ramona Stallings** - August 27, 2015 at 09:52 PM



“ Very sorry to know Jim is gone, he was a strong and smart man. If you ever had the chance to spend time with him he left a feeling of peace and happiness that few people can leave you with. A true giver ,listener that will live on in our family.Will miss seeing you walking by and giving a smile a wave or words of encouragement.Very Blessed to have had you as a friend. God Bless your Family. Tony Sherry Flores and Family

**Tony Sherry Flores** - August 28, 2015 at 12:29 PM



“ Taught with Jim at East High back in the late 80's. Have many great memories of the friendship with him and a lot of the other guys we taught and coached with then, some whom I'm sure he is hanging with in heaven now! It seems like we kept in touch by running into each other eating breakfast at Herrera's these past several years and it was always wonderful to get caught up and share our lives. Jim was a great compassionate man who helped more people than we will know about, and he is greatly missed.

Earl Poteet

**Earl Poteet** - August 28, 2015 at 04:13 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear about mr. Gonzales I met him at East High School in my junior 1982-84 year. He was great person and treated even a kid with respect and he make you feel so comfortable even though he looks intimidating he was a sweetheart! He was a Geat man teacher and a very great friend !! Il will miss him . And so will many other people and hearts he touched . Rest in peace Mr Gonzales you are an angel! Debbie Serna Vigil

**Debbie Serna Vigil** - December 28, 2015 at 01:25 AM



“ Debbie, Dad was very proud of you and your accomplishments at EHS!

**Derek** - January 16, 2016 at 10:49 PM