



Benito "Ben" John Gonzales

MAY 6, 1930 - SEP 30, 2019



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Benito "Ben" John Gonzales

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Benito "Ben" John Gonzales, 89, of Clinton, Iowa, died Monday, September 30, 2019 at West Wing, DeWitt, IA. Visitation will be held from 4PM to 7PM Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at the Catholic Church of the Visitation, Camanche, where a rosary will be recited at 6:45PM. Services will be held at 10:30AM Thursday at the Catholic Church of the Visitation. Pallbearers will be grandsons, Nick Dose, Ben Dose, Blake Bark, Sean Smith, Triston Houzenga and Robert Fermon. Burial will be at 3PM Thursday at the Galva Cemetery, Galva Illinois, where military honors will be conducted. Snell-Zornig Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made by visiting snellzornig.com.

Ben was born May 6, 1930 in Galesburg, Illinois, the son of Guadalupe and Maria (Ortega) Gonzalez. He was a 1948 graduate of the Galva High School. Ben married Nancy Florine in Galva, Illinois August 6, 1955; she died March 22, 1974. He later married Marjorie Byrnes in Omaha, Nebraska January 26, 1990.

He had been employed with the Burlington Northern Railroad for more than 34 years, starting as a telegraph operator and retiring as the Station Supervisor in Clinton.

Ben was a United States Air force Korean War veteran. He was a member of the Catholic Church of the Visitation and was an active 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a lifelong Cubs fan and was very active in athletics; he was an official for basketball, football, baseball, softball and track. Ben loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren and especially attending their sporting events. Ben also played fast pitch softball and baseball as a young man. He and Marjorie traveled extensively after retiring.

Survivors include his wife, Marjorie Gonzales of Clinton; children, Benita (Tom Anderson) Gonzales of Eldridge, Iowa; Karla (Bill) Seitz of North Ft. Myers, Florida; Tonia (Steve) Bark of Camanche, Iowa; Andrea (Tom) Johnson of Palacios, TX;



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Melissa (Dewey Houzenga) Gonzales of Morrison, Illinois; Alysia (Michael) Hill of Victoria, TX; step-daughters, Jennifer (Daniel) Fermon and Jacqueline Smith both of Loveland, Ohio; 18 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; half-brother, Santos "Chubby" (Theresa) Calderon of East Moline, Illinois and half-sister, Helen (Al) Coleman of East Lansing, Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, three brothers and five sisters. Memorials may be made to the family for a charity of their choice, the Church of the Visitation, the Knights of Columbus or masses.






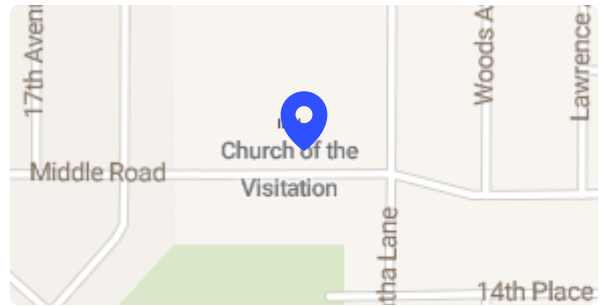
Events

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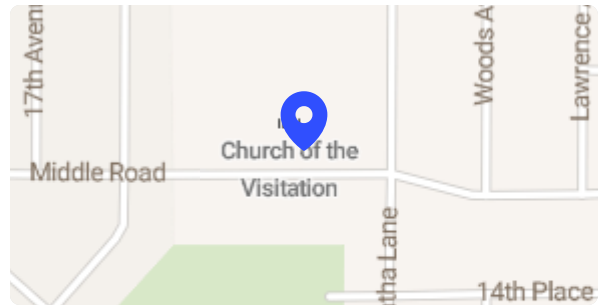
Visitation

-  **Wednesday**, October 2, 2019
-  4:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
-  **Church of the Visitation**
1032 Middle Road, Camanche IA 52730






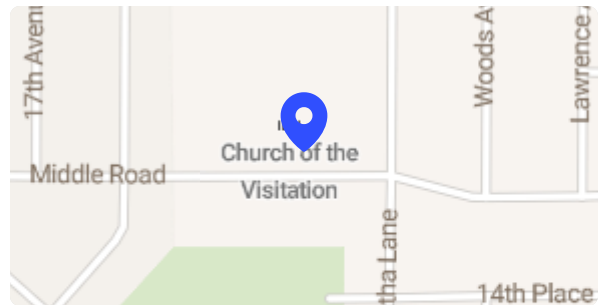
Rosary

-  **Wednesday**, October 2, 2019
-  6:45 PM CT
-  **Church of the Visitation**
1032 Middle Road, Camanche IA 52730




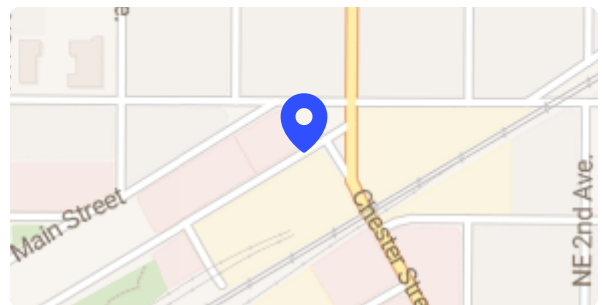
Service

-  **Thursday**, October 3, 2019
-  10:30 AM CT
-  **Church of the Visitation**
1032 Middle Road, Camanche IA 52730



Cemetery Details

-  **Galva Cemetery**
Galva IL 61434





Tribute Wall

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Margaret Ausich Nelson posted:

I can't even express in words how wonderful it was to see all the Gonzales girls yesterday. It was such a profound day of sadness for the entire Gonzales family, and instantly brought me back to the GREAT sadness when your mother died. For me, the silver lining yesterday was to get to see those little girls I once knew all grown up. For 5 of you, my heart still sees you the same as you were in 1974 when I last saw you!! You have all grown up to be such beautiful women!! I can see the best of both Nancy and Benny in each of you! I'm sure your dad was so proud of all of you, and I am POSITIVE your mother would be too!! Your sweet smiles and warm personalities were a joy to experience yesterday.. . . Even in the midst of your great sadness at the loss of your dad. He would be so pleased!! I know some of you do not remember your mom, but I could see Nancy's spunk and spirit in each of you. She was a delight to all who knew her, and I'm sure that is the case in each of you too. You were certainly a delight to me yesterday! May God be near to each of you in your grief, and may you know that there are people out there (like me), that you don't even know and barely remember, that love you and loved your parents. Nancy was like a second mom to me when I was a kid, and I know that she "shaped" a lot of who I am as a mother. She was such a fun mom to be around when I was a kid and I LOVED watching her love you girls. . . .she modeled love in a special way to me for which I will always be grateful. How I wish you could have all known her. But I could see her beauty and spunk in each of you yesterday. Many blessings to you all!With love and sweet memories, Margaret Ausich Nelson

October 4 at 6:52 AM



Pam Hoge posted:

May our Lord bless and comfort your family during this time of grief. Please accept my sincere condolences.Rick and Pam Hoge

October 3 at 5:24 PM



Margaret Ausich Nelson (And Family) sent an Arrive in Style to the Gonzales family.



October 2 at 5:47 AM



The Whitmore's posted:

Ben and Nancy were great neighbors. I remember Ben stopping to help me when my car broke down on Central Steel road. He got it going so I was able to drive it home. Our deepest sympathy to his family.Sherrill and Dick Whitmore

October 2 at 4:16 AM



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Anonymous sent a Serene Retreat to the Gonzales family.



October 2 at 4:04 AM



Jen Meyer posted:

Please know my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I will always remember whenever I cantored on Sunday mornings I could hear him singing harmony right along with me. Love to you all - Jen Meyer

October 1 at 6:23 PM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Gonzales family.



October 1 at 2:07 PM



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Gonzales family.



October 1 at 1:30 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Gonzales family.



October 1 at 9:13 AM



Ed Hupfer posted:

To the Gonzales family: We're sorry for your loss. The many memories that you have will help bring you comfort and ease the sorry in the coming days. During Lent/POP fish fry last winter my wife and I sat at the same table with Ben and his wife. What a nice visit we had. He was so proud of all of you! Prayers with you all. Ed and Jean Hupfer

October 1 at 8:06 AM



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CP

Cheryl Paasch posted:

Our deepest sympathy for the loss of your father. May your memories help to bring you comfort and ease the sorrow in the coming days. Jim & Cheryl Paasch

October 1 at 3:33 AM

LB

Linda (Ma) Boelkins lit a candle in honor of Benito "Ben".

We are so sorry for your loss! Sending our sympathy, love, hugs, and prayers!
Randy & Linda Boelkins

September 30 at 10:09 PM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Gonzales family.

September 30 at 9:08 PM



KT

Kelvin, Sara, And Anthony Tenboer sent a virtual gift in honor of Benito "Ben".

Sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. What a great man. Always a smile and could make you laugh. He will be missed.

September 30 at 9:04 PM



JA

Jacque, Jenny, Leo, Lincoln, Grant Rachel And Rob sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Gonzales family.

September 30 at 4:20 PM



LT

Landi Tichler posted:

So very sorry for your loss! Benny's used to come into the frontier restaurant years ago and he was always so nice, polite and fun to chat with. Praying for your family.

September 30 at 3:22 PM



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EV

Esther & Jim Vogel lit a candle in honor of Benito "Ben".

So very sorry to all of Benitos family he was such a nice and caring man. Your all in our thoughts and prayers.

September 30 at 2:46 PM



TB

Trisha Baxter lit a candle in honor of Benito "Ben".

An absolutely WONDERFUL man and a life well lived! He will be deeply missed by all of his adorning daughters, family and friends. I loved Benny and his contagious smile and laugh! He was the best dad for his girls and I always admired him how he raised them by himself and worked hard to provide for them. I am so sorry, Benita, Tonia, Karla, Andrea, Melissa and Alysia. I love you all and I will be praying for peace and comfort for your entire family. God assigned him as your father to you girls and he IS dancing on streets of gold right now! Rejoicing and Joyful, at home with our Lord and Savior... you WILL see his handsome face again, one day and it will be for ETERNITY!

September 30 at 2:42 PM



PW

Paula Stenulson / Wells posted:

So very sorry for you loss my heart goes out to you Melissa and all your sisters and his wife , he will Be truly missed what a great man and such a wonderful smile he was loved by many sending many prayers and hugs to you all , rest in peace 🌈 Benny, Paula Stenulson Wells

September 30 at 2:34 PM

JC

Julie Connell posted:

We are so very sorry for the loss of Mr. Gonzales. May you find peace and comfort that he is not in pain and I am sure, in Heaven. God bless. Don, Julie, Seth, and Tristan Connell

September 30 at 2:12 PM

BW

Barb And Dan Randall, Bob And Lani Willis sent a Pretty Please to the Gonzales family.

September 30 at 2:11 PM





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Anonymous sent a Basket of Memories to the Gonzales family.



September 30 at 2:10 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Benito "Ben" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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