



John Palos Gonzales

November 26, 1938 - November 17, 2025

John "Speedy" Gonzales passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday November 17, 2025, at the age of 86. He was born on November 26, 1938, in Reedley, CA to Jose Avalos Gonzalez and Alejandra Palos.

Speedy attended Kings River elementary school and graduated from Kingsburg High School. He enlisted in the National Guard on June 5, 1957, and was honorably discharged on June 6, 1960, as a Specialist Fourth Class E-4. He started working as a mechanic at Jim Ford Chevrolet - Oldsmobile dealership in Kingsburg; then Thornbury - Allen Chevrolet in Kingsburg; and finally at its renamed location, Liberty Chevrolet, in Selma, a career spanning 29 years.

He had an undeniable dedication to family and friends, Speedy loved and cherished them deeply. His quick wit and boyish charm won over the hearts of many. He always provided a strong shoulder and kind words to brighten up the darkest of days.

Speedy was an avid Raider Nation fan since the Oakland Raiders inception in 1960, and enjoyed going to games and watching them on television.

He enjoyed traveling; camping; fishing; hunting; and in his later years "the casinos". You would be hard pressed not to run into him at any given time.

Speedy was a proud Lecturing Knight at Elks Lodge 1450 and Worthy Chaplain at Fraternal Order of Eagles in Puyallup, Washington.

He believed in Jesus and his promise of everlasting life with the promise of seeing our loved ones again in heaven.

Speedy lived life to the fullest. He accepted all those for who they were and believed in. His dry sense of humor always seemed to create a smile, a laugh, and sometimes a cry. You always knew where you stood in his heart and made us all think of how to be a better person. He used to say "life is easy but we make it hard" when problems appeared to arduous to overcome and needing introspection.

His end was unexpected and has left a void in many hearts. But in the end, another one of his sayings, "it's all about timing", created an opportunity for bettering oneself.

John is survived by his son, John Gonzalez of Madera; daughter, Lisa Vaknine and her husband Erik of San Jose; grandsons Timothy and Thomas Yurgal. His brother's Jesse Gonzales; Henry Gonzales and his wife Janelle; his stepson's Anthony and Patrick Rocha of Fresno.

He was proceeded in death by his wife Angelina Banuelos of Fresno and her daughter Phyllis Rocha. His siblings Andrea Salas and Luis; sister-in-law Pat Gonzales; Robert and Connie Gonzales; Victoria and Jim Roybal; Angie and David Tafoya; Sally and Albert Lopez; and Ruth Gonzalez.

Viewing will be held from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Thursday, December 4th, 2025 at Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel, 1588 Lincoln Street, Kingsburg with the Rosary beginning at 6:00 PM.

Mass of Christian Burial services will be held at 10:00 AM Friday, December 5th, 2025 at Holy Family Catholic Church, 1275 Smith Street, Kingsburg immediately followed by interment at the Kingsburg Cemetery, 12782 E. Clarkson Avenue, Kingsburg.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Cemetery Details

Kingsburg Cemetery

12782 E. Clarkson Avenue
Kingsburg, CA 93631

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel
1588 Lincoln Street
Kingsburg, CA 93631
(559) 897-2908
<https://www.creightonchapel.com>

Rosary

DEC 4. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel
1588 Lincoln Street
Kingsburg, CA 93631
(559) 897-2908
<https://www.creightonchapel.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Holy Family Catholic Church
1275 Smith Street
Kingsburg, CA 93631

Burial

DEC 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Kingsburg Cemetery
12782 E. Clarkson Avenue
Kingsburg, CA 93631

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of John Palos Gonzales*



Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel - December 01, 2025 at 06:49 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel created a Webcast in memory of John Palos Gonzales*



Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel - November 21, 2025 at 02:48 PM

PC

Hello all John Speedy Gonzalez and Family were our Neighbors in Kingsburg When We were Young John John was My good Freind growing up they were wonderful Neighbors I later got to work with Speedy at Liberty Chevrolet when I was 19 He and the guys that worked there treated Me well had fun working with Him and The others He was a Great Man I send My condolences to the Family from the Chavez Family with Love from Paul Chavez rest in peace Speedy love ya !

Paul Chavez - December 02, 2025 at 10:27 PM

SC

“ Mobile Webcast of the Mass Funeral Service from Holy Family Catholic Church on Friday December 5th at 10:00am

<https://www.viewlogies.net/salser-and-dillard/5lBvB6vH-?pin=348793>

Salser and Dillard Funeral Chapels - November 26, 2025 at 02:06 PM

MW

“ Myron Williams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Palos Gonzales.

Myron Williams - December 03, 2025 at 03:07 PM

SE

“ Susan, Joe, and Elena purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of John Palos Gonzales.



Susan, Joe, and Elena - December 02, 2025 at 12:50 PM

C(

“ Cindy Hopper (Gonzales) purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Palos Gonzales.

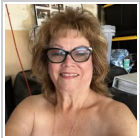


Cindy Hopper (Gonzales) - December 01, 2025 at 12:26 AM



“ *Cindy Hopper (Gonzales) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Palos Gonzales.*

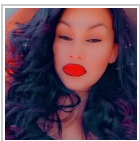
Cindy Hopper (Gonzales) - December 01, 2025 at 12:26 AM



“ *We had so many fun times at the casinos.*



Sarah Lopez - November 28, 2025 at 09:03 PM



“ *My Tio Speedy, always loved seeing him pass by our house bc he was going to have fun wherever he going. One time he stopped by and showed us a cool rock that looked like a face , he found and gave to us, So I put it with my rock collection ❤️*



Savannah Beltran - November 26, 2025 at 12:26 AM



“ *I met speedy through his son John. Even though I didn't know him that long I knew him long enough to say that he was a great person and very dedicated father. Extremely nice person and was always there for his son john. He will be missed.*

Lalo - November 23, 2025 at 09:22 PM

LV

Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

Lisa Vaknine - November 24, 2025 at 02:50 PM

NS

“ *Uncle Johnny is one of the coolest , most handsome men you could ever know!! As a kid we would be at Avocado lake and it seemed every year he would pull up with the shiniest, pretty, new car of the year!! We would stop to see him and his family pull up. He always has a big smile and hug to give you!! I won't say these things in the past tense because your spirit is very much alive with our Father!! I love you so much uncle Johnny!! Enjoy this journey until we meet again.....*

*Your niece,
Naomi Salas*

Naomi Salas - November 21, 2025 at 10:25 PM

LV

Thank you for sharing your memories.

Lisa Vaknine - November 24, 2025 at 02:51 PM

VG

“ *Uncle Johnny was the best, easy to talk to and our conversations were always filled with laughter.*

One thing that stood out the most to me, was I was battling with hives and he prayed for me and the next day they were gone and never returned. Praise God for answered prayers. He was a very humbled man whose faith and love of God was tremendous.

Uncle Johnny I will miss you very much. Until we meet again on that beautiful morning, your niece JR.

Victoria Greguski - November 21, 2025 at 05:55 PM

LV

Thank you for sharing your memories.

Lisa Vaknine - November 24, 2025 at 02:51 PM

SF

“ *Steve and Sandy and family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of John Palos Gonzales.*



Steve and Sandy and family - November 21, 2025 at 05:00 PM