



Gilbert Cano

November 20, 1939 - October 15, 2023

Gilbert Cano passed in his home in Ivanhoe, California on October 15, 2023. Gilbert was born on November 20, 1939 in Los Angeles, California to his loving mother Ramona Cano and into a family with six siblings.

Gilbert's childhood was not an ideal one. He was faced with the challenges of poverty and an abusive stepfather. During his youth, he would often turn to his sisters and cousins who provided him with a means of escape and comfort. Just as many teens lacking guidance do, Gilbert dropped out of high school at the age of 17. Upon hearing this, one of Gilbert's older brothers who recently served in the military, Rudy, was insistent that Gilbert join the service. Gilbert scoffed at the idea, insisting that his mother would not sign the necessary paperwork since he was only 17 years old. To Gilbert's surprise, his mother signed those papers without a second thought and off to the Army Gilbert went.

Gilbert served proudly in the Army and enjoyed being stationed in Germany during the late 50s. Gilbert always credited his service with instilling the discipline and desire in him to go back to school. Upon completion of his service, Gilbert went back to school earning his diploma and developing an interest in activism. He advocated for families battling poverty and was involved in the Chicano Civil Rights Movement. Gilbert was a key organizer of the Chicano Moratorium in Los Angeles and "La Marcha de la Reconquista", a

thousand-mile march from Calexico to Sacramento. His involvement in activism led him to Texas to study at the Mexican-American Culture Center in San Antonio, TX where he met the love of his life, his wife Norma. While Norma completed her college education in Texas, Gilbert earned his bachelor's degree from California State University, Northridge.

Gilbert and Norma married in 1976 before moving to Wisconsin. It was here that Gilbert earned his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater before returning to California. Upon settling in Tulare County, Gilbert started a career in public service by joining the Tulare Youth Service Bureau. It was here that he discovered his passion for helping youths in need. It was during this time that the two greatest joys in his life, his sons Tizoc (TC) and Tepitzin (Gilbert Jr.), were born. Gilbert went on to accept a position as a counselor at Dinuba High School before accepting a position as a counselor at Orosi High School. Gilbert was passionate about helping the students he encountered. He retired from Orosi High School after serving 18 years as a counselor. His impact on the community was tremendous. Later in life he said that helping youths and providing them with the guidance he never had gave him fulfillment and also helped to heal the wounds from his childhood. Gilbert was also honored to serve on the Ivanhoe Public Utility District for 28 years.

After retirement, Gilbert valued the simple things in life above all. Nothing provided Gilbert with more satisfaction than having a good meal, some good snacks, something good to watch on TV, and having his wife and boys by his side. His unique sense of humor was present all of his life and enjoyed by everyone around him.

Gilbert was preceded in death by his mother, Ramona Rosales, siblings Rudy, Paul, and Helen, as well as his parents-in-law, Eduardo and Francisca Guajardo.

Gilbert is survived by his wife of 47 years, Norma Cano, two sons, his sisters,

Mary Sandoval, Virginia Rangel, Martha Rosales, and numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, and cousins whom he loved dearly.

Viewing will be held 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Saturday, November 4th, 2023 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Service Of Remembrance services will follow from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM.

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

Previous Events

Viewing

NOV 4. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Service of Remembrance

NOV 4. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Gilbert Cano*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - November 02, 2023 at 02:09 PM

MG

“ *Melanie (Nelson) Guralnick purchased the Mouth watering Meat and Cheese Gift Tower for the family of Gilbert Cano.*



Melanie (Nelson) Guralnick - November 01, 2023 at 08:06 PM

MG

“ *Melanie (Nelson) Guralnick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gilbert Cano.*

Melanie (Nelson) Guralnick - November 01, 2023 at 08:06 PM

MG

“ *1 file added to the album Pictures of Gilbert by Melanie*



Melanie Guralnick - November 01, 2023 at 07:53 PM

MG

“ You will be missed by so many, Gilbert. I have such great memories of you visiting us in Beverly Hills, especially when we went for a walk to the fancy Peninsula Hotel with your two Pitbull's and you charmed all the fancy patrons with your charm and funny jokes. They stopped and wanted to pet your 'unusual' dogs...they probably had never seen a real Pitbull before! Wherever you went you were universally liked, which is a quality I deeply admired.

Melanie Guralnick - November 01, 2023 at 07:48 PM

SR

“ Mr. Cano was as an extraordinary human being, after reading his bio it brought back memories to my high school years, his words all make sense now. God bless your family always and give them peace during these difficult times. Until we see each other again Rest in peace.



Sandy reynoso - November 01, 2023 at 07:17 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gilbert Cano.



October 30, 2023 at 12:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gilbert Cano.

October 30, 2023 at 12:36 PM