



Luis Gonzalez, MD

June 7, 2014

Luis L. Gonzalez, MD, D. Sc. died at the age of 86 on his birthday, June 7, 2014 in his home in Naples, Florida. He had been diagnosed with ALS in February. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonides(1933) and Genoveva(1943). The families of both of his parents were pioneers of Texas settling there in ranch life before Texas became a Republic in 1836. His sisters were proud members of the Daughters of the Texas Republic. Luis' father died at the height of the Great Depression in 1933 leaving eight children (three were 5 years old or younger) behind. "Having five older sisters and one bathroom in preparation for school in the morning was not much fun, " he enjoyed stating in jest. The eventual result of this dilemma was entirely due to the excellent efforts and drive of his mother who was always seeking improvement in educational goals of her children. Luis enjoyed and greatly admired the accomplishments and spiritual values of his wife, Jeannine, of 25 years whom he dearly loved. Three older sisters, Olga, Elpidia, Gloria and two younger brothers, Angel and Dr. Hugo survive Luis. He is also survived by his six children, Luis Gonzalez Jr.(Ann), Steven Gonzalez (Ruby), Mark Gonzalez (Trish), Martha Kingsmith (Pascal), David Gonzalez (Vicky) and Christine Gonzalez. Luis

was a loving grandfather to 19 grandchildren.

Luis was born June 7, 1928 and spent his early childhood in Edinburg, Texas where

he graduated from high school in 1944. He did not recall ever being unemployed.

His Social Security (SS) card began recording income in 1937 when he was 9 years

old, two years after the institution of the SS law. Child labor laws in South Texas were very lax in those days. He returned to the University of Texas after serving two years in the US Marine Corps. He was eternally grateful for the values and training he received in the Marine Corps and was quick to state that

at every opportunity. Following competitive testing, Luis turned down an invitation from the Marine Corps to attend the Naval Academy at Annapolis because his lifetime goal was to become a physician.

Luis graduated from the University of Texas in 1949, Alpha Epsilon Delta, Honor Premedical Society. He then graduated from the University of Texas Galveston in 1953, Alpha Omega Alpha, an Honor Medical School fraternity.

After two years of internship in California, he enrolled in the University of Cincinnati (UC) surgical residential program. He finished the General Surgical and Thoracic Surgery programs in 1961 after receiving Board

Certification from both specialties. During this period of training and throughout his career, his interest was always the improvement of surgical techniques for his specialties. He was fortunate to have been in practice during the time when so many innovations were made giving him the opportunity to

observe and use them. Research he conducted during his residency on one of the

cardiac valves led to his work entitled "Tricuspid Insufficiency". For this he received the Doctor of Science degree from UC. Following his residency he

was

invited to join the surgical faculty of that institution where he was Associate Professor of Surgery until his retirement in 2001.

During his faculty time at UC he authored 35 original research and clinical surgical publications and 8 cooperative publications. He gave numerous oral presentations, some in Europe. He belonged to many surgical societies having a relationship to the specialties to which he belonged. In spite of his role as a faculty member at UC, he began a very active program at The Christ Hospital. He integrated that surgical program into the UC Faculty and served as Director of Thoracic Surgery.

He had the honor of serving as President of the Medical Staff of The Christ Hospital. Following his retirement, he missed his work and his patients. This led him back to work at the Veterans' Administration Clinic in Ft. Myers, FL. He performed general surgical procedures there for six more years and especially

considered it a privilege to treat and hear the stories of the WWII vets.

Luis spent some time during his "Golden Years" trying to improve his golf game.

Though his scores did not improve, the story telling and retelling of previous rounds with friends did. Throughout his golfing career he maintained an interest

in the details of operating country clubs. He served as President of two clubs in Cincinnati, Hyde Park CC and Kenwood CC. Luis remained very active in the Marine League in Naples, Florida. Together, he and Jeannine tutored students with disciplinary problems at New Beginnings Middle School in Collier County, a Marine League sponsored project.

Luis was an active member of First Baptist Church Naples at 3000 Orange Blossom

Drive, Naples, FL 34109. A memorial service will be held there Monday, June 16 at 4:00PM.

A memorial service will also be held in Cincinnati at Armstrong Chapel 5125 Drake Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45243 on Thursday, June 19 at 11:00AM.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Luis may be made to First Baptist Academy, 3000 Orange Blossom Dr., Naples, FL 34109 or to Avow Hospice, 1095 Whipoorwill Lane, Naples, FL 34105. Arrangements entrusted to Garfield Funeral Care & Cremation Service in Naples, FL (239) 596-5288.

Please offer your condolences by visiting www.garfieldcares.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Luis Gonzalez, MD*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Luis Gonzalez, MD*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *I had the privilege of knowing Lou for the past 8 years. He was always so kind and willing to help in any way he could. He not only loved others, but he loved his country and the values it represents. This man will be missed by so many. Enjoy your reward, good and faithful servant of Christ.*

Ken Fletcher - July 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our prayers are with the Gonzalez family. Thank you Dr. Gonzalez for the legacy you have left behind!*

Jeff Gibson - June 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Our condolences to the family of this man who did so much for mankind.. His roots are the same as ours, coming from humble beginnings, of the Guerra and Gonzalez families, from Duval County, Texas. We never got to meet this cousin of ours, and only recently my sisters and I got to meet his sister Gloria, through the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. We take pride Luis, on your outstanding accomplishments that saved lives.

God bless you all,

Judith Guerra-Barrera, (Concepcion, Texas), Itza Rubi Salinas, (Lyford, Texas), Patricia Ann Martinez, (Kingsville, Texas)

Judith G. Barrera - June 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I feel fortunate that I was able see Lou a few days before his passing. On behalf of Jim and I wish to express our heartfelt condolences to Jeannine, and the entire Gonzalez family. I feel sure that Lou is now sharing his golf stories in heaven. He was a unique man, with a zest, and passion for life, who made all around him feel better about themselves, he will be truly missed. Our love, and prayers to all.

Judy Cahill

Judy Cahill - June 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ I was fortunate to work closely with Dr. G during my 14 years at TCH during his tenure as Chief of the Medical Staff. I have very fond memories of working with him and his daily visits to my office with his infectious laugh and stories! I was saddened to learn this morning of his passing from one of my medical staff members. I am sure he will continue his stories and laughing in Heaven! RIP Lu!
Lorrie Paulus

Lorrie Paulus - June 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Dr. Gonzalez was such an inspiration to be around, and to engage in conversation with him was always a thrill. He was a terrific surgeon and interested in everything. My father thought the world of him. Best to his family. Robert Downey, Mukilteo, WA

Robert J Downey - June 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ I spent many hours in the OR with Dr. G as a surgical nurse at Christ Hospital in the late 70's through the mid 80's. He was demanding but a brilliant surgeon. If any member of my family ever needed thoracic or vascular surgery I would have recommended they go to him without hesitation. We had a lot of fun too----great story teller .
Jay Eiben RN

JAY EIBEN - June 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *To the Gonzales family
Louis was one of the best surgeons I ever worked with! He also was one of the best men I have known . I was certainly a victim of some of his story telling and the stories got better with age. One of my favorite pictures is him in a NY uniform with the ears sticking out from under the hat. I will miss him dearly but also know he will continue doing his goodwill in heaven.*
Denny "THE BEAR" Long

denny long - June 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Mark,
Sorry to hear about your father. The few times, in our high school years, that I was around him, brings me fond memories.
Take care and hang in there.*

Brendan Blase

Brendan Blase - June 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ *Dr Gonzalez was a great surgeon who operated on my father. I knew of his reputation from working at The Christ Hospital. I wanted the best doctor that's why we choose him. My father did well and was good as new in no time. He was always kind and compassionate. My sincere condolences to his family I know he will be missed.*

Kathy K.

Kathy K. - June 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ I only knew Lu for the last seven or eight years but he treated me like a lifetime friend.
I met him at Quail Creek where on Monday we studied the Bible and then played golf.
I once told him his swing looked like an octopus falling out of a tree.
I can still hear his giggle as he re told the story on numerous occasions.
That giggle will stay with me for a long long time.

Bob Rowley

Bob Rowley - June 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Doc G was an accomplished surgeon who touched many lives over a long and fruitful life. I will always be grateful to him for the compassion he showed my mother and for extending her life.
He will be remembered by many in a loving and profound way.
My sincere condolences to his entire family.

Jamie Held

Jamie Held - June 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM