



## Gilbert Rodriguez, Jr.

April 17, 1943 - December 28, 2020

Gilbert Rodriguez, Jr. entered into paradise on December 28, 2020.

Born in Chihuahua, Mexico in 1943, Gilbert was the oldest son of Gilbert and Juanita Rodriguez. He served in the United States Army and was a proud Vietnam War Veteran. His past times included going to the casinos and working.

Gilbert was the sole proprietor of Gilbert's Automatic Transmission Center where he and Frank Escamilla served the community of Selma for over 40 years. Gilbert was honored for many accomplishments throughout his life. A most notable one was being the "Citizen of the Year" of the City of Selma. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Selma and was a proud supporter of the Selma Band Festival. His presence will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

Gilbert is survived by his three sons, grandchildren and great grandchild.

# Cemetery Details

## Selma District Cemetery

2430 Floral Avenue  
Selma, CA 93662

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gilbert Rodriguez, Jr.*

September 15, 2022 at 09:34 PM

CR

*kikin on leanord street in the hascienda heights to mike gibby thomas  
regaurdless its love ..family miss you tio gilbert*

christopher rodriguez - August 08, 2023 at 05:11 PM



“ *Crossing Over Lid Decoration was purchased for  
the family of Gilbert Rodriguez, Jr..*



January 20, 2021 at 01:42 PM

“ Gilbert, "Dad" to me and my family, and I were friends and buddies for many years. I first met Gilbert when I needed some transmission work done. We talked while he fixed my problem and I found myself drawn to this wonderful individual. He called me Dad and I called him Dad in return. I spent many hours hanging out at his shop on Whitson Avenue in Selma. When my brother Mark and I decided to try our hand at some jalopy car racing, Gilbert was all in.

We had three different cars we campaigned over about 8 years. The first was a forgettable clunker that never had a chance. The second was a 1948 Lincoln sedan, a classic large luxury beast, that should never have been raced, but it had been burned almost completely, so there was not much left and Gilbert got the engine running well and the transmission, of course, worked perfectly. The Lincoln was a ball to drive, not competitive, due to it's weight and size and succumbed to overheating.

The last car was a 1967 Chevrolet Monte Carlo. What a car! Gilbert built a fabulous race ready transmission and put a well tuned 400 cubic inch engine. Gilbert's involvement with the cars made them all better.

Gilbert was another brother to me and I felt as close to him as anyone i have ever known. We shared lots of good times, at the annual Selma Rotary Band Festival, the Chili Cookoffs Pioneer Village used to host, anniversary's, Halloween parties, lunches at some of Gilbert's favorite Selma restaurants where I could not order without Gilbert's help with the language.

On a couple of trips to San Filipe, Mexico. Gilbert was up early and had the town completely scoped out by the time I got up a 7am.

Gilbert had already made several friends in the San Filipe community by the time I got out and about.

Gilbert was also a founding member of the Selma Public Education Foundation and put in countless hours to make that nonprofit foundation a success.

For many years, Gilbert went to Selma Hi and had the Ag and shop teachers send some of their rougher and tougher students to his Transmission Shop on Saturdays. He would show the young guys how to work on automobiles, especially automatic transmissions.

*They would spend a day learning from a master about how a transmission worked but also learning the values of hard work and attention to detail. Gilbert was patient with everyone and had a helping hand to anyone who needed it.*

*Gilbert's proudest moments were when he was doing stuff with his family. He loved and adored his wife Lena and their three children, Gilbert Jr, Thomas, and Michael.*

*I love you, Gilbert. Jeff Shepard*

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**Jeff Shepard** - January 20, 2021 at 12:03 AM