



## Albert " Al" Steve Zaniolo

November 24, 1948 - January 9, 2023

Albert " Al" Steve Zaniolo passed away peacefully on Monday evening, January 9, 2023, at home in the arms of his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Kathy. Loving and cherished father of Stephan Zaniolo, Janet Granados, Deborah Zaniolo-Souter, Darren Souter, Laura Zaniolo and Megan Wilson. Proud Grandfather of his granddogs and grandkitties. Dear nephew of Zias Aida and Rosa. Loving cousin and friend to many. Per his request, Albert will be cremated and a celebration of Love and Life in Albert's honor will be scheduled at a later date. His last words were, " I love you".

If you knew him for any amount of time, you've probably also heard him say, " Thhhhhhat's all folks!".

We will always love you Pops!

In the spirit of Al's giving nature, In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in his honor to [DonorsChoose.org](https://www.donorschoose.org). It's the most trusted fundraising site for teachers.

# Tribute Wall

“Albert “grando” as we cugini new him was from my perspective the larger than life cool hippie of the Meade Ave famiglia. I looked up to him literally and figuratively but always had mixed emotions about his visits to our house as it would generally end with the inescapable crushing handshake. I always thought of him as our relative with a brain and heart the size of a planet. I remember hearing a guitar being played live for the first time and it was Al pickin’ and a grinnin’. He was the reason I eventually picked up the guitar when I was 10. I suspect he was a Croce, CSN&Y and John Prine fan. I remember him playing “You don’t mess around with Jim” and was hooked on an E7 riff up the neck and thought “I have to learn how to do that!”...and he was willing to teach me. That was the greatest gift and I’ve been turning to my guitar as a constant companion for the past 40+ years. When big Al would visit us my brother Al would whip out an album, like KISS, and Al’s only comment would be...”and you wasted money on those clowns?”. I remember the stories of Al delivering milk during the big snow storm of 67’. I can’t say I remember or appreciated the milk as an undiagnosed lactose intolerant 3 yo but it was a story that came up for many years and reinforced the “Albert grando” mythology. What I remember most was how smart he was. He seemed to welcome the challenge of helping my Dad work on the ignition system of his 1971 Pontiac Ventura II. The car didn’t have an electronic ignition and suffered from a totally crap Rochester carburetor which I would inherit and rebuild at least a half dozen times many years later. The challenge which Al bravely embraced was in repairing the ignition points in the distributor under my Dad’s terms...ie no new parts, no \$s spent. For some reason I still remember that summer day in the alley watching them remove and clean spark plugs and points and getting it running without any new parts.

I remember a hot August afternoon in Oak Park in the late 80’s when as a young drug rep I found myself locked out of my car in a dodgy area of Oak Park. Fortunately, I had a Motorola flip phone and was able to reach Al. I thought to myself no one’s going to mess with me when Albert grando shows up so I hid out in the pharmacy

*until he pulled up. I remember him insisting I have a spare “credit card” key to keep in my wallet in the event I managed to get myself in the same situation which of course I did a couple years later in Elmwood Park. As my brother Al shared, we saw him as a teacher and in speaking with him at Steve’s wedding as a lifetime learner as well. I wasn’t as close to Al over the past 30 years with the exception of his visits to my parents just after Narciso passed away. We’d discuss his medications and I was always impressed but not surprised by his knowledge. He had a positive influence on me very early on and Im sure on his family, employees, friends and cugini. I consider myself very fortunate to have had him as a cousin and to still have use of my right hand. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxbzdYnnqU4> Guido (aka “little Gui”)*

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**Guido** - February 22, 2023 at 10:41 AM

AG

“ *It was great having Big Al as an older cousin just down the block. He was always working on a car in the alley or playing the guitar. Al was kind and generous, always willing to help. I remember him walking to the store in what had to be a few feet of snow to get milk and food for Guido and me when a huge snow storm hit and dad couldn’t get home from work. His had such a positive impact on all of us cousins on Meade ave.*

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**Al Giazzon** - January 23, 2023 at 10:47 AM

LA

“ *Wishing the family peace during this time. Whenever I hung out with the fam, he would always tell the joke “Hey Doc, it hurts when I do this.... -then don’t do that!” The smiles and laughter will continue on. ((Hugs))*

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**LaDonna** - January 10, 2023 at 08:50 PM

JG

“ 31 files added to the album Memories



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**Janet Granados** - January 10, 2023 at 08:25 PM

FC

“ Working with Al was an important time for me. I was just a young kid with little experience so he was a mentor that greatly shaped the way I did things in my life. He was never surprised when I would tell him that I hadn't seen "anything like that in my life". He would always have fun with me when I told him I was descended from shoe makers in Mexico. Any time I accomplished something I thought was good he would sing "In the shoe makers shop" a song he made up just for me. He was more than a great friend to me. He was like a father figure to me. He liked to call me Lippy every time he saw me and adios muchacho when I left. I will remember him forever.

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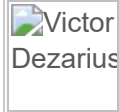
**Felipe Correa** - January 10, 2023 at 06:39 PM

CL

*My thoughts and prayers are with Deb and her family. What a wonderful man. Carolyn*

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**Carolyn Liljrwall** - January 10, 2023 at 07:09 PM



*I hope you are OK, Steve. May your Dad's spirit be at peace, and may you and your family make it through all of this OK. Please call me if you need to.*

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**Victor Dezarius** - January 10, 2023 at 10:52 PM



*Laura, you have such a beautiful family. The pictures and video of your father really show the love he displayed and gave. Please accept my deepest condolences to you on the loss of your father. I wish you and your family peace and comfort during this difficult time.*

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**Veronica Pagán** - January 11, 2023 at 04:47 PM