

## OBITUARIES

### DALE BOYER

Spoke to everyone

### FERNANDO GONZALES

The real deal

Civic Center Residence lost two of its own in August. Residents, staff and old friends gathered Aug. 21 to remember Dale Boyer, who moved there in 2006, and Fernando Gonzales, a resident since 2008.

The men — one quiet, one cantankerous — weren't friends, but they were the same age and died 11 days apart, Mr. Boyer of unknown causes Aug. 3 and Mr. Gonzales of cancer on Aug. 14.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

**Fernando Gonzales**  
in the 1970s.

"It's so noticeable that both of them are gone," said Erin Pidot, a social worker at the residence. "They were caring and funny men who told great stories, and even when things got bad physically for

both of them, they were still a pleasure to be with."

Michael Moreno's take on Mr. Gonzales, his friend of 40 years, was wry. "Not many people wanted to be around him," he said. "He was the rudest guy. He had no respect for anybody. But we became friends. I took care of him. He was my buddy. He was the real deal."

Mr. Gonzales could be like "a nuclear bomb when he went bananas, and I'd turn around and run," Moreno said.



PHOTO BY KEVIN MEYNELL

**Dale Boyer, a caring man.**

Neighbor Tanya Wells called Mr. Gonzales a "great friend" who always had something smart to say. "We'd be laughing a lot. We'd say, 'I love you,' to each other and he'd respond, 'I'll drink to that.' And I'd say, 'Not today.' He always found some happiness. I sure loved him a lot."

Mr. Boyer, Wells said, was "very quiet, though he spoke to everyone, and I was glad to have known him. I knew he was suffering. It's sad he's gone." Mr. Boyer was 67.

After the memorial, Moreno, who lives in the Civic Center area, told The Extra that he met "Ferda," his nickname for Mr. Gonzales, when they were in Latin American Studies at San Francisco State in 1972.

"I had just finished two tours in

Vietnam as a sergeant major in the Marines and Ferda was the oldest guy in our group," Moreno said. Out of college, they lost track of each other for years until, one day, Moreno stumbled on Mr. Gonzales, homeless on the street, and began doing what he could to help him.

"Ten years ago he was hit by a car in front of the Civic Center Residence. I helped take care of him for the last seven years," he said. "He would have lived longer if he'd have listened to me — he was taking meds and drinking behind it — but he didn't like people telling him what to do."

Mr. Gonzales was an impatient man who often seemed angry, Moreno says. "But Ferda wasn't a vindictive man — he just wanted people to know they couldn't get away with things, and he hated lines and people who talk with nothing to say."

What he liked, he added, were the Civic Center farmers' market "and naked women — actually all women."

Mr. Gonzales was 68 when he died at UC Hospital. Born in Brawley, Calif., he was raised and schooled in Carlsbad, Calif., before moving to San Francisco in 1967. His two sisters still live in Carlsbad.

— Marjorie Beggs

### SIDNEY FLETCHER WILSON

Welder from Oakland

Sidney Wilson, a welder who worked for Nabisco Brands Inc. and in shipyards in the East Bay, eventually ventured to San Francisco, became homeless and four years ago landed at the William Penn Hotel in poor health.

Mr. Wilson's pulmonary problems caused him great difficulty breathing. He frequently called 911 to be hospitalized in dire times. At home, he got relief from oxygen kept in his second-floor room, where he died Aug. 27. He was

58.

One of four children, Mr. Wilson was not close to his Oakland family except for one sister. But his death brought them all together at his Sept. 6 memorial in the hotel.

Mr. Wilson's older brother, Godfrey Wilson, said they had lost track of him for several years. "I'm very sad we weren't closer as brothers and sisters," he told the 18 mourners.

"He watched television and videos and stayed in his room a lot," said Ken Lim, his social worker of five years, who helped get him his SRO room four years ago. "He was a private, friendly person, but didn't go outside much."

Mr. Wilson was independent-minded and went his own way. He had trouble walking, but liked to go outside to stand and take the air. If the hotel elevator was broken, he'd call 911 for assistance up the stairs, saying he "deserved" it to maintain his health, residents said. He sometimes went to the hospital several times in a single month.

Mr. Wilson's sister, Carolyn Wilson-Merrett, lives three blocks away at the Hamlin Hotel. She saw him at least once a week, and walked him to the corner store and back, trading sharp comments that would sound like bickering, but to them indicated their familiarity and affection for each other.

"He'd say, 'You want a soda?' and I'd say 'Yes,' and he'd say, 'Well, you got any money?'" The mourners laughed. "We'd go back and forth like that. He couldn't walk too far and couldn't go too fast. He was staunch in his ways.

"He always wanted to kiss me, even as a little boy. I loved him. But he talked to me like he was older than me — and I'm 65."

His half-sister, Andrea Tucker, fought back tears to sing a cappella, "Death Will Be No More."

— Tom Carter



# CENTRAL CITY DEMOCRATS

The Chartered Democratic Club for San Francisco Supervisorial District 6

Club Recommendations for the November 6, 2012 Election

U.S. President: Barack Obama — U.S. Vice President: Joseph Biden — U.S. Senator: Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. House: D12: Nancy Pelosi D14: Jackie Speier

State Senate, D11: Mark Leno — Assembly, D17: Tom Ammiano — D19: Phil Ting  
BART D7: Maria Alegria — D9: Tom Radulovich

San Francisco Board of Education: (Up to 4) Sandra Lee Fewer, Rachel Norton, Gladys Soto, Shamann Walton

San Francisco College Board: (Up to 4) Amy Bacharach, Chris Jackson, Rafael Mandelman, Steve Ngo

San Francisco Board of Supervisors (Ranked Choice: 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
D1 — Eric Mar, David Lee; D3 — David Chiu, Joseph Butler, Mac Bruno; D5 — Christina Olague, Julian Davis, John Rizzo;  
D7 — Norman Yee, F.X. Crowley, Joel Engardio; D9 — David Campos; D11 — John Avalos

Propositions — San Francisco: YES On A, B, C, D, E, G. — NO On F  
Propositions — California: YES On 30, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40. — NO On 31, 32, 33. — No Position on 38

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