



## Gilbert "Ponte" Daniel

October 21, 1944 - December 15, 2025

Mr. Gilbert 'Ponte' Daniel, Sr, 81, passed away on December 15th , 2025, in Fairfield, Texas, following a long illness. Born on October 21, 1944, in Teague, Texas, Ponte was the eldest son of Sam and Doris Daniel of Fairfield.

A proud member of the Fairfield High School Class of 1963, he had to quit school early to take over the family business when his father Sam grew ill. Ponte dedicated his life to Sam's Restaurant and Fairfield, making them known worldwide during his tenure.

Ponte's lifelong journey of entrepreneurship started young and was marked by many successful businesses. He was most happy when he was planning a new venture, so he was always working on something exciting.

Ponte was always willing to help people out when they needed it, his only stipulation was he didn't want recognition for it. He was always available to give advice to friends who were starting a new business and would sometimes spend hours discussing ideas with them.

He is survived by his son, Gilbert 'Sonny' Daniel, Jr, and daughter-in-law, Jennifer; beloved grandchildren Peyton, Eden, Halen, Cayson, Rylan, and Levin. They have taken Ponte's legacy of entrepreneurship and now run Sam's Restaurant and Ponte's Diner. Ponte also leaves behind numerous

friends and colleagues who deeply respected him.

Honoring Ponte's long held wish of not wanting to be in the spotlight, a private cremation will take place with no public memorial service. Donations may be made in his honor to Round Prairie Baptist Church in Fairfield or the Lewy Body Dementia Association.

# Tribute Wall

AF

“ [May] the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, ... guard [each of] your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
Ailsa (Flynn) Anderson

afa - December 24, 2025 at 01:28 PM

CV

“ I worked for him at different business throughout the years from Little Sam's to the County Seat, my Aunt wore the little cheerleader looking uniform at the old Sam's where Taco Bell is many memories of him, his momma, brothers and sister prayers are with you all at this time, 🙏🙏❤️

Cindy Vickers - December 18, 2025 at 10:48 PM

LJ

“ Sonny I am so sorry for the loss of your dad. He was a fine man that helped so many youth organizations in Fairfield. I remember he helped us in 4H so many times. Now you will carry on the tradition of Sam's, a Fairfield icon. Knowing your pain and love you lots.

Leta Jackson - December 17, 2025 at 09:22 PM

JJ

“ Prayers for the family. Gilbert was a customer of Corsicana National Bank, and he spoiled us by bringing those delicious pies from Sam's. I always enjoyed his visit to the bank. God Bless each of you with piece and comfort! Pray:

Jaynie Johnston - December 17, 2025 at 10:04 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gilbert "Ponte" Daniel.*



December 16, 2025 at 07:58 PM



“ *Patsy Stark lit a candle in memory of Gilbert Daniel*



**Patsy Stark** - December 16, 2025 at 05:21 PM



*He was like a dad to me I will miss him.*

**Sidney Willis** - December 18, 2025 at 09:58 AM



*Pontene was always a friend to me. And to many others. He was a GOOD man.*

**Danny Wilard** - December 19, 2025 at 09:48 AM