

The cowboy leans back against a split-rail fence, his boots resting comfortably in meadow grass. Sounds of family fill the air, and generations of children congregate near the cowboy, some sitting quietly at his feet, others playing aimlessly close by. A few of them emulate his relaxed pose, elbows anchored on the wood of the rail, a wood weathered yet well maintained. The beauty of the sky catches the cowboy's eye as he gazes southwest above Eldorado Canyon. Deep azure skies pour down from the top-left corner of his view, interspersed with blazing white stars as his eyes continue across Devil's Thumb to the base of the Flatirons. The cowboy pauses to see a beautiful church, nuns happily ministering to a line of homeless people; each of them gives thanks and walks away with a piping-hot pizza. Retracting his gaze to the middle ground, he admires the sight of two thoroughbreds: one a racehorse, the other a polo pony. The well-appointed jockey and player chuckle and nod as they gently lead their charges across a grassy hill to the north. And as the cowboy looks ahead of the group, stripes of Pure White and Old Glory Red perfectly filter his view of Long's Peak. The cowboy respectfully tips his hat, smiles and settles back in against the fence, weathered yet well maintained.

Clyde Gatón Canino passed away July 24th, 2022. He was 88.

Born August 8th, 1933 in Denver, CO to parents Clyde Canino, Sr. and Susie M. Cito, Clyde grew up in the city of his birth and graduated from Cathedral High School. As a child, Clyde discovered his love of horses. At age ten, he received his first horse, and that horse lived right in the family's garage. Clyde would offer pony rides to the neighborhood kids, often as a part of the backyard carnivals he and his friends had organized. During his twenties, Clyde rode with the Arapahoe Hunt Club and played polo. Clyde became a trainer of polo ponies, eventually earning his place as one of the elite trainers in the country. He continued to train until a heart attack sidelined him in 2011. Hand in hand with Clyde's love for horses was his passion as an entrepreneur. Following high school, he started an auto-detailing business. When Clyde was just 20, his father helped him open his first restaurant, a pizzeria near the University of Denver. Early on, Clyde developed a unique delivery system which utilized a truck, a propane-heated oven and a CB radio. In 1960, he opened Tico's Foods of Mexico. As Tico's progressed, Clyde decided to offer his guests a menu of Mexican and Italian selections. "The best of both worlds," he liked to say. 1974 saw the opening of the original Piccolo's, the restaurant that provided the prototype for the Piccolo's chain. This large location became the commissary for all the Piccolo's restaurants, as Clyde believed in consistency of food quality above all. Ultimately, he would go on to own restaurants in Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Montana. In 2000, Clyde was inducted into the Colorado Restaurant Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his four children, ten grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, his second wife, as well as her two children and their families.

A Mass of Christian Burial, officiated by Monsignor J. Anthony McDaid, will take place Monday, August 8th, 10:00AM at St. John the Baptist Church (323 Collyer St., Longmont, CO 80501) with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Clyde's name to Little Sisters of the Poor (3629 W. 29th Ave., Denver, CO 80211 or thelittlesistersofthepoor.com) or St. Benedict's Monastery (1012 Monastery Road, Snowmass, CO 81654).

Clyde Canino embodied the American Dream: to pursue a passion, to build a business, to provide for family, to raise children, and to help others. Moreover, he accomplished all this with the grace of a gentleman. The Canino Family thanks you for all your kind wishes and heartfelt prayers.