

June 13, 2022

Dear Classmates,

I am nominating Joe Gomez for the Worland High School Hall of Fame. His life carried him from growing up in a labor shack and performing stoop labor as a child to Harvard Law School that named him an honored alumnus.

### **A Letter On Behalf of Joe Gomez**

I first met Joe when he was about 10 and I about 11, as we both rode the same school bus from some 6 miles north of Worland to the Emmett School. Joe was the middle child of a group of five Gomez children who got on the bus together. On the bus, it was clear that he was leader of the group, though not oldest. Joe's manner was firm, but also attentive and caring.

At age 11, I became an admirer of Joe Gomez.

In high school, I had little contact with Joe who was too poor to become part of extracurricular activities that were so much part of my teenage life. But in the hallways, as Joe carried his books from class to class, he seemed completely focused about what he was doing in his young life. He was an excellent student.

Later we crossed paths when for part of a summer I was an announcer at KWOR. Five days a week, starting at 4 in the afternoon, Joe had a Spanish language and music show for 15 minutes. His air time was 14 minutes and 15 seconds, and he astounded me when he hit that mark nearly every time. Evidence of how precision was part of Joe's character and life.

Later still, Jose Gomez, who grew up in a labor shack and performed stoop labor as a child, graduated from the Harvard Law School that later honored him as a notable alumnus. Joe lived a life that should be recognized by Worland High School.

Grant Ujifusa