

## **Rachel Avila**

I have so many things I would like to say, too many to write. But, this is what stands out in my thoughts.

I will never forget how you defended that student at the Junior High, he was a “nobody,” his family had not been in the United States for long, and he didn't speak English very well. A former board member's son led a gang assault to beat this Junior High student up. If I remember right, he spent time in the hospital from this beating. Thank God he had no serious injuries!

That incident is where you gained my upmost respect. A lot of bad things happened to you because of that situation; I won't go into detail. Some people even said beware of your children being around you. So many lies were said to try to break you and your family, yet you never caved in to the pressure of the lying towns-people. I rank you with my father (God Rest his soul) who I love and respect because of his loyalty and integrity.

You have brought out in me the person and board member I am today. I will always remember these words "Are you having fun yet"? We had a great board and we did great things. I had never experienced a bad board until just before you left Tornillo. I consider myself blessed because I can say I served with the best, The Team of Eight. Well....all I can say, in a crazy way, is that I am – in an odd way – having fun debasing some of these idiots! So much so that I even scare myself sometimes!

Before I wrote my memory piece for your website, I read some of the memories of your former students; from when you were a teacher. And, I think, “If only I had a teacher like you when I was growing up and still in school.”

I want to thank you for always being there; be it school business or personal situations. You have never said to me that you didn't have time. You always answer your phone no matter what the time of day is. You are a true friend.

Mrs. Vranish you are a lucky lady. I know what you are thinking Mr. Vranish, you're thinking, “No! That you are the lucky one.” Right? LOL.....

THANK YOU! – Rachel Avila

**Era:** Tornillo ISD Job: 2002 – 2013 & Present Social Friend

**Relationship:** Rachel, and her husband Dan, are people that Marla and Paul deem in the category of “Best Friends.” Paul and Rachel met due to her school board service; which began in May of 2005. The family friendship has never stopped growing since then. There have been so many shared experiences that have resulted from putting so much energy into improving Tornillo Independent School District. Most of these experiences have been good: Conferences, Presentations, Highest Test Scores, New High School, TAKS Trips, etc. New board members in the last few years have made for challenges – with the Tornillo ISD students suffering. But the friendship remains strong. Paul and Marla feel lucky our paths intersected. Rachel and Dan have meant so much to us!