



Bill Wheeler

August 11, 1941 - December 1, 2016

Bill Wheeler, 75, went to be with our Lord, Thursday, December 1, 2016, at his home, surrounded by his family whom he loved very much. He was born to Dee and Olivia Wheeler, August 11, 1941, in Hagerman, NM. Bill had six sisters and one brother.

Music was Bill's first love. He began playing at a young age at high school dances. Bill was blessed to play with Roy Orbison. Over the years, he had his own bands, including the Pecos Valley Playboys.

On June 7, 1963, Bill married the love of his life, Barbara. He was drafted into the United States Army where he proudly served his country as a Green Beret/Special Forces. He served two years in the Vietnam conflict. During his second tour in Vietnam, Bill was captured and held as a prisoner of war for a period of time. Despite the price Bill paid for his service, he once said he would do it all over again. When asked if he would do it again, knowing that he would be captured, he stated, "For my country, yes." During his service, he received several medals, including: Vietnam Service Medal, two Purple Hearts, Distinguished Service Cross (Valor), Bronze Star, Silver Star, National Defense Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. Bill retired from the U.S. Army due to injuries sustained during his second tour. He was honorable discharged, holding the rank of SSG E6.

Bill worked at Mazda of Roswell and later he had his own business, Bill's TEXICO. He then went to ENMU Roswell campus, leaving there for a position at New Mexico Military Institute. During this time, he obtained a Bachelor

Degree and finally retired. Bill was a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles #3187, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans.

Proceeding Bill in death was his father, Dee Wheeler; mother, Olivia Ann Robertson Wheeler; sisters: Annie, Juanita (Sissy), Loreda (Weedie), and Dorothy (Dot); brother, Dewayne Wheeler; one son, David Lee Newsom. Those left to cherish Bill's memory are his wife, Barbara Wheeler; son, Steven Newsom of Roswell; sisters: Evia Adams of Arvada, CO, and Johnnie Albrecht of Roswell; sister-in-law, Ruthie Baughman – or as he called her, “Sister” and husband, Bill Baughman; brother-in-law, Cecil Huddleston and wife, Linda of Dallas, TX; daughter-in-law (Daughter), Melissa Newsom of Roswell; three grandchildren: Robbie, C.J., and Chrysta Celena; great-grandson, David Luis; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Bill also leaves behind his beloved pets, Nikki and Spanki, who remained by his side until the end.

At Bill's request, he was to be cremated. Graveside services will be Thursday, December 8, 2016, 1:00 PM at South Park Cemetery, Roswell, NM. Tim Arlet will officiate his service.

Those of you who knew Bill know that he preferred to keep his family life private, therefore, at his request, there will be no celebration of his life, or a gathering at his home after the graveside service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in made in Bill Wheeler's name to the Wounded Warrior's Project. The family would like to thank the Physicians and staff at Kymera Cancer Center and the staff at Gentiva Hospice. A special thank-you to Dr. Fundador Adajar.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bill Wheeler*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *Knew Bill many years ago. A fine man with a fine family. My most sincere condolences.*

Rod Belle - September 11, 2019 at 05:56 AM



“ *It's hard to believe it's been a year Pop. I know Heaven is all you ever hoped it would be. ❤️*

Liz Huddle - December 04, 2017 at 08:25 PM



“ *Bill was a kind person with a great sense of humor. I used to love to dance to the country music when he & his band would play at different events. Although I haven't seen Bill in many years, I'm sure he will be missed by many. My sincerest sympathies to the family.*

Laura Hinton - December 10, 2016 at 12:26 AM

BB

“ *Mr. Wheeler was such an amazing person who I know will be missed by many. In my short time knowing him, he taught me more than I could have ever taught him. He taught me about what was truly important in life and the value of hard work. In my life, I have yet to meet someone so motivated. I am truly blessed that I was given the opportunity to meet Mr. Wheeler. I was saddened to hear of Mr. Wheeler's passing and my heart hurts especially for his family. My condolences to the family, especially his lovely wife, Barbara who he loved so dearly.*

Bailey Blackwell - December 08, 2016 at 09:32 PM

 Teena Shelton

“ *Bill always made bingo fun if it was your birthday he would sing happy birthday to you it was fun he had such a beautiful voice you are going to be missed Bill*

Teena Shelton - December 08, 2016 at 05:26 PM

 Teena Shelton

“ *Teena Shelton lit a candle in memory of Bill Wheeler*



Teena Shelton - December 08, 2016 at 05:22 PM

WI

“ *We worked for Bill for many years at the Eagles, In the kitchen. He always treated us with great respect and kindness. We will always remember Bill as a good friend, and he will be dearly missed. Sincerely, Wayne, Denise, Vicki, Carol, and Jill.*

Wayne Ingram - December 08, 2016 at 01:10 PM

EA

“ I met Bill when he first went to work at Mazda of Roswell. Bill was a very good friend to me and many other's. He will be greatly missed, I pray God will comfort his family in this hard time, God bless you all.

Ewaldo Apodaca - December 07, 2016 at 03:06 PM

RU

“ My wife, Betty Ullery worked for Bill at the university during his stay there. Betty says Bill was the BEST BOSS she ever had. Betty says Bill was a very good man and had the utmost respect for him. I only met Bill a few times briefly, but I appreciated the way he treated Betty at work. All our prayers and condolences to his family. Bob-Betty Ullery

Robert Ullery - December 07, 2016 at 10:19 AM

DH

“ Bill Jack was a lifelong friend and was always a gentleman! I remember his music from talent shows in Hagerman Schools as well as in the community. Heard him play many times at the Eagles and always enjoyed it.....Good old-fashioned Country! He was very proud of the music he played with Roy Orbison and we were proud of him!

My very Sincere Condolences to his Wife and Family!

Love and Prayers - Debby Huckabee

Deborah Huckabee - December 06, 2016 at 02:25 PM

SW

“ One of the most incredible individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and working with. Loved him like a family member. The world is a "lesser" place without him.

Sam Whitlovk

Sam Whitlock - December 06, 2016 at 02:24 PM

MN

“ There are not enough words to express just what a wonderful human being Bill was. He will be missed dearly and will live in my heart and memory until I take my last breath. I had the privilege to have been married to his son David Lee Newsom. They truly were two extraordinary men.

Melissa Newsom - December 06, 2016 at 12:54 PM

KM

Bill was very good person sorry to see him leave us but the lord wanted him at home .He always at a big smile for every one . I will miss him always will remember the smile..My condolences go out to his wife an family I'm so .I can say he was extraordinary men or was his wife they were to great people..My love goes out to the family...R,I,P BILL WHEELER ..

Karen Mcfarlene - December 06, 2016 at 07:11 PM

DC

Barbara - I just heard that Bill went to be with the Lord. I lost James in 2015, so I can feel your pain.

Bill Jack was a good man. Our paths crossed from time to time. One of the things we shared was our belief in Jesus.

Although you will live with the pain of loosing him, I know you will be comforted by knowing he is with Jesus.

May the Lord bless you and your family. Dova Callihan

Dova Callihan - December 16, 2016 at 06:57 AM