



Herb Bates Sr.

August 29, 1938 - March 10, 2026

Herbert Raymond Bates Sr., 87 passed home March 10, 2026 in Willcox Arizona. Born in Ruthven, Iowa to parents Harold Bates and Hallie Bates (McCarty) Herb was one of six siblings. In 1946 the family moved to Benson, AZ then on to Willcox, AZ in 1972. In 1972 Herb started the band “Herb Bates and the Country Blue Boys”. He was the lead singer and guitar player. The band lived until 1985 opening for country stars such as Marty Robbins and Margo Smith. Country music was one of the biggest loves of his life but was pushed down a few pegs in 1993 when he married his “Sweetie” Carla. They had a 33-year marriage chock full of country music, adventures on their motorcycles, family, and their favorite part, getting to do it with their best friend and love of their lives, each other (Mighty Mouse and Mickey Mouse). Herb retired as a meat cutter at Safeway where he was known for being a kind, happy go lucky guy. Seeing him around town, you could count on getting a wave, or a “Hey, guy” even if you didn’t know each other. In his later years, you could see him driving his trike, “Orange Crush” to McDonalds to have breakfast with his good friends, going to get milk, or getting bird seed from Maid Rite every Tuesday. He loved feeding and watching birds with his granddaughter Lopie who he affectionately called his “Punkin”. He was rarely seen without a cup of coffee, day or night.

Herb was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Hallie, siblings, Richard, Esther, Glenn, Ralph, and Jim Bates.

He is survived by his beautiful wife Carla, sons Herbie (Brandie) Bates, Brian

(Tina) Addington, and William (Andrinna) Bates, 9 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you, from the bottom of our hearts to Norma Reagan and Charles W Leighton Jr. Hospice for the best end of life care for our Herb.

Visitation is scheduled from 5–7 pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at Westlawn Chapel. Funeral Services will be 10:00 am on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at Westlawn Chapel with burial to follow in Cochise Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, monetary memorial gifts can be sent to Westlawn Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Cochise Cemetery

Highway 191
Cochise, AZ 85606

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Westlawn Chapel & Mortuary Inc.
105 S Arizona Avenue
Willcox, AZ 85643
(520) 384-2413
westwx@vtc.net
<https://www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com>

Funeral

MAR 18. 10:00 AM (MT)

Westlawn Chapel & Mortuary Inc.
105 S Arizona Avenue
Willcox, AZ 85643
(520) 384-2413
westwx@vtc.net
<https://www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall

GM

“ Gus & Rita Morales lit a candle in memory of Herb Bates



Gus & Rita Morales - March 17 at 11:06 PM

AM

“ Our deepest condolences to the family especially Carla. Herb was such a great guy. Our prayers go out to all of you.



Alma & Felipe Mendoza - March 17 at 10:19 PM

MM

“ Marie M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Herb Bates Sr..

Marie M. - March 17 at 08:08 PM

CP

“ Cheryl Pope lit a candle in memory of Herb Bates



Cheryl Pope - March 17 at 02:10 AM

RB

“ My condolences to Carla and the rest of the family. Herb was such a sweet man, always smiling and so very kind. So many memories of seeing the two of you together.

Rosemary Bonnett - March 16 at 04:03 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Carla and family. Herb was one of the kindest, most caring, and enjoyable people I've ever known. May his loved ones find comfort in the joyful memories he left.



Wanda Pollard-Phillips - March 16 at 09:47 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Herb Bates Sr..

March 16 at 04:48 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Herb Bates Sr..



March 16 at 04:48 AM

GK

“ Gail, Mike & Kenny purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Herb Bates Sr..



Gail, Mike & Kenny - March 14 at 02:38 PM

DS

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to Carla and all the family. May happy memories comfort you.

David and Joyce Storey - March 13 at 06:15 PM

NW

“ norman welch lit a candle in memory of Herb Bates



norman welch - March 12 at 03:21 AM

LW

“ Herb was such a wonderful man! My prayers go out to his family and especially Carla!
Lina Martinez Weaver and Helen Martinez. ❤️



Lina Weaver - March 12 at 02:03 AM

SR

“ *Sending my deepest condolences to Carla and the rest of the family. Herb was a great man.* ”



Sharma Reed - March 11 at 11:37 PM

AT

“ *Our deepest condolences Carla & family!! He was such a nice man. RIP Herb.* ”

Anselmo Bertha Torres - March 11 at 11:37 PM

AT

“ *Anselmo & Bertha Torres lit a candle in memory of Herb Bates* ”



Anselmo & Bertha Torres - March 11 at 11:33 PM

KT

“ *My condolences to the family. You are in my prayers* ”



Kathy Thatcher - March 11 at 11:19 PM

JM

“ *Our sincere condolences to Carla and all the family. Herb was quite the character!
Rest in peace Herb.*

Jonnie B Martinez - March 11 at 08:49 PM

TM

“ *Herb was the kindest person I have ever known. Always had a smile on his face.*



Tommy & Robin Miller - March 11 at 08:33 PM

BD

“ *I am so sorry for your loss Carla, he lived a long life and I agree, you never saw him where he didn't have a smile and greeting. I also worked with him at safeway in the early 90's. His loss is immeasurable as I know, but so are the memories*

bonnie diehl - March 11 at 08:28 PM

BA

“ *Betsy and Cary Ajeman lit a candle in memory of Herb Bates*



Betsy and Cary Ajeman - March 11 at 08:11 PM

AT

“ *Angela Torres lit a candle in memory of Herb Bates*



Angela Torres - March 11 at 07:43 PM

GW

“ *Deepest condolences to Carla and the whole family. Rest in Peace, sending prayers for comfort to all of you. Always a happy guy.*



Gloria and Bill Wood - March 11 at 07:42 PM

JY

“ *june york lit a candle in memory of Herb Bates*



june york - March 11 at 07:00 PM

SA

“ *Susan Arbuthnot lit a candle in memory of Herb Bates*



Susan Arbuthnot - March 11 at 05:56 PM

LB

“ *My thoughts & prayers to Carla & family. Peace be with you!*

LaDonna Burgess - March 11 at 01:10 PM

MV

My condolences to all the family he was a wonderful loving person always riding in his golf cart and waving to everybody !! Him and my husband valentin were buddies they are up there now raising cane !! RIP herb until we meet again!!

mary vialpando - March 11 at 06:43 PM

MR

We are so sorry for the loss of this wonderful human being. Herb always had a kind smile for everyone.

Mary ROUTT - March 11 at 08:52 PM