



Howard D. Bethel

August 15, 1934 - April 12, 2022

Howard Bethel, 87, beloved husband, father, papa and gg-pa, passed away April 12, 2022, at his home in Willcox, Arizona.

Born in Bisbee, Arizona on August 15, 1934 to Peck and Peggy (Clark) Bethel. They moved to Willcox in 1943.

Howard graduated from Willcox High School in 1952, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree, with distinction, in Biological Science at Arizona State University.

On June 10, 1956, Howard married Gwen Clayton at the Willcox United Methodist Church; this started them out on a life filled with adventures, lasting almost 66 years.

As a graduating Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) student in 1956, he was honored with an Association of the United States Army - AUSA National award for demonstrating the "highest degree of leadership." After six years of service in the Army Medical Service Corp, Howard received an honorable discharge and returned to his hometown of Willcox with his wife and their first three children. The fourth was born after their return to Willcox.

Howard served as Executive Vice-President and General Manager of SSVEC for 24 years.

Howard and Gwen built their "dream home" in 1964 where they raised their four children and remained throughout the years.

Howard is survived by his wife Gwen (Clayton) Bethel; children, Michael (Julie) Bethel of Phoenix, Jacque (Steve) Anderson of Willcox, and Scott

Bethel of Flagstaff; granddaughters, Charlotte Belk of Phoenix, Amelia (Ryan) Walsh of Phoenix, Katie Bethel of Willcox and Leigh Ann Bethel of Flagstaff; and great-grandsons Gunner Jax Bethel and Jude Quincy Walsh. Also, brother Les (Judy) Bethel and sister-in-law Laura Ann Bethel, and countless nieces, nephews and other extended family members.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Peck and Peggy Bethel; his in-laws Buck and Maybelle Clayton; his daughter Cari Michelle Bethel; his brothers Jerry and Floyd Bethel; grandson Joe Golson and grandson-in-law Luther Belk.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at the Willcox United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions in his name, to either the NCH Foundation or to the Willcox United Methodist Church

Howard Bethel - Celebration of Life

This link can be used to access the Celebration of Life service for Howard Bethel at 2pm as well as Sunday worship at 10:30am on Sunday, May 1, 2022.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/9550224597...>

Meeting ID: 955 022 4597

Pass-code: 119715

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,9550224597#,,,,*119715# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,9550224597#,,,,*119715# US (Houston)

Desert Southwest Conference

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 1. 2:00 PM (MT)

Willcox United Methodist Church
124 S. Curtis
Willcox, AZ 85643

Tribute Wall



“ *Howard D. Bethel*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *We will all miss Howard during this year's 30th Annual Wings Over Willcox Birding & Nature Festival. He was such a vital member of our planning team for such a long time!*

Diane Drobka

Pima, Arizona

Diane Drobka - January 07, 2023 at 05:29 PM



“ *My condolences to Howard's family. Howard was fine man and I was privileged to know him.*

Cindy Rae - May 03, 2022 at 06:11 PM



“ *Marilyn Bjornson purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Howard D. Bethel.*



Marilyn Bjornson - April 29, 2022 at 06:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Howard D. Bethel.



April 29, 2022 at 01:47 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Howard D. Bethel.



April 29, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *Our love and prayers*
Danny and Judy Chastain



Judy Chastain - April 28, 2022 at 08:10 PM



“ *John And Susan Arbuthnot lit a candle in*
memory of Howard D. Bethel



John and Susan Arbuthnot - April 20, 2022 at 10:13 AM

DC

“ Sending our deepest condolences on the loss of such a kind and wonderful man. Our prayers go out to Gwen and family during this difficult time 🙏. Wishing you peace and comfort, Tom and Danita Currin

Danita Currin - April 19, 2022 at 11:52 PM

CF

“ Our deepest sympathies to Gwen and family for the passing of Howard! He was a great man and will be missed by many. Prayers for comfort and peace!

Chuck & Pati Fickett - April 19, 2022 at 10:55 AM

EV

“ Erlinda Valenzuela lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel



Erlinda Valenzuela - April 18, 2022 at 08:53 PM

AM

“ Alma & Felipe Mendoza lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel



Alma & Felipe Mendoza - April 17, 2022 at 12:27 PM

JL

“ Howard will be missed.



Julie Laurence - April 17, 2022 at 12:55 AM

BT

“ Willcox has lost a very good man. He was a man of great integrity and I will miss him.

Ben Travis - April 16, 2022 at 12:19 PM

KB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Katie Bethel - April 15, 2022 at 05:36 PM

KF

“ Kathy Thatcher, Don Fowler lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel



Kathy Thatcher, Don Fowler - April 14, 2022 at 11:55 PM



“ *Condolences to Gwynn and family! Rip Howard!*



Hector Salas - April 14, 2022 at 10:55 PM

JB

“ *Such sad news. I wish I could have talked to him again. Condolences to Howard’s family.*
Jason Bowling



Jason Bowling - April 14, 2022 at 05:50 PM

AT

“ *Angela Torres lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel*



Angela Torres - April 14, 2022 at 04:58 PM

EG

“ *Our most sincere & deepest sympathies for dear Gwenn and the family.*
Earl & Wanda Goolsby
Yukon, Oklahoma

Earl & Wanda Goolsby - April 14, 2022 at 03:34 PM

EM

“ *Ellen Morris lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel*



Ellen Morris - April 14, 2022 at 03:09 PM

NF

“ *Noel And Arlene Forsyth lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel*



Noel and Arlene Forsyth - April 14, 2022 at 12:05 PM

TM

“ *Trey Moses lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel*



Trey Moses - April 14, 2022 at 11:46 AM

WM

“ *My sincerest condolences to the entire Bethel family. Mr. Bethel was a wonderful man. ♡*



Wilma Mack - April 14, 2022 at 10:55 AM

WM

“ *Wil?a Mack lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel*



Wil?a Mack - April 14, 2022 at 10:49 AM

WM

“ *Wil?a Mack sent a virtual gift in memory of Howard D. Bethel*



Wil?a Mack - April 14, 2022 at 10:48 AM

MD

“ *Martie Doke lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel*



Martie Doke - April 14, 2022 at 10:36 AM



“ *Betsy Ajeman lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel*



Betsy Ajeman - April 14, 2022 at 09:22 AM

Jl

“ *Our deepest heart felt sympathies in your loss*

Jim and Kathy Cook

James B. Cook II - April 13, 2022 at 09:41 PM

TB

“ *Tommy & Rita Bedolla lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel*



Tommy & Rita Bedolla - April 13, 2022 at 08:17 PM

CC

“ *Our sincerest condolences to the family.*
Chad, Carol & Dylan



Carol Case - April 13, 2022 at 06:22 PM

JY

“ *June York lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel*



June York - April 13, 2022 at 03:09 PM

AT

“ Our heartfelt condolences to Gwen and family for the loss of your loved one. Howard was a very good man. He will be missed by many. RIP Howard. 🙏❤️🙏

Anselmo & Bertha Torres - April 13, 2022 at 03:03 PM

AT

“ Anselmo & Bertha Torres lit a candle in memory of Howard D. Bethel



Anselmo & Bertha Torres - April 13, 2022 at 03:01 PM