



## Johnny Ray Whelan

March 8, 1946 - December 19, 2019

Johnny Ray Whelan, age 73 of Albuquerque, New Mexico, went home to the Lord on December 19, 2019. He was born in Willcox, Arizona on March 8, 1946 to Charles "Charlie" and Louisa Whelan. Johnny was preceded in death by his father Charlie, brother Chuck and son Daniel. Johnny is survived by his wife Margaret and children: Johnnie Ray, Andrea, Luther (Eva), Matthew (Amir). Also surviving is his mother Louisa Whelan and his siblings: Suzi Faulk (Tim), Anna Almodoba, Mary Baker (Leonard), Fred Whelan (Debbie), sister-in-law Christie Whelan and daughter-in-law Shirley Morales; 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Johnny grew up on the Sierra Bonita Ranch, attended Bonita School and Willcox High School. He married Margaret Silva in November, 1967. Johnny was a Viet Nam veteran, proudly serving his country for six years. After his service, he moved East Carbon, Utah, working in the coal mines and later moved to Mesquite, New Mexico, working for Silva Sanitation and retired from Southwest Disposal.

He loved to play his guitar, accordion and harmonica. His country music and Mexican corridos allowed him to tour the country with the Cowboy Tours, also performing at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. He was featured on the Discovery Channel in the mid 90's on a series "Rediscovering the American Cowboy", which was a national tour of cowboy songs, poetry, humor

and fiddling.

Funeral services were January 2, 2020 at French's Westside Chapel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Interment was in Santa Fe National Cemetery, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Johnny Ray Whelan*

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January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I looked for and Johnny for a long time. I am sorry that we never found each other. I pray Johnny is with our Heavenly Father. Lucia*

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**lucia rangel lopez** - April 05, 2020 at 03:03 PM