



Jonnie Belle Bethel

May 15, 1932 - April 30, 2022

Jonnie Belle Bethel left us early Saturday, April 30, 2022, and is now reunited with her mother (Carmen Rix) father (Hugh Detloff) husband (Donald Bethel), and many other beloved friends and family. Jonnie Belle was born in Willcox, AZ on May 15, 1932. She attended Willcox public schools and excelled in sports, earning a scholarship to Arizona State University in band and tennis. In high school, she met the love of her life, Don Bethel. The couple were married on September 9th, 1950, in Willcox AZ and were happily married until Don's passing in 2009. In 1952 they had their first son Roger, and 2 years and 2 days later she gave birth to their second son Russ. In the 60 years of their marriage JB only lived outside of Willcox for a brief period while Don was stationed in San Diego in the Navy. A Willcox Advocate Jonnie Belle was part of numerous committees, functions, and activities throughout her life in Willcox. She served as Mayor of Willcox from 1984 to 1988. JB was active in, city council, AZ Beta Chapter of Lambda Chi Omega Sorority which she joined in 1963 and had been a member for 59 years, she was heavily involved in Rex Allen Days while running the Rex Allen Stage Show for over 20 years. Jonnie Belle was an avid voter and showed her love of public service while managing a voting precinct in Willcox. During this time, she started and ran her own successful business by founding JB's Custom Sports Imprinting which she managed until she retired. While being born and raised in Willcox and the town serving as one of her lifelong loves, it didn't compare to the love and joy that she had for her only grandchild, Ryan. Jonnie Belle made it a

point to be at every game and didn't miss a game through his high school. She even made her first trip to Hawaii watching baseball. Jonnie Belle made one voyage a summer back east to watch Ryan play. She never made the trip alone, as she had so many wonderful friends that would accompany her. Jonnie Belle will be remembered as a giver, a person who put others before herself, especially in the community that she loved. Mia as we all knew her, loved four things in life: Her family, Willcox, her close friends, and shanghai rummy. She will be missed, but sanctuary is always given for those who put others before themselves. Mia did just that. Mia is survived by Roger (Antonia) Bethel, Russell (Charlotte) Bethel, and Ryan (Alyssa) Bethel. Memorial Services will be 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at Westlawn Chapel.

Previous Events

Memorial

MAY 15. 5:00 PM (MT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Jonnie Belle Bethel*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. I dearly loved your mom. She leaves with me fond memories! Blessings to each of you, Roger, Russ, Charlotte, and Ryan.*

*God's peace to you!
Devonlee Shipman Haugebak*

Devonlee Shipman Haugebak - May 16, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *Roger, Russ and families we offer our condolences to you all. Jonnie Belle was as a light to everyone and help to everyone. She will be missed by all that knew and loved her. Such a pillar of Willcox for her whole life. Our Love and prayers for all of you at this time.*

Gilbert, Becky De Anda and Family

Rebecca De Anda - May 15, 2022 at 08:01 PM

RB

“ *Jonnie Belle has been in my heart for years and on my mind often lately. I first met her in person many years ago when we met up in Bisbee for her to join my grandson and I to attend the memorial service for Helen Marlo (my beloved former grandmother-in-law). Helen's husband Frank Marlo was the uncle of Don Bethel. Jonnie Belle and I talked on the phone occasionally after that and I once visited her at her home in Willcox. It saddens me that I will not get at least one more visit with her but I am happy she is now reunited with her dear husband and many others. Love and prayers for her beloved family.*

Ramona Baker - May 14, 2022 at 09:25 PM

TF

“ *Tammy and Toni and families. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jonnie Belle Bethel.*



Tammy and Toni and families. - May 11, 2022 at 03:06 PM

JY

“ *June York lit a candle in memory of Jonnie Belle Bethel*



June York - May 09, 2022 at 08:46 AM

WG

“ *Such a cornerstone/pillar/icon/force in Willcox. We shared friendships in cards, Lamda Chi Omega Sorority, ticket sales at Willcox football, election voting centers, other. She was a genuine American and patriot. Jonnie was most generous and kind to us with encouragement, support, love, and friendship. She truly will be missed. Our deepest sympathies to the family.*

*Wanda & Earl Goolsby
Yukon, Oklahoma*

Wanda & Earl Goolsby - May 06, 2022 at 09:49 AM



“ *Gerri Roberts lit a candle in memory of Jonnie Belle Bethel*



Gerri Roberts - May 05, 2022 at 11:17 AM

TB

“ *Tommy & Rita Bedolla lit a candle in memory of Jonnie Belle Bethel*



Tommy & Rita Bedolla - May 05, 2022 at 12:14 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jonnie Belle Bethel.* ”



May 04, 2022 at 04:01 PM



“ *Jonnie Belle and I were friends for oh so many years. She was a light at the Rex Allen Museum for many years. Working with her was always a joy.* ”

Rex Allen Jr.

Rex Allen Jr. - May 04, 2022 at 08:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jonnie Belle Bethel.* ”



May 03, 2022 at 07:41 PM



“ *Jonnie Belle was always such a strong supporter of anything Willcox. I will miss seeing her at the many events throughout the year, especially the Cowboy Hall of Fame dinner. My condolences to her family and friends.* ”

Cindy Rae - May 03, 2022 at 06:08 PM

DS

“ So sorry about Jonnie Belle passing away. She was a very long time member of the Lambda Chi Omega, Beta Chapter, here in Willcox. She was very devoted to sorority and all of our members, both near and far. She had a wonderful sense of humor. She will greatly missed.

Debbie Sunderland - May 03, 2022 at 03:17 PM

KK

“ Jonnie Belle spent her life as such a major supporter of everything Willcox. She was chosen as one of our "Wheels of Progress"; those that kept the city rolling over the years. She had great stories to tell, and will be missed.

Kathy Klump

Kathy Klump - May 03, 2022 at 01:40 PM

GB

“ Too many memories of "JB" to share or even remember. I know that she is with her parents and Don, and now with Howard. She and Howard both played Saxophone in the WHS Band and one or more duets at Concerts. She was an asset to this community and loved us one and all. Prayers for the Family. Gwen Bethel



Gwen Bethel - May 03, 2022 at 12:47 PM

AC

“ Anne Coleman and family



Anne Coleman - May 03, 2022 at 12:10 PM

BT

“ *A very good person. A woman of great integrity.* ”

Ben Travis - May 03, 2022 at 11:23 AM



“ *Betsy Ajeman lit a candle in memory of Jonnie Belle Bethel* ”



Betsy Ajeman - May 03, 2022 at 10:15 AM

SW

“ *Condolences to the family , she was a fine lady* ”



S.. Rae Weiler - May 03, 2022 at 12:27 AM

JS

“ *She was a great card player,we had a group of friends that met a couple of times a month and she would cheat if we didnt watch her but we all loved her she will be greatly missed* ”



Judy shannon - May 02, 2022 at 09:10 PM

KT

“ *Kathy Thatcher lit a candle in memory of Jonnie Belle Bethel*



Kathy Thatcher - May 02, 2022 at 08:13 PM

ME

“ *Enjoyed working with JB on the City Council. Serviced her car's after Don's passing. Got my first hair cut from Don . Loved Willcox*



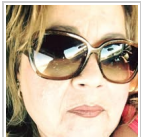
Marlin S Easthouse - May 02, 2022 at 08:08 PM

GM

“ *Gus & Rita Morales sent a virtual gift in memory of Jonnie Belle Bethel*



Gus & Rita Morales - May 02, 2022 at 06:07 PM



“ *Isabel Lozano sent a virtual gift in memory of Jonnie Belle Bethel*



Isabel Lozano - May 02, 2022 at 12:04 PM

EV

“ *Erlinda Valenzuela lit a candle in memory of Jonnie Belle Bethel*



Erlinda Valenzuela - May 02, 2022 at 09:54 AM

AF

“ *Annie Torres & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Jonnie Belle Bethel*



Annie Torres & Family - May 02, 2022 at 01:26 AM

ME

“ *Roger, Russ & Family! Thanks for letting us know about the passing of your Mom! We loved Jonnie Belle & She was a True friend to our entire family throughout the years as was your Dad. Please know our hearts feel your loss & grief! Hugs Martha Torres Ellis & Kevin Ellis!*



Martha Torres Ellis & Kevin Ellis - May 01, 2022 at 11:52 PM

DB

So sorry to hear of Ms. Johnnie Belle's passing. She was always so very nice to my family while we lived in Wilcox. Sending prayers to Roger and Coach and their families.

Debbie Baremore - May 02, 2022 at 11:53 PM

DL

Reading through these tributes to JB I can only add that she was a wonderful friend (even when we disagreed) and her love of everything Willcox was so commendable. I was blessed to be invited back stage at the Rex Allen shows, which offered me more insight into who JB was ... I will miss having lunch or dinner with her during future visits. She and her family will be in my prayers.

Deacon Greg & Linda LaFreniere - May 04, 2022 at 07:30 AM

LB

“ What a wonderful Willcox Citizen, a mentor and friend! She loved her family whom she supported from hunting to ball games.! She told me many stories about her and Don when they were a young married couple. She was extremely proud of her Grandson Ryno. Willcox lost another legend! My sympathy to Russ, Roger and Ryno Bethel families!



LaDonna Burgess - May 01, 2022 at 10:42 PM

AT

“ Anselmo & Bertha Torres lit a candle in memory of Jonnie Belle Bethel



Anselmo & Bertha Torres - May 01, 2022 at 08:53 PM

AT

“ Our condolences to the Bethel family in the loss of your mother. May she RIP. 🙏

Anselmo & Bertha Torres - May 01, 2022 at 08:52 PM

JM

“ *Our sincere condolences to the Bethel Family. What a Special Lady Jonnie Belle was, Rey & Jonnie Belle Martinez*

Jonnie Martinez - May 01, 2022 at 04:38 PM