



William "Bill" Stark

September 1, 1936 - May 8, 2016

William A. "Bill" Stark

Bill Stark, 79, left this world to join his bride in heaven on May 8, 2016. He was born September 1, 1936 in Douglas, Arizona. The youngest of 4 siblings and only son of Harold K. and Susan T. Stark. Bill lived his early life on the family's Bar Z Bar Ranch in Elfrida, Arizona where he learned his love of cattle and horses that would serve him his entire life. Bill lived and worked on numerous ranches throughout southern Arizona and New Mexico; the Stick Ranch, KW Ranch, 26 Bar Ranch, and Rainbows End Ranch to name a few. He culminated his ranching career at the Dusty A7 in the San Pedro Valley. Bill retired from the City of Willcox in 2006.

Bill married the love of his life, Pat, on October 14, 1967 and they were together for 43 years, only separated by her passing in 2010. Together they raised three unruly boys, Mike, Andy and Owen whom they both loved deeply....when they weren't devising ways to quietly strangle one of them! Bill and Pat both loved to dance and when the fiddles were tuned, you could count on them to take a turn around the floor, both being very accomplished dancers.

Upon graduation from high school in 1955, having been one of the first students to populate the new Valley Union High School in Elfrida, Bill attended college at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff for a short period before returning to the family ranch to help out. He then served an enlistment in the

US Army for two years, stationed at Ft Benning, Georgia. Bill tried his hand as a saddle maker in the early 1970's, he and Pat having purchased the Thomas Saddle Shop from Wilburn Thomas in Willcox. Working under Wilburn's tutelage, he learned the fine art of saddle making, producing his own saddle as his first test, a saddle he rode the rest of his life. Bill was a member of the Willcox Sheriff's Posse during this period and enjoyed Tuesday night ropings during the summer. As someone who grew up in wide open spaces, Bill soon felt the pull of cattle and branding smoke, shed the confines of the saddle shop, and returned to ranching as a means to provide for his family.

Bill's true passions in life were his family, friends, horses and cattle. Nothing made him happier than to spend a day in the saddle checking cattle and fences on a good horse.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, wife Pat, his sister Susan Rutherford and her husband Benny, niece Lisa Thomas and her father Carl Thomas. He is survived by his sons, Mike, Andy and grandson Eston of Willcox, son Owen of Costa Mesa, CA. Sisters Ann (Sam) Place of Sierra Vista and Eunice Thomas of Phoenix. Nieces Susan, Cynthia, Christy, Sally, and Catherine. Nephews Mike, Ben, Eddie, Greg, Patrick and Tom as well as numerous grand nieces and nephews. His many cousins in New Mexico and California that are deeply saddened by his passing.

Services will be held at the Willcox Elks Lodge on Friday June 17, 2016 at 2pm. At his request, Bill's ashes will be spread in the Riggs Settlement area. Services entrusted to Westlawn Chapel, Mortuary and Crematory of Willcox. You may express condolences at www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com

Previous Events

Memorial

JUN 17. 2:00 PM (MT)

Willcox Elks Lodge 2131
247 E. Stewart St.
Willcox, AZ 85643

Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Stark*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *Sorry to hear about Bill's passing. Always enjoyed Bill & Pat as friends and as neighbors when they lived east of Douglas. Our sympathies to Mike, Andy and Owen.*
John Magoffin

John Magoffin - June 17, 2016 at 05:19 PM



“ *Bill my friend wow so so hard to believe that your gone. I can still remember til this day when you bought the shop from Wilburn. We worked together for some time. I also remember it was myself, Wilburn, Janie, Pat, and Bill working at the shop having a good time. Memories were made. You will be miss. Rest in peace. Bill and Pat are together once again.*



Joe Fimbres - June 16, 2016 at 03:17 PM



“ *Bill my friend wow so hard to believe your gone. Your resting now. I still remember when you bought the saddle shop and I worked with. I remember it was myslef, Wilburn, Janie, Pat and Bill working at the saddle shop. We all had fun. Memories were made. May you rest you rest in peace.*



Joe Fimbres - June 16, 2016 at 03:12 PM

KP

“ Our condolences and fond memories and best wishes are sent to Bill's loved-ones and friends! With Ronny Park's most recent surgery and therapy, we've not found out about Bill's passing in time to plan to attend the Memorial. We send our condolences for the loss of Bill, and our best wishes to his family! Karen moved into Bill's family's ranching area in the early 1960's and well remembers dances and great visits with Bill....Ronny sends his best wishes and admiration for Bill, as well.
Ronny and Karen Parks

Karen Parks - June 15, 2016 at 08:44 AM

CM

“ Candy Morgan lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Stark



Candy Morgan - May 13, 2016 at 01:40 PM

CM

I am so sorry for your loss. Bill was a great man and father.

Candy Morgan - May 13, 2016 at 01:45 PM



“ Barbara Gibson lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Stark



Barbara Gibson - May 13, 2016 at 01:22 PM



You will be so missed, just as we've missed Pat...I'm sure you are dancing in Heaven!

Barbara Gibson - May 13, 2016 at 01:23 PM

NM

“ *So sorry for your loss. He was a good guy. I know he will be happy to see his sweet wife. May God with you at this sad time.*

Norma and Jimmy

Norma Martin - May 09, 2016 at 10:06 PM



MV

“ *Michael Valenzuela lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Stark*

Michael Valenzuela - May 09, 2016 at 03:37 PM



TL

“ *Tina Larmey lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Stark*

Tina larmey - May 09, 2016 at 03:08 PM



TL

“ So sorry for your loss!! If you need anything please let me know!!
Your father was a wonderful, honorable man. I'm deeply saddened.
My heart goes out to you, and you are all in my prayers!! Love,
Tina..

Tina Iarmey - May 09, 2016 at 03:08 PM

Tammi
Coleman

“ You are in our prayers Andy, Owen, Mike and
Eston.



Tammi Coleman - May 09, 2016 at 02:26 PM

RM

“ Richard Moreno lit a candle in memory of
William "Bill" Stark



Richard Moreno - May 09, 2016 at 01:02 PM

EW

“ Edna Wien lit a candle in memory of William
"Bill" Stark



Edna Wien - May 09, 2016 at 10:05 AM

RH

“ With my deepest condolences to Mr. Starks legacies, his wonderful sons & the rest of his family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Rhyna (Jones)



Rhyna - May 09, 2016 at 02:40 AM

SH

“ Scott & Jeannie Harris lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Stark



Scott & Jeannie Harris - May 08, 2016 at 11:15 PM



“ Bill will be missed as a life long neighbor and friend. I'm sure he and Pat are very glad to be together again. Sorry for the family who will miss him so much.



Jennifer Regensberg - May 08, 2016 at 10:52 PM

SS

I still remember what a dancing pair Pat & Bill were! So much fun with those two. Bill was a good man.

steve scott - May 11, 2016 at 09:30 PM

JB

HERE IS TO A FUN CLASSMATE FROM VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL. BILL LOVED TO LAUGH A LOT . I WAS IN THE BACK SEAT OF HIS DAD'S 53 CHEVROLET WAGON WHEN WE COLLIDED WITH A POWER POLE IN MCNEAL ABOUT 1954 OR SO. IT WAS SLICK FROM THE RAIN, BILL TOOK A CORNER A LITTLE FAST & CAVED IN THE RIGHT REAR DOOR WHERE I WAS RIDING. NO ONE WAS HURT EXCEPT THE CAR. THE OCCASSION WAS A DANCE AT THE MCNEAL SCHOOL. I NEVER SAW BILL MUCH AFTER WE GRADUATED IN 55 BUT HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT HIM & WONDERED HOW HE WAS DOING. SO LONG BILL. JAMES [JIMMY] BRADLEY CLASS OF 55

JAMES BRADLEY - June 19, 2016 at 05:32 PM