



William "Butterfly" Cowan

November 4, 1931 - January 17, 2023

William "Butterfly" Cowan of Willcox passed away in Tucson, Tuesday evening, January 17, 2023, at the age of 91. He was born Gladiola, New Mexico on November 4, 1931, to Earnest Cowan and Mittie Louise (Donnell) Cowan. At the age of 6 he moved with his family to San Marcos, Texas where Butterfly grew up. At the age of 15 he hitchhiked to Tucson and worked at Kinsley's Ranch, south of Tucson at Amado where Butterfly oversaw running the Rodeos which were very well known with all the cowboys in Arizona in the winter months. In 1950, Butterfly heard that a movie company was hiring extras who could ride horses and his first movie was Winchester 73, filmed in Tucson with Jimmy Stewart and Shelly Winters where Butterfly was an Indian extra. He continued to work in films across Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah, to name a few, (Across the Wide Missouri) with Clark Gable, (Fort Defiance) with Peter Graves, (The Last Outpost) with Ronald Regan, (Naked Spur) with Jimmy Steward, (The 3:10 to Yuma) with Glenn Ford, (Oklahoma) with Shirley Jones, (Guns of Fort Petticoat) with Audie Murphy who he developed long time friendship with Butterfly. In 1958 Butterfly did his last movie with John Wayne call Rio Bravo, he also worked on several T.V. series such as Rawhide, Gunsmoke and Wagon Train. In the fall of 1960 Butterfly came to Willcox where he began to lease small ranches and many pastures to run cattle. He also worked for Tom Selman who was one of the largest cattle buyers in the area, and Butterfly was in charge of the cattle shipping over 10,000 head of cattle a year. In 2001, Butterfly was inducted in the Willcox

Cowboy Hall of Fame. He was a lifelong cattle man and stuntman. Survivors include his Life Partner/Wife Carol L. Adcock of Willcox, children Cody Beth (Dick) Eastman of Powell, Wyoming, Bradley (Caroline) Cowan of Tucson and Justin C. Adcock of Brighton, Colorado. He is also survived by his granddaughter Lacey (Doug) Kremer and great grandchildren Caylee Jo, Audrey, Colton and Mary and his grandson G.W. (Katie)Eastman and greatgrandchildren Riley and Luke, and his grandson Beau Cowan and great grandson Dustin Cowan. Preceding him in death was his parents , his first wife and mother of his children Patsy , his second wife Martie and 11 siblings. Memorial Services will be 10:30 am on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at Westlawn Chapel.

Previous Events

Memorial service

FEB 4. 10:30 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



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of William "Butterfly" Cowan.



February 02, 2023 at 05:26 PM



“ *Joyful Memory* was purchased for the family of William "Butterfly" Cowan.



January 31, 2023 at 11:37 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of William "Butterfly" Cowan.



January 30, 2023 at 04:28 PM



“ *William "Butterfly" Cowan*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM

LS

“ Rest in peace Uncle Butterfly. Our family will miss your great smile, your zest for life, and the mischievous twinkle in your eyes. Sending prayers to Carol, Cody, and Brad and their families. Duane, Lynne, Kasey, and Kyle

Lynne Sewell - January 24, 2023 at 01:27 PM

JA

“ John&Susan Arbuthnot lit a candle in memory of William "Butterfly" Cowan



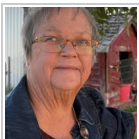
John&Susan Arbuthnot - January 24, 2023 at 11:03 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Butterfly" Cowan.



January 22, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ Anne Coleman lit a candle in memory of William "Butterfly" Cowan



Anne Coleman - January 22, 2023 at 07:43 AM

MC

“ Carol, Cody, Brad and family... our deepest condolences to you and yours. I have such great memories of Uncle Butterfly and know that he will be missed by many.

Mike, Gigi, KC and Sydney Cowan

Mike Cowan - January 21, 2023 at 02:48 PM

OB

“ Carol and family, So sorry for your loss.
Oliver and Sheri

Oliver and Sheri Baker - January 20, 2023 at 09:51 PM

JE

“ Our hearts are heavy dear friend. May the good memories ease your pain, Carol. We will always cherish your decision to join our dinner table on the Holland America, Veendam. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family as you heal in the next days, weeks, months and years ahead.



John & Sue Eyre - January 20, 2023 at 09:43 AM

KT

“ Carol and family please accept my condolences. Butterfly will be missed.



Kathy Thatcher - January 19, 2023 at 11:46 PM

JC

“ What a great man and cowboy that we are so grateful to have known! All our love and prayers Carol and family Danny and Judy

judy chastain - January 19, 2023 at 04:18 PM

LB

“ Rest in Peace Cowboy! My love and prayers are with you Carol and all Butterfly's family! A wonderful legend he leaves us will not be forgotten!

LaDonna Burgess - January 19, 2023 at 11:43 AM

CC

“ A one of a kind man! He will be missed by many, rest in peace Butterfly. Oue condolences to the family. Chad, Carol & Dylan Case



Carol Case - January 19, 2023 at 07:49 AM

MD

My condolences to the family, what a awesome person. Rest in peace Cowboy.

Millie Dumas - January 21, 2023 at 11:15 AM

TF

“ *Butterfly you will be greatly missed. Our condolences to Carol and the Cowan family.* 🙏🙏🙏

*The Levine Family
Al, Sileigh, Keleigh and Dakota*

The Levine Family - January 19, 2023 at 01:30 AM

GW

“ *Deepest condolences to the family, always such a nice man. I'm sure he will be greatly missed by many*



Gloria and Bill Wood - January 18, 2023 at 09:35 PM

JM

“ *Our sincere condolences to Carol and all the family. Rey & Jonnie Martinez*

Jonnie Martinez - January 18, 2023 at 09:19 PM

SR

“ *You will be missed Butterfly, you were always do kind. Prayers of comfort to Carol and rest of the family.*



Sharma Reed - January 18, 2023 at 09:17 PM

CD

“ Carol Dunagan lit a candle in memory of William "Butterfly" Cowan



Carol Dunagan - January 18, 2023 at 09:17 PM

GM

“ There was only one guy like Butterfly. Always shared a smile and made me laugh. He'll be missed by many. My condolences to Carol & his family, near & far.



Gail Martin - January 18, 2023 at 09:10 PM

NC

“ Nick Lynn Cleckler lit a candle in memory of William "Butterfly" Cowan



Nick & Lynn Cleckler - January 18, 2023 at 08:45 PM

SH

“ Scott Jeannie Harris sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Butterfly" Cowan



Scott & Jeannie Harris - January 18, 2023 at 08:06 PM

GB

“ *Ginny Bollman lit a candle in memory of William "Butterfly" Cowan*



Ginny Bollman - January 18, 2023 at 07:51 PM



“ *Betsy Ajeman lit a candle in memory of William "Butterfly" Cowan*



Betsy Ajeman - January 18, 2023 at 07:44 PM



A true Gentleman Cowboy; he will be missed.

Betsy Ajeman - January 18, 2023 at 07:48 PM

GA

“ *Gussie Sharon Arzberger lit a candle in memory of William "Butterfly" Cowan*



Gussie & Sharon Arzberger - January 18, 2023 at 05:47 PM

ES

“ *Edna Scott lit a candle in memory of William
"Butterfly" Cowan*



Edna Scott - January 18, 2023 at 05:33 PM