



J.R. Whatley

February 1, 2014

WHATLEY, J.R.

Age 55, passed away in Albuquerque on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at home with his family at his side. With a world-class sense of humor and lean, good looks to go with it, J.R. won over legions of friends and co-workers during his short life. He reveled in being the funniest man in the room. J.R., was born James Russell Whatley, in Ft. Worth, TX on August 14, 1958 and moved to New Mexico when he was 12. J.R. attended Valley High School where he spent more time in the parking lot than in class. He learned the plumber's trade at TVI, but traded up in 1993 with what would become a 17-year career at Sandia National Labs. Hard work and disciplined study earned him advanced certifications to write complex computer code for automated buildings. He had a brilliant mechanical mind. J.R. loved fly fishing, golf and playing guitar. Above all else, he loved his family. J.R. leaves behind his high school sweetheart, best friend and wife, Karen (Smith) Whatley of 34 years; his daughter, Madison Whatley Lewis, her husband, Kyle Lewis and grandson, Tyler Lewis; and his son, Jake Whatley, all from Albuquerque. He is also survived by his sister, Jean Whatley, St. Louis; brother, Paul Whatley, and sister-in-law, Beverly Whatley of Albuquerque. J.R.'s two nieces, six nephews and seven grand-nieces and nephews will forever miss their Uncle Jay. He has gone to join his baby son, Beau Whatley; brothers, Garrett Whatley, Don Whatley; father, James Whatley; and beloved mother, Beverly G. Garcia. Make 'em laugh Jay. A service to celebrate his life is scheduled for Saturday,

February 8, 2014, 11:00 a.m., at FRENCH – Westside. Please visit our online guest book for J.R. at www.FrenchFunerals.com.

FRENCH - Westside

9300 Golf Course Rd NW

505-897-0300

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 8. 11:00 AM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Golf Course)

9300 Golf Course Rd NW

Albuquerque, NM 87114

(505) 897-0300

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *French Funerals created a Tribute Video in memory of J.R. Whatley*



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - February 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ *Like Joe Frank (Frankie), I met J.R. at the same time. From junior high until the end of our junior year at Valley, we were pretty inseparable, especially when he got the white Rambler...good times in that car. Like Frank said, Boy Scouts, riding bikes to your brothers house by the foothills (from our neighborhood!), on occasion doing things we maybe shouldn't have been doing and raising #&%@!! but we were still good kids. We went in different directions after that (no...no fight, or anything like that), we just started doing different things. I loved that guy. We only saw each other a few times after but it was always great talking with him and spending those brief times together, reminiscing. My condolences to your family brutha, they are going to miss an great husband, dad, brother, son and friend. Rest in peace and we'll see you when we get there. Love you man! - John (Johnny) Cordova*

John - February 19, 2014 at 05:27 PM

JP

“ *My condolences to the family. I was fortunate enough to meet JR when his family moved into our neighborhood when we were both still in junior high school and spent the next part of our lives growing up together. Boy Scouts, raising #&%@, cruising when kids used to cruise and just hanging out like best friends do. JR was one of a kind. Eventually we each went our own way, but when we'd run into one another again even years later, it was just like old times. Buds forever. I'm really gonna miss you brother. You will always be a good man. Love you bro, Joe Frank Padilla*

Joe Frank Padilla - February 12, 2014 at 10:42 PM

RD

“ *JR*

I'll miss the laughs we shared and your clever wit. Someday, in the high country, our trails will cross.

Richard Dramer

Richard Dramer - February 08, 2014 at 02:05 PM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of J.R. Whatley.*



February 08, 2014 at 08:58 AM

MF

“ My heart breaks for Karen, Madison and Jake. J.R. was truly one of the finest gentlemen I've had the privilege to know. It was always a pleasure to be in his company. Rest in peace and love.

Mike Farrell

Mike Farrell - February 08, 2014 at 08:47 AM

JR

“ I was lucky enough to know JR for over 40 years. We fished, traveled, and raised our families together. He was like a brother to me and Karen a sister. I love Madison and Jake as if they were my own. May you rest in peace brother.

Jeff Romero

Jeff Romero - February 07, 2014 at 09:34 PM

CR

“ My memories of JR are so wonderful! We had so many fun times, from early years in high school to later years as grown ups with children of our own. I will always cherish those wonderful memories. Rest in peace dear one.

Connie Romero

Connie Romero - February 07, 2014 at 09:24 PM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of J.R. Whatley.



February 07, 2014 at 09:17 PM

LA

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. So many memories we will cherish them. We are so sorry. All our love Lynn Aaron and Austin arnold

lynn arnold - February 07, 2014 at 07:35 PM

LB

“ JR was the funniest person I have ever known. One minute he is being so shy...and the very next minute he is saying something completely out of left field. I loved him so much and have so many fond memories of our families spending time together, especially at Sadies, of course. I will miss you greatly JR....hugs to you and stick with the "cool" ones we have lost, and you are sure to have a new world filled with love and laughter. Love to all the family members.
Lana Sue Bell

Lana Sue Bell - February 07, 2014 at 02:31 PM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of J.R. Whatley.



February 07, 2014 at 09:19 AM

RF

“ Rosemary Finney purchased the Peaceful Wishes for the family of J.R. Whatley.



Rosemary Finney - February 06, 2014 at 10:55 PM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of J.R. Whatley.*



February 06, 2014 at 10:14 PM



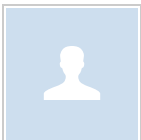
“ *Karen, Madison and Jake, Please know our thoughts are with you during this difficult time. J. R. was such a kind person, who will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Hold tight to memories for comfort, lean on family and friends for strength, and always remember how much you are cared about. Love, Dave & Sue*

Susan Lewis - February 06, 2014 at 09:40 PM



“ *JR . I remember the first time I met you ! Seems like yesterday ! So glad to have met your family and been to your home . Too many memories to put on paper but thank you for being you ! Never forget you and your family !*

Andrew Silva - February 06, 2014 at 12:31 AM



“ *Multicolor Bright Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of J.R. Whatley.*



February 05, 2014 at 08:10 PM

PG

“ Thankful for the time I got to spend with my brother J.R. I have many great memories and will always remember this gentleman who has left us too early. Love to all the Whatley's.

Phil Gonzales - February 05, 2014 at 02:11 PM

RL

“ Karen, Madison and Jake, my prayers and thoughts are with you during this most difficult time of loss. JR lived his life to the fullest and brought great joy and happiness to our group at Sandia. His certainly has earned his place next to Jesus Christ our personal Lord and Saviour. He will always be remembered as a great co-worker, friend and funny guy! Randy Lanier

Randy Lanier - February 05, 2014 at 01:00 PM

MR

“ Karen, Madison and Jake, please accept my condolences for the loss of JR. I am proud to have known him; he was a great man with a wonderful sense of humor. Everyone who had the privilege to know JR is a better person because of it. We have missed him here at Sandia. I will always remember him as a good friend and great coworker. I believe JR is in a better place. Michael Rocco



Michael Rocco - February 05, 2014 at 11:58 AM

GE

“ Karen, Madison, Jake, I express my deep sorrow and condolences for your loss. it was an honor and blessing to have had JR for my friend . JR was one of the best men I have ever known in my life. I will remember him for the rest of my life and hold close to my heart the memories and times that I had with my friend. may the peace of Christ be with you all. Greg & Ramona Earnest



Greg Earnest - February 05, 2014 at 11:33 AM



“ condolence's from Benny & Sue Brown--Graford Texas

Sue Brown - February 05, 2014 at 07:47 AM



“ Kevin Whatley lit a candle in memory of J.R. Whatley



Kevin Whatley - February 04, 2014 at 12:22 AM

DS

“ On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.

Dave Slaten - February 03, 2014 at 05:52 PM