



Jack Whittaker

April 5, 1970 - July 14, 2013

WHITTAKER, JACK

Age 43, a resident of Corrales, died Sunday, July 14, 2013, after a battle with a rare and aggressive cancer. He is survived by his loving wife and soul mate of 15 years, Jeannette Martinez Whittaker; their teenage children, Max and Madison, who were the joys of his life; his beloved parents, Dwayne and Bea Whittaker of Albuquerque, NM; his sister, Jill Platow and her husband, Randy of Arkansas; nephew, Scott Platow; niece, Jennifer Weinzettl; his adoring father-in-law and mother-in-law, Levi and Viola Martinez of Los Alamos, NM; brother-in-law, Kenneth Martinez of Los Alamos, NM; brother-in-law, Levi Martinez II of Santa Barbara, CA; sister-in-law, Suzzanna Martinez of Denver; aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends. He attended Temple Baptist Academy and graduated with honors from Manzano High School. He won a DECA scholarship to the University of New Mexico where he studied finance. Jack exemplified the philosophy of carpe diem and lived his life to the fullest. He declared his love for Jeannette on their first date and stated that they would be married and have children, which, to the astonishment of Jeannette, did occur within 5 months. Beginning at a young age, he supervised hundreds of employees in the telecommunications, collections and consumer finance industries and garnered several awards for his leadership and excellence. While employed with Sprint PCS and Sprint/Nextel in Rio Rancho he managed vendor relationships in multiple locations in North America, Central

America, the Caribbean, and Asia. He traveled with his wife and children to Jamaica, Costa Rica, and Mexico for snorkeling and deep sea fishing and took his wife on anniversary trips to Switzerland, Japan and Canada. Jack was influential in the New Mexico youth soccer community for many years. He supported soccer at all levels, from devoted fan of his son's and daughter's teams, referee, President of Corrales Soccer Club, President of Northwest Rio Grande Soccer League, and NMYSA District Commissioner. One of his greatest gifts was his quick wit and sense of humor. In addition, he loved to cook, bake bread and prepare exquisite gourmet holiday meals. Jack and his father-in-law brewed beer and crafted apple cider and honey mead. Jack also enjoyed reading, gardening and skiing and he is an excellent marksman. His family and friends will miss him dearly. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, July 20, 2013, 10:00 a.m., at FRENCH - Westside. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions may be made to the Whittaker College Scholarship fund for his children at the Wells Fargo Bank in Corrales. Please visit our online guest book for Jack at www.FrenchFunerals.com.

FRENCH - Westside

9300 Golf Course Rd NW

505-897-0300

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **20**. 10:00 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 Jack Whittaker* ”



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - July 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I just found out today of Jack's passing. I am still trying to hold back the tears, but they just keep coming. We were less than a year apart in age and it struck me as so surprising that he had passed that it just went straight to my heart. This is truly a sad day.

Jack and I were not "close" in that we never hung out together. I never was in his house, and he was never in mine. But my older daughter was Maddy's age and they went to school together in Corrales.

And, I was a coach in Corrales for many years for two of my daughters soccer teams. I saw Jack 3-4 times a week for maybe 7-9 years. He always said hello and took a minute (or more) to talk to you. He went out of his way to make you feel like you were a friend, even if he just knew you in passing. Even when I stopped coaching, and my daughters moved to competitive teams, when I would see him at a tournament or ODP, or anywhere really, he would always say hi.

I moved away from NM in 2011 to Orlando, FL and I quickly lost touch with almost everyone I knew there. Although, the families I still keep in touch with were all soccer families. So, I am sure you can imagine my shock when I found out today that Jack had passed nearly four months ago and I am just finding out.

To Jeanette, and Maddy and Max, please accept my sincerest condolences and know that you have all my love and support. You probably have my email address still (or I probably have yours). And I am sure you know my parents, Larry and Judy, who still live in Corrales. So, please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything I can do for you.

-Bryan Salas
(and Karen, AJ, Bethany, and Jaedyn too)

Bryan Salas - November 07, 2013 at 03:36 PM

BG

“ I enjoyed Jack! Jack enjoyed life to the fullest. His zeal, love and committment to his wife and children we forefront in his mind and soul. He had such energy to get everything good that life could offer. I am so happy that his legacy lives on in his children and the hear of hs wife that he was so proud of. God Bless Jack's family and may his love and energy always be with you!

Bruce Griffin - August 11, 2013 at 08:53 AM

KD

“ To the family of Jack Whittaker, please accept my deepest sympathy. I worked with Jack several years ago at SPCS. He was a great guy and no one was more important to him than his family. You were so blessed to have each other. Hold him close to your heart as I am sure he has held each of you close to his. God bless.

Kim DeCamp - July 22, 2013 at 10:42 AM

AM

“ Although Jack was quick witted and funny,what really struck me most when I met him was his compassion. He was a soft hearted , kind hearted person. He totally like to engage people and lift them up a little. He'd use use sarcastic humor to disarm, and then he was all compassion. Im so glad I knew you man. I'll miss you. Thank you for being my friend.


Art Maya - July 21, 2013 at 01:54 AM

ND

“ I first met Jack when he hired me to work with him at Equifax years ago. He was an awesome manager and talented in all aspects of business . Jack gave me an opportunity to learn collections and business when no one else would. He inspired me to never give up and go for whatever one wanted in life . I haven't seen him in years but from what I have been reading his success continued to grow . R.I.P Jack.



Nelson . D - July 20, 2013 at 01:13 PM

 Tessa Hafslund

“ I was so sorry to hear of Jack's passing. I met him several years ago when we worked together in the call center industry. He was always so fun to talk with and loved talking about his beautiful wife and children. We had a lot of laughs together and I will always remember him as a fun loving guy! You will never be forgotten Jack! My prayers are with the family.
Tessa Hafslund

Tessa Hafslund - July 19, 2013 at 01:56 PM

TR

“ Jack, if I ever there was an Odd Couple; it was the two of us. I'm thankful for the circumstances that brought us together. Our friendship was one of the more memorable of my life. You were a great friend who was always willing to lend a helping hand, or an attentive ear. I'll never forget biking or canoeing along the Rio with you, or camping in the dunes at White Sands. One of my favorite memories of you is your first attempt at brewing honey mead. Was it two cases? Each and every bottle, when opened, would slowly foam out of the top, leaving us with about two ounces in each bottle. And you instantly come to mind whenever I see an issue of "Cigar Aficionado" or "The Wine Spectator"?. We became friends at an important time in our lives, when were growing from boys into men, and know that you had an impact on my life. As others have said, life took over and we both had to follow our own paths, and we hadn't spoken in years. One of my great regrets is that I never had the opportunity to see you in your role as a husband and father. Godspeed my friend. Tony Ruiz

Tony Ruiz - July 19, 2013 at 11:24 AM

JC

“ We met the Whittaker's through the Corrales Cubs soccer team which Jeanette coached. Jack was always funny and seemed to do a great job on the league. What a terrific family. My kids loved hanging out with Maddy & Max. Our thoughts & prayers to you all. Very sorry for your loss.

The Coleman's

Jeff Coleman - July 18, 2013 at 10:27 PM

FM

“ Hey Buddy,

I didn't know that you were so sick. We haven't spoke in several years. We both started families and our lives took different paths. I often remember the many great times we had camping, fishing, brewing beer and working on cars. We were just two young guys enjoying life. You gave me the shirt off your back more than once. I know where you are, your fishing with your uncle on that pontoon boat. You will make a great Angel, looking after your family guiding them through their hearts and souls. I will never forget you. Peace be with you Jack Whittaker.

fred metzler - July 18, 2013 at 09:15 PM

AS

“ I didn't know Jack,
except through his wife, who never spoke
of him to me,
but I listened,
when she said excuse me,
and talked on a cell to him,
while I sat in her office,
and a look of genuine pleasure
and adoration appeared on her face.
I never met Jack, except through Jeannette,
who even when she filled the air
with legal principles and professionalism,
she still exhibited a concern and caring
for anyone suffering, anyone wronged,
and I listened as the names Max
and Madison resonated on telephonic waves,
uttered in the sanctity
of their own hearts.
I learned in snippets of conversation
over months and months
that he was a Manzano Monarch,
that he lived by a philosophy
of “Seize the Day and Embrace Life,”
and with an embarrassed blush,
I learned just today that he told Jeannette
of his love for her on their first date,
and if that does not exemplify
the doctrine of Carpe Diem,
then nothing does.
He and his family traveled
the world to find the joy
in snorkeling, deep sea fishing
and in each other,
and an anniversary
was cause to celebrate romance
in beautiful places, like Switzerland or Japan.

*I didn't know Jack,
except through the look of love
on his wife's face, or by snippets
of him told by others,
but I wish I did know him.
I think we would have been friends,
I think I could have learned much from him,
about family, about love and life.
I didn't know him, but somehow I feel
like I did, and my heart is heavy
I will never know him, but my heart
is glad that so many did.*

*-- By Aurelio Arley Sanchez,
dedicated to Jack and Jeannette Whittaker.*

Aurelio Sanchez - July 18, 2013 at 07:36 PM

GY

Thank you for writing in such a heartfelt manner that honors Jack and Jeannette. That honors love and life. Ginger Young, Segal & Whittaker LLP

Ginger Young - July 19, 2013 at 10:24 AM

SA

I did not know Jack or the Whittakers, but stumbled across your tribute to them by accident and while I was quick to move on, something about it caught my eye and I read it. What you wrote makes me wish I had known Jack. My deepest condolences to family, friends and co-workers.....

From an anonymous reader

Sandra - July 25, 2013 at 11:41 AM

AN

“ Dear Jeanette,

I knew Jack at SPCS and remember a smart, capable, confident, witty man. When you were pregnant with Madison I tried my best to convince him that her middle name should be Ave (pronounced like Ave Maria, but the pun would be that her name would be Madison Ave, as in the street in NYC). Wiser heads prevailed (yours and his!). I left SPCS in 2002 and have thought of Jack fondly many, many times since then. Today, I hold you and your children in my heart, so sad for your unspeakable loss.

Anne

Anne - July 18, 2013 at 07:09 PM

SM

“ *I got to know Jack through his time serving on the NWRGSL board and as president of the league. I admired his desire to serve the league and community, and especially the kids playing on the field. Jack took a stand on what he believed was right and made his position clear, usually with a sharp wit and wry smile. I especially enjoyed seeing Jack on the soccer fields, I knew if I could chat with him for a minute or two I'd be laughing at something he said.*

I thank Jack for his many contributions to the kids in youth soccer. And like many others, my life is richer having had the opportunity to know Jack Whitaker. May he rest in peace.

Stan McCoy
NWRGSL President

Stan McCoy - July 18, 2013 at 05:41 PM

JG

“ Jeannette, Max, & Maddie,

With heartfelt condolences, we share comfort in knowing Jack is no longer suffering. Jack will be missed by so many, he is such a remarkable person. We wish for you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.



*With Love,
Mike, Jessica, Adison, & Mayah Gurley*

JGurley - July 18, 2013 at 11:31 AM

 Mary
Posen

“ My friend Jack you will be missed. Even though a lot of the time we would be together at meeting after meeting I would always look forward to them knowing that you were coming. I knew we would have humorous and quick witted text messages back and forth during the entire meeting. I could guarantee smiles for me and would often time be a little proud of myself when a comment made by me got a laugh or smile from you. Your advice was always well thought, honest and sought after. Our friendship grew over the years and evolved with a friendship between our kids, friendship between my kids and you, and friendship as we were parents on the sidelines and tournaments together. Seeing the love between Jeanette and Jack was inspiring and one could easily see the friendship, honesty and trust that makes the Whittaker family strong. Jack stood by me through some terrible times and some great times as most families do. My thoughts and prayers go to Jeanette, Max and Madison but one can see the love you have for each other making you stronger and pulling you together. I know Jack will be with you always his love surrounds you, his humor rings in your mind and comes out in comments all the time. Jack made a huge impact in New Mexico Youth Soccer and in the lives of me and my family. Always ready to help, always stood behind what he believed in, and always loved his family more than anything. Jack will be remembered every time we are on a soccer field, every time we are at a meeting, and every time there's a quick witted laugh. Thank you for being my friend Jack.

With love, with thanks, missing you.

Mary Posen

Mary Posen - July 18, 2013 at 12:05 AM

JO

“ *Friends and family-I was on the board of NWRGSL when Jack was president. I appreciated Jack's level-headedness and sense of humor. He always brought a sense of calm to meetings. Though our interaction was limited, my life has been enriched by knowing Jack. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Jon - July 17, 2013 at 12:04 PM