



John "Jack" Marrett Herndon Sr.

July 14, 1940 - January 26, 2014

John Marrett Herndon, passed away on 1/26/14 in Albuquerque, NM. He was born on 7/14/1940 in Blackwell, OK to Champ Clark Herndon Jr. and Mary Herndon.

Jack grew up on a ranch outside of Sudan, KS and moved to Estancia NM where he graduated at Estancia High School in 1958. After high school he attended UNM and NMSU where he received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering, he further earned his Professional Civil Engineers License. He worked in the road construction industry for 50 years serving as State District engineer for the State of NM and also in the private sector as Project Superintendent. Though-out his career, Jack put his touch on almost every highway in the State of NM at one time or another. There was never a road that he had not traveled. Jack earned numerous prestigious awards professionally and personally for the quality and workmanship on his roads. He also received a very special highway award that holds the equivalent to the Oscar's in Hollywood. He was very proud of that!!

Boating was his passion. He enjoyed boating in his Fountain boat and could be found on the Elephant Butte Lake in the summer time every chance he got.

Jack is survived by his two sons, Jack Herndon Jr. of Las Cruces and Tom Herndon of Albuquerque; and his grandchildren Ashley Herndon of Las

Cruces, now attending Texas Tech University, Parker Herndon and Lexie Herndon also of Albuquerque. Jack is also survived by his brothers and sisters, Champ Herndon and wife Janice of Dallas, Texas, Sherian and Gerry Eckenrod of Fresno, California, Bob and Irma Herndon, of El Paso, Klee and Keith Cooper of Sequim, Washington.

Through his 73 years of life, he touched numerous people through his warm and inviting nature, making everyone feel as a part of his family. Jack was always the optimist. He was always striving for perfection and felt if a job was to be done, then you might as well “do it right”. He was always open to new opportunities or adventures. His motto was that of, “Get out of bed, your burning daylight”!!!

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday February 1st at the Elephant Butte Inn meeting hall at 3:00p.m. Afterwards, the family will be greeting friends and relatives at, Jack’s home, 201 Hawthorne Dr. in Elephant Butte.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made Third Street Church of Christ, 1500 E 3rd Ave Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 or MD Anderson Cancer Center towards smoking cessation.

Previous Events

Funeral Ceremony

FEB 1. 3:00 PM (MT)

Elephant Butte Inn
401 New Mexico 195
Elephant Butte, NM

Tribute Wall

TH

“ 12 files added to the album *New Album Name*



tom herndon - February 28, 2014 at 11:57 AM

TH

“ 2 files added to the album *many years on the sidelines*



tom herndon - February 28, 2014 at 11:47 AM

TN

“ I met Jack over 30 years ago, he was a superintendent for Brown Construction Co. and I was an inspector for the NMDOT. Over the years we worked together on numerous construction projects from Clovis New Mexico to Alamogordo New Mexico. I have many good memories of us working together. I really enjoyed working with him Jack was a great Project Superintendent and over the years we became friends. I bought a boat from Jack and we became boating buddies. I really enjoyed the time we spent at the lake. Jack was one of a kind and he will certainly be missed by. I retired in 2003 and moved to Alaska but every time I made my way back to New Mexico I tried to stop and visit with Jack. My only regret is I didn't get to see him often enough.

I offer my condolences to Jack's family during this most difficult time.

Terry Nichols.

Terry Nichols - February 10, 2014 at 12:45 PM

WJ

“ I first met Jack in 1952 when both of our families moved to Estancia, NM the same summer. His sister, Sherian, and I became best friends and I was jealous of her because she had Jack for a big brother. I just had younger brothers and wanted a big brother also. As we went our separate ways, many years went by before I saw Jack again. I was in Albuquerque and he took his little sister's friend out to dinner and then to his house for a visit. He was such a gentleman and so well organized. He will be missed. My sympathies to his family.

Wanda Jackson

Wanda Jackson - February 04, 2014 at 02:28 PM

JJ

“ Jack was the best superintendent I ever met. I met him when he was 45 years old and I was about 25. We were doing work as a subcontractor for Ted Brown. He was extremely knowledgeable and one hell of a pusher. I learn so much from him during that project. I later hired Jack to come work for our company in El Paso Texas where he worked for us roughly four years. He treated me and my family so good even took us out on the lake in that beautiful boat. There will never be another superintendent like Jack who could not only build every aspect of a road but also make the materials himself unbelievable. One of a kind. I will miss you Jack thank you for all your great work and teaching me about highway construction and especially being so kind to me and my family. Rest in Peace with God love you
Joe Rosales Jr

joe Rosales Jr - February 03, 2014 at 07:23 PM



“ Jack was an amazing man. I met him when I was about nine years old he was going to be a new grandfather to me. I was excited and shy at the same time as I walked up to this six and a half guy in a cowboy hat, then with no hesitation he bent down and scooped me up into a giant hug and said, " nice to meet you gal!" I'm going to remember many things about Jack; the lake, John Wayne, cowboy hats but, most of all I will remember his hugs. They were the best.

Chelsea Schlegel - January 31, 2014 at 08:52 PM

ES

“My condolence to Jack's family. I worked with Jack on a US 82 highway project in Maljamar in 1998; he was an excellent Project Superintendent and a great American. Many people knew him as "Whispering Jack", because he had one speaking volume: Loud. He was well respected by all who worked with him for his ability and leadership. I last saw him at the April 2013, Transportation Engineering Conference in Las Cruces. Jack is with the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will be missed.

Earle Smith, P.E., MSG (Ret.) U.S. Army

Earle P. Smith - January 31, 2014 at 07:02 PM

SD

“My son, Trevor and I would tag along with Tom and Lisa everywhere, Jack welcomed us into his life with open arms. Jack will always hold a special place in my heart. He opened up his home to us during the holidays and countless times during the summer down at the lake. Trevor and I would sleep out on the pullout bed in the living room. If you know Jack, you know the man wakes up before the Sun. He would try his hardest to fiddle around in his room until at least the Sun would come up and then he would work his way into the kitchen. He'd get the coffee started and cause quite a ruckus while putting up the dishes from the dishwasher. Then I would slowly toss and turn and before I knew it, Jack would be standing over me with a cup of coffee and in his booming voice say, "Ahh, haha, Well, I didn't think you'd ever get up. How'd ya sleep?" Then I'd sit at the bar or table, chit, chat and watch him tinker around for awhile until he went to work or he made enough noise to make it known he wanted Tom to get up and at em' and make him some breakfast. These are wonderful memories that will stick with Trev and me.

Shannon Dickson - January 29, 2014 at 10:28 PM

CH

Haha well Thomas is really good at making breakfast :)

chelsea - February 02, 2014 at 08:30 AM



“ Going to the lake will never be the same now that my Grandpa is gone. He was the most wonderful man I know. I could talk to him about anything I needed help with. He taught me many many things in life, one of them is how to enjoy the little things and to live life to the fullest. He reminded me how to get back to the simple things in life and I will be forever grateful for that. I loved him more than words can describe but now I know I gained another guardian angel and I know he will look out for me always. I will live with all the wonderful memories he gave me for the rest of my life and I will never forget. I will love you forever grandpa.

Lexie Herndon - January 29, 2014 at 10:02 PM

JB

“ About a month ago Jared and I were having lunch with Jack when he shared, what he called, his "observation" with us. We wanted to share it with everyone because of how much Jack loved our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It read: Believers are those who come to God and our Lord Jesus Christ, repentantly in trusting faith, asking for his grace and forgiveness of our sins. An observation by Jack Herndon
It was our pleasure to know and spend time with Jack. He will live forever in our hearts and in our memories! We love you Jack!!!
Jared and Serina Bartoo

Jared and Serina Bartoo - January 29, 2014 at 07:02 PM

 Lisa
Herndon

“ 35 files added to the album *Good Times*



Lisa Herndon - January 29, 2014 at 03:02 PM

 Lisa
Herndon

“ 1 file added to the album *Jack*



Lisa Herndon - January 29, 2014 at 02:48 PM

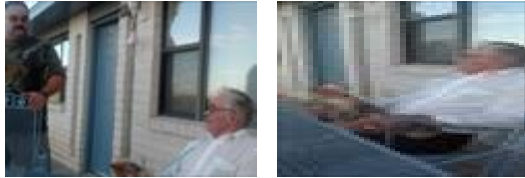
 Lisa
Herndon

“ *Meeting Jack was confirmation that I wanted to marry his son. He was this force that was full of life. He was compassionate, honest and a true gentleman. I figured that if Tom turned out to be like his dad, then I would be in good hands. I was not wrong. Having him as my father in law and grandfather to my children has been an incredible gift. He was someone that I looked up to and was such an amazing role model to his grandchildren. His legacy and love for life will live on through us all. Being out on the lake will just not be the same without Jack. The world has lost one genuine cowboy of the finest breed.*

Lisa Herndon - January 29, 2014 at 01:04 PM

3

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Sandy Deerman - January 29, 2014 at 10:01 AM

DF

“ *My uncle Jack was the first man I ever shared a beer with, Olympia, Ice cold! His demeanor and stature were amazing! He was one that achieved the American Dream and taught a young man (me) how to water ski. I always felt supported and loved by him. You will always be with me.... Until wake meet again, God speed!*

dean fowler - January 28, 2014 at 08:39 PM