

Wayne Whidby

KADOKA -- Wayne Whidby, age 57 of Kadoka, S.D., died Monday, Feb. 1, 2010, in Mazatlan, Mexico. Today I was asked to do the hardest thing I have ever had to do, sum up the story of my father's life. Wayne Alex Whidby was born on March 24, 1952 in Fort Knox, Kentucky to Evelyn and Julian Whidby. He grew up on the family ranch south of Kadoka, South Dakota, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. From a young age, he started breaking horses and living the cowboy lifestyle. He attended schools in Kadoka, where he was an active member of the Kadoka High School Rodeo Team competing in the Saddle Bronc Riding, Bareback Bronc Riding, and Bull Riding. He was also a member of the boxing team and the National Little Britches Rodeo Association. After graduation in 1970, Wayne joined the United States Marine Corps, where he proudly served his country in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged in 1973 and returned home to work the family ranch. After returning home he joined the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association where he was a card member and competed in the saddle bronc riding. He was united in marriage to the love of his life, Janie Livermont Whidby, on August 24, 1973. From that union, they had four children Amanda, Danny, Timothy, and Denise. As his children grew, he turned their interests to the rodeo world. He enjoyed watching his children compete and hauled them all over the country to high school rodeos and Little Britches rodeos. In 1993, he decided to put his interest of bucking horses into a business. He started Dakota Rodeo Company, and helped promote the spread of Little Britches rodeos across the state of South Dakota, Minnesota, and Nebraska. He served on the National Little Britches Rodeo Association Executive Board and as the Stock Contractor's Representative. He supplied bucking stock to the National Little Britches Rodeo Association Finals for seven years. He enjoyed helping the up and coming rodeo stars, as we often bucked out broncs and bulls at the ranch. He was never one to turn down a kid who wanted to compete and needed a ride or entry fees paid. In 2004, he retired from trucking, ranching, and the stock contracting business to travel with his wife, Janie. The last three years, they spent their winters together in Mazatlan, Mexico, and their summers in South Dakota. Wayne was truly a cowboy, one to always take off his hat indoors, hold the door for people, and pull out a chair for a lady. He was a straight-shooter and believed in second chances. He was always one who would talk to whoever would listen. I remember my mother saying, "Your dad can make three trips around a rodeo arena talking to people, while we are all loaded up and ready to go!" He was always one to lend a hand or a dollar if one needed it. He is survived by his wife, Janie Whidby, daughters, Amanda (Dave), Denise (Weston), sons, Danny and Tim, parents, Evelyn and Julian, a sister, Judy (Pat), a brother, Allen, five grandchildren, Noah, Isabella, Stormie, JD, and Summer, his beloved bulldog, Sophie, and a host of relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents. He will surely be missed; his smile, crazy stories, and bright blue eyes. Dad, "May God Bless with broncs that kick high, and the ability to lift to be 90!" A memorial service will be held in March in Kadoka. Written tributes may be made at www.rushfuneralhome.com. Published in the Rapid City Journal on 2/8/2010

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KADOKA - Wayne A. Whidby, 57, Kadoka, died Monday, Feb. 1, 2010, at Mazatlan, Mexico. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1970 to 1973. Survivors include his wife, Janie Whidby, Kadoka; two daughters, Amanda Segura, Phoenix, Ariz., and Denise Whidby, Rapid City; two sons, Danny Whidby, Kadoka, and Timothy Whidby; his parents, Julian and Evelyn Whidby, Rapid City; one sister, Judy Ring, Indianapolis; one brother, Allen Whidby, Minneapolis; and five grandchildren. Memorial services will be held at a later date. A memorial has been established. Rush Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements. An online guestbook is available at www.rushfuneralhome.com.

Published in the Rapid City Journal on 2/5/2010

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