



David A. Whitener

October 6, 1952 - June 6, 2020

Mr. David A. Whitener, 67, passed away peacefully at his home in the Maple Hill Estates community of Conway on Saturday, June 6, 2020, surrounded by his loving family.

Born October 6, 1952 in Beckley, WV, David is the son of Earl Whitener, Jr. and Bonnie Shuff Whitener of Beckley. He enjoyed a rewarding and fulfilling career in the cemetery and funeral industry and was on the speakers' circuit for the National Cemetery Association, speaking at conferences across the nation. David received a lifetime achievement award from the Southern Cemetery Cremation and Funeral Association and was past-president of the NC/SC Cemetery Association. He received a second lifetime achievement award from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. David was also instrumental in establishing insurance funded pre-arranged funeral policies in the state of WV.

In addition to his long career, David was also an accomplished musician for over 50 years. His easy spirit and warm smile endeared him to everyone who knew him. He enjoyed time spent with family and friends and days spent with his furry pal Max.

Survivors include his loving and devoted wife of 34 years, Robin S. Whitener; his sons, Lew (Carrie) Whitener of Beckley, WV, Eric (Kristian) Whitener of

North Myrtle Beach, and Jeffrey (Charlene) Whitener of Conway; his granddaughter, Dakota Whitener, whom he loved beyond words, and to whom he was affectionately known as “Wolfie”; his parents, Earl and Bonnie Whitener of Beckley, WV; and his siblings Steve (Susie Kay) Whitener and Susan (Bryan) Belcher, both of Beckley, WV and Tim Whitener and Tom (Teresa) Whitener, both of Charleston, WV.

Graveside services will be held at 12:00PM Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at Southern Palms Memorial Gardens in North Myrtle Beach, officiated by Rev. Lawrence Willoughby. The family will receive friends at the cemetery mausoleum one hour prior to the service.

Memorial donations may be made in David’s memory to a food bank in your local community.

Please sign the online guest register at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, is serving the family.

Cemetery Details

Southern Palms Memorial Gardens

5000 Highway 17 South
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 9. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Southern Palms Memorial Gardens
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

Graveside Service

JUN 9. 12:00 PM (ET)

Southern Palms Memorial Gardens
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

Tribute Wall

MC

“ *Robin and Family,*

I am terribly sorry to hear of Mr. David's passing. I know that heaven is a sweeter place with him there. Prayers to y'all in the upcoming days.

Mary Causey

Mary Hucks Causey - June 11, 2020 at 11:44 PM

BW

“ *Robin, we are so sorry about your David. You two were the perfect couple-he told jokes and you laughed and shared so much together. I know you'll miss him terrible. We were all blessed to know him. You and the family are in our thoughts, Love Byrd and Sue*

Byrd and Sue White - June 10, 2020 at 09:25 AM

JH

“ Robin and Family,

I wanted to send my condolences for your loss. I knew Beef probably for more than 50 years. I knew him in high school when he played in the bands and got to know him when I came back to Beckley and started practicing law. I saw one of the other comments about how Beef was involved in starting pre-need funerals in West Virginia. I can tell you some stories about that process. Paul Flanagan, Beef and I spent a lot of time traveling around dealing with the legal issues and trying to make it work. The thing that I fondly remember about that process was Beef's never failing sense of humor. He turned difficult and tense situations into laughs and giggles. Beef was one-of-a-kind and all who knew him will attest to that. Because of that his loss is significant to everyone. Robin I know that you did more than could be expected of any spouse in dealing with Beef's illnesses. I salute you for your dedication and love to him and the fact that you kept him around for the rest of us to enjoy. I hope the entire Whitener family will accept Viki's and my sincere condolences because we knew Beef and can understand how much he meant to you.

Justice John A. & Viki Hutchison, Beckley West Virginia

Justice John A. Hutchison - June 09, 2020 at 11:53 AM



“ My deepest condolences to the Whitener family on your loss. David was an individual in the truest sense of the word. His manner of conducting business and living life was something to behold. The times we spent together at Stewart Enterprises were some of the best of my career in that I learned so much from David. He taught this by-the-book accountant at the time that people really matter and that a good meal at the Waffle House is all you really need. He will be missed.

Stephen Lynch - June 09, 2020 at 08:16 AM

PS

“ *My condolences to David’s family. David was an amazing person. Always willing to mentor, guide and an encourage those around him. My time with him at Stewart Enterprise was is unforgettable. My friend thank you for all the advice you gave me throughout the years*

Peter

peter saavedra - June 08, 2020 at 08:41 PM

HM

“ *Prayers for the family, especially Bonnie and Earl*

H. E. Melton - June 08, 2020 at 04:07 PM

KV

“ *Amazing person. Terrible loss. My deepest condolences to the Whitener family.*

Kim Venturo - June 08, 2020 at 03:49 PM

SG

“ *Prayers for the family. Beef was a great person and will be sadly missed. Steven Garlow*

Steven Garlow - June 08, 2020 at 03:41 PM

BH

“ *Robin I am so sorry to hear about David’s passing. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. David was one of a kind that drummed to his own tune. RIP*

Beth Hannah - June 08, 2020 at 03:20 PM

BY

“ *Our deepest sympathy, to you Robin and your family. We are glad that our son Rob got to share so many good things with David. Rob thought of David as family as did we and learned so much from him. God bless you.*
Bob & Cheryl Ysidron

Bob Y - June 08, 2020 at 11:11 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David A. Whitener.*



June 08, 2020 at 10:47 AM


Jonathan
Parham

“ *Thoughts and prayers to Robin and Family. Such a unique man in so many ways. A leader in the industry who could not only talk the talk but could back it up. Always seem to learn a good saying every time I was around him. Many that I still use today. If he was a friend he was a true friend. The best way to describe him in my opinion is with a song "I did it my way"*

R.I.P. my friend

Jon and Mariann Parham

Jonathan Parham - June 08, 2020 at 08:21 AM

KV

Great and accurate tribute Jon!

Kim Ventura - June 08, 2020 at 03:50 PM

KF

“ Thank you for always telling how it was and being the rock for this family. Thank you for welcoming me into your family with love and laughter. I will cherish the fond memories we had together. I will miss you so much. Kristian H Forslund (soon to to be Mrs. Kristian H. Whitener)

Kristian Forslund - June 08, 2020 at 02:14 AM

CJ

“ There are so many memories I could share. My first impression of David was not the best but I came to learn that he was the real deal. He was a teacher, mentor and friend to so many funeral and cemetery professionals. He didn't always tell you what you wanted to hear, but what you needed to hear. When I first took over the region with Stewart Enterprises as funeral operations, his advice to me was, "It ain't no democracy."

When I worked with him on a committee at Restland, he borrowed a suburban, due to his limited vision, he asked me to drive us to lunch. Upon returning to the cemetery, he said "pull over, let me drive." I reluctantly let him behind the wheel, assuring me he could see just fine. "Just let me know if I'm about to hit a curb," he said. The windows were down, as he was giving me the talking tour of the cemetery. I could see the approaching sprinkler on my side, but he was talking so much that he didn't hear me call out his name several times as I got soaking wet.

When I was researching a set of drums for my son's Christmas present, David was my google. He taught me everything I needed to know and went with me to the music store to buy them. He became a friend and I appreciated his knowledge of people and his credentials on life itself.

Carl Jenkins - June 07, 2020 at 11:26 PM

EW

“ We’re going to miss you so much!!!



Eric Whitener - June 07, 2020 at 11:18 PM

JW

“ David knew exactly how to motivate people with his speeches. I worked at Floral Garden the first time I heard him speak. He was such an icon. I could not hardly wait for his next speech. Boscoe Fulcher interduced me and him. I felt so honored. I will keep his family in my prayers.
Rest In Peace David. I will see you again.

janet walters - June 07, 2020 at 09:31 PM

JW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jeffrey Whitener - June 07, 2020 at 07:04 PM

JS

“ Back in “The Day” it was never You or Me...it was always Us!
Cherishing our friendship for 44 years. Love You Brother...see you later.

Jim Safewright

Jim Safewright - June 07, 2020 at 03:43 PM

BF

“ *The world is a little darker today without David. He was a kind man who brought so much joy to everyone he ever met and was full of stories that made you scream with laughter. Boscoe loved you like a brother. Rest In Peace David. My love to Robin and the family.*
Brenda Fulcher

Brenda Fulcher - June 07, 2020 at 03:33 PM

BY

“ *Buddy and Jan Young purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of David A. Whitener.*



Buddy and Jan Young - June 07, 2020 at 03:32 PM

BC

“ *What a great man who walked among us. It is said that the greatest talent is to have the ability to transfer knowledge in a beneficial way. David did that and more. Rest in peace and our sincerest condolences to the family.*
Bob and Jeanne Case
Thomasville, NC

Bob Case - June 07, 2020 at 03:04 PM

DF

“ My deepest sympathy to Robin and the family. May it bring some comfort to know that David’s legacy will endure, as his teaching and philosophies will have a lasting impact on the people he touched. The times I was fortunate enough to spend with David changed me forever. He has a unique ability to turn obstacles into opportunities and business trips into treasured memories. To take from one of his philosophies people appreciated how much he knew but loved him for how much he cared.

Doug Farrow - June 07, 2020 at 02:51 PM

JE

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to each of you. David was a great friend and mentor during my time at Stewart Enterprises. I have so many fond memories of him that I reflect on even today. He always knew how to cut through the politics of corporate America and get his point across.

I remember my first meeting with David in Williamsburg, VA at our annual Mid Atlantic meeting. David put on a presentation that made us laugh and wonder “who is this new guy?” Thinking he would be fired before the end of the week. Little did I know that would be one of many memorable meetings with David. That was the beginning of a friendship that I will always treasure.

Joe Everly - June 07, 2020 at 01:40 PM

BH

“ Robin, Lindsay and I send our thoughts and prayers to you and your entire family. Knowing and working with David in North Carolina in the 90’s was one of the true highlights of my personal and professional career. David was truly one of a kind.

Brent Heffron - June 07, 2020 at 09:59 AM



“ *Harrell And Pat Hardwick lit a candle in memory of David A. Whitener* ”



Harrell and Pat Hardwick - June 07, 2020 at 12:15 AM