

# Brothers Gone ~ But Not Forgotten

**Eddie Ray Whittley**

*December 6, 1954 ~ April 12, 2006*

*~ In Loving Memory ~*

We are among those who admire his work and enjoyed visiting with him. It was a pleasure to visit with him around town, at his or Myron's shop, at a show... But it was inspiring to hear his friends and family members speak of him, causing us to wish we'd had opportunity to know him better

Having only recently met Ed in our travels through the motorcycle community, we had no means of knowing the scope of his abilities and accomplishments. We would more appropriately be listed among Ed's acquaintances rather than friends, but even if you didn't know him very long, you could visit & talk with him for hours, like old friends.

Ed's Memorial Service was held at Mariposa Gardens in Mesa on April 17. The Gypsy Riders and friends rode in as a group, with bikes bedecked with US flags. It was a beautiful tribute with positive comments from onlookers waiting at the Chapel.



His shop, Firebird Customs in Apache Junction, was only open for about a year, but he's made a lasting impression on those who met him through it. Ed's final creation was the Survivor Bike, built as a fundraiser for the AZ Institute for Breast Health and dedicated to the memory of his grandmother, who was a breast cancer victim. We had

the opportunity to meet Brian, the winner of the Survivor Bike, at the Memorial Service. While he did not have the chance to meet Ed, he noted that he inherited quite a legacy by winning this bike.

Ed's life was cut short by lung cancer. While given 'a year' by doctors, we were gathered together to say goodbye in a couple of months. The family requested that donations to the American Cancer Society be made in Ed's name.

Ed had many varied interests and abilities, with people at the service representing his many walks of life; often times with little in common but their mutual friendship and admiration for Ed.

Ed was known as a genuinely good person, with a kind and generous heart. He touched many lives. Our condolences go out to his wife Linda, and to all who knew and loved him.

*Bruce & Betsy*