

Robert Alan Whetzal of Sturgis, SD, passed away peacefully on the morning of February 13th, 2026. Robert, as he would later be known as Bob, was born in Enid, OK, on November 30th, 1948, the first of three children, siblings Dennis and Tamra, proudly raised by Frank and Waneta (Hess) Whetzal. He grew up stubborn and rambunctious, with a love of math, science, farming, the 49ers, and family, often known for his wild pranks, always ready to joke and share a laugh.

He grew up in Brookings, SD, later moving to Sturgis, SD, graduating in the class of 1967, and attended Black Hills State University, earning his Bachelor's in accounting. He met his wife, Paula (King) Whetzal, in the spring of 1967, and they married on January 18th, 1968. Bob and Paula then moved to Pierre, SD, where he worked for the State of SD and helped write the bill that brought home healthcare to families in SD. A service that he was so grateful to have in the later years of his life. He later worked for the post office and eventually retired from the Box Elder post office after proudly serving the community for over 20 years. Bob will be remembered for his sense of humor, his love of riding with his brother Dennis, his family and friends through the Black Hills, his love for his wife Paula and his children Robert and Kelly, the conversation and time he gave to everyone he met during his life. Bob was not one to judge (unless you poked the political bear) and truly accepted all those around him. His last moments on earth were spent wanting to take care of those he loved more than anything. Rest easy, Bob. You cared for everyone in so many ways; it's okay to rest now.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Waneta Whetzal, his brother Dennis Whetzal, and many other family and friends. He is survived by his wife Paula Whetzal of Sturgis SD, sister Tamra (Tony) Stansfield of Bolivar Peninsula, TX, Son Robert (Toni Lynn) Whetzal of Lake Elsinore, CA, Kelly Whetzal (Chris) Burke of Rapid City, SD, his grand children Kaylie, Eli, Asher, Clay, Dorian and many other beloved nieces, nephews, and extended family that he loved dearly.

Thank you for your presence and condolences.

In Loving Memory



Robert Alan Whetzal

November 30, 1948 ~ February 13, 2026

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the
intention of arriving safely
in a pretty and well preserved body,
but rather to skid in broadside
in a cloud of smoke,
thoroughly used up,
totally worn out,
and loudly proclaiming,
“WOW! What a ride!”

~Hunter S. Thompson



In Loving Memory

Robert Alan Whetzal

BORN

November 30, 1948
Enid, Oklahoma

PASSED AWAY

February 13, 2026
Rapid City, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

February 23, 2026 - 11:00 am
Kinkade Funeral Chapel

OFFICIATING

Pastor Jenene Earl

MUSICIAN

Asher Burke
“Amazing Grace” “Old Rugged Cross”

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Stand By Me” - Ben E. King
“Spirit In The Sky” - Norman Greenbaum

PALLBEARERS

Asher Burke Clay Burke Dorian Burke
Chris Burke John Whetzal Jeff Whetzal

HONORARY PALLBEARER

Robert Paul Whetzal Mike Burns Noel Burke

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Bear Butte Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota