



C. John Vukonich

February 15, 1943 - July 21, 2014

"Johnny V" Carl John Vukonich, 71, passed away in his home watching "his mountain" on Monday, July 21, 2014.

Johnny was born on February 15, 1943 to the late, John & Eileen (Esterdahl) Vukonich at Seattle, WA. From an early age Johnny was performer, around the age of 11, he remembers bystanders throwing money in his accordion case, while he played outside a bar in Alaska. He would also play for Yugoslavian family parties. Johnny's dad was a welder and he made sure that he passed the trade down to his son. Upon graduation from Bothell High, he became a member of the Operating Engineers Union, working in Bremerton on heavy machine equipment. Years later a friend taught Johnny how to drive 18 wheelers and he then trucked all over the US and Canada, in 1980 he bought his own truck which he operated. Sometime later Johnny went to work for Cadman Rock as a heavy duty welder and mechanic, he retired in 1997 due to health concerns and to play his music full time and teach accordion playing. Johnny performed in Vancouver, BC throughout Washington State and in Arizona. In 2005 Johnny moved to Cashmere where he would tell you it was the most beautiful place he'd ever been.

Johnny had a passion for fast cars and trucks, remember "Purple Baby". He enjoyed his love of fishing and hunting with his friends and was never selfish with his smoked fish and packaged meat. Johnny was a member of the Northwest Accordion Association.

Johnny leaves behind his son, Reece Vukonich; former-wife, Elaine

Vukonvich; adopted family, Dale and Jamie McElroy, Jay and Tammy Miller, Ken and Janie Shrader, and Kris and Kirby Reinhardt.

A Memorial Service is being held on August 4, 2014, 1:00pm at King Ludwigs in Leavenworth.

Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, Cashmere.

Tribute Wall

KM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Vukonich's passing. I was a close friend of his son, Reece. I hope you all will remember John's family left behind, especially his wife and his son Reece. I will continue to pray that Jesus heals the wounds that I'm sure his passing has left behind. I pray they find strength and peace...but most of all beauty and Joy to go on....

Katrina Manning

Katrina Manning - February 12, 2015 at 05:08 PM

DV

“ My best wishes to the whole family of Johnnys. The years that I have known him working the International Accordion Festival has been a pleasure. Always volunteering and helping out where he could. Loved his playing and Workshops he conducted. He surely will be missed and will leave a void. See you at the Memorial.

Dick

Dick Volin - July 30, 2014 at 04:21 PM

BB

“ Johnny dear, we will miss you. You and I were good friends and I enjoyed our fun times together in Leavenworth. Also, thank you for helping with the accordion festival when NWAS took over. Love,

Bonnie

Bonnie Birch - July 29, 2014 at 03:52 PM

JM

“ A lot of us accordionists have attended the Leavenworth Accordion Festival and played until our fingers dropped off. One of the work shops I attended was done by Johnny, the guy with the huge smile and belt buckle larger than he and playing a beautiful ZUPAN. The strong message he imparted was: "Have fun and let them know you love what you are doing. It will show through your music". Indeed, Johnny let us know he was having fun...playing in his own style with energy and joy. May we all remember Johnny's smile and sense of engagement with his audience and how effective it was. Bless your soul, Johnny, and may you now rest in peace. Thanks for all the music you shared in your life. Joan

Joan Morse - July 29, 2014 at 09:17 AM

WS

“ I have known Johnny since High School. A friend and I were at his house one afternoon, he had a beautiful 1957 Chevy convertible. He asked if we would help him put a 3/4 race cam in it which took 3 young men about 2 hours. When we were finished He asked if we wanted to go to a party with him, we had no idea he played Accordion. When we got to the party out came the Accordion and Johnny played the Accordion like I had never heard before. I played as a Child, but hearing Him play that day planted a seed in me and though I didn't pick up again until about 5 years ago Johnny was instumental in my desire to play. We would go listen to Him in leavenworth any chance we got. Johnny your Music will live on in our Hearts,Minds and Memories.

Wendell

Wendell Sather - July 28, 2014 at 10:17 PM

HF

“ Johnny V. was a great accordion player and a guy you couldn't help but love. His passion for music and entertainment were legendary! Johnny played for us in our restaurant, Andreas Keller, for a good while, and I enjoyed many great conversations with him. I extend my condolences to his family and friends, and though he may be gone from this earth, he will never be forgotten. I believe he is in a good place away from suffering, but my heart goes out to those who love him and who will miss his great smile. Wishing you comfort and blessings.

Heidi Forchemer - July 28, 2014 at 04:04 PM

JV

“ Hey Cuz. Know you wanted to come to spend some time here together in My mountains of northern CA. But I guess it will be on our next visit. Being the oldest of our family (74) I lift a toast to you. We had a wonderful childhood and made good lives. Only wish we had lived closer.

To the family. My Condolences and Please keep in touch
Joe M. Vukonich
P.O.Box 39
Trinity Center, CA 96091-0039
Cel. 703-468-1101

Joseph (jožic) Marko Vukonich - July 28, 2014 at 12:33 PM