



Juan Cantu

July 13, 1946 - February 22, 2017

Juan "Johnny" Cantu

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Johnny was born on July 13, 1946 in Mission, TX. He moved to Florida at the age of 16 to work; in 1966 he was drafted into the Army where he served in Vietnam and was honorably discharged in December of 1967. For his service, Johnny was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Air Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, 1 Overseas Bar, and a Purple Heart.

In November 1968, Johnny met Florence Bass in Apopka, FL. He made a great impression on her, so great in fact, that she introduced him to her daughter Sandra "Sandy" Bass. On June 6th, 1970, Johnny and Sandy married and began their journey together for the next 46 years. They had two sons, Aric (Patty) and Shaun (Jamie), and five grandchildren Zachary, Ashtyn, Nathan, Mason, and Mackenzie .

Johnny attended Mid Florida Tech in 1970 and became a certified welder. In 1978 he returned to Mid Florida Tech where he studied to become a machinist. Johnny held several jobs in the fields he'd studied before joining Walt Disney World as a machinist in central shops in 1981; he was employed

with them for 14 years.

Hunting and fishing were some of Johnny's favorite hobbies. He loved to camp and spend time outdoors enjoying time with family and friends. Some of his most treasured memories were teaching his sons to hunt, fish, swim, and water ski. Despite a hunting accident in 1994 that left him paralyzed, Johnny's outlook on life never changed. He enjoyed watching his grandchildren play sports, perform in plays, play their musical instruments, and he loved to hear the stories his sons told him about their jobs and their hunting and fishing trips. Johnny also loved spending time with Sandy. They spent their mornings having coffee and reminiscing about things they did or something funny the kids he loved did as small children. They also enjoyed going to dinner or just watching television together.

Johnny is survived by the love of his life, Sandy, his sons, daughters in law, grandchildren, brothers Arturo and Oscar, sisters Mary and Minnie, many nieces and nephews, and extended family.

In lieu of flowers, donation may be made in Johnny's name to the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). Their website is floridagulfcoastpva.org and their address is :

15435 N Florida Ave
Tampa, FL 33613
813-264-1111
Celebration of Life Luncheon

Sunday March 19, 2017 1:00-3:00 PM

Honor Guard Service at 1:30PM

Cantu Residence
650 Baxter Rd
Kissimmee 34747

Tribute Wall

TC

“ *Teresa Crosby lit a candle in memory of Juan Cantu*



Teresa Crosby - March 18, 2017 at 03:48 AM

TC

“ I have put off my message on this wall because I simply can not find the adequate words to express my feelings. So I am going to do my best but I know it will fall short of what I feel in my heart.

Johnny was one of my oldest, continuous friendships. He was not simply a friend but was also a brother. I first met him in 1980 at a quota hunt (a controlled hunt on a game preserve) I went on many more that he was a part of and we shared some really good and fun times. Sometimes the antics between us would drive the others crazy but we didn't care, we were having fun.

Through him I met his lovely wife and we forged our own friendship. I can honestly say that there is no one on this earth that I admire more than Sandy. She is the epitome of grace, love and loyalty. I truly believe that there is nothing on this earth that she would not do for someone she cares about and it certainly was no different when Johnny had his accident. When he became a quadriplegic from a tragic hunting accident everyone was quick to say how bad they felt for him. I was no exception but I also said "this did not happen to him" "this happened to them" I knew her life would never be the same as well. Sandy worked tirelessly to give Johnny as normal of a life as she possibly could.

I will never forget when they renewed their vows, Johnny danced with her in his wheel chair. The tears flowed that night but they were tears of joy. To see two people that I dearly loved, that were so completely and totally in love was just magical.

Through out all of this Johnny lived another 22 years after that fateful day. Something that is almost unheard of for a quadriplegic. I know in my heart it was because of the quality of care that Sandy gave him, and the quality of life he had with her, his children and grandchildren. To the very second that Johnny left this world to be with our Creator, he knew he was loved.

I am sorry this is so long winded but I feel that it important for all of

the family to know that I share in their sorrow. So on Sunday as we celebrate the life of a great man I will also be heartbroken to know he will not physically be there with us.

Until the day we meet again my friend, I shall miss you and all the laughs and memories we reminisced about together. Aho! (until we meet again) Native American saying

Teresa Crosby - March 18, 2017 at 03:48 AM

DM

“ *Johnny and Sandy have always been a special part of our life. They shared a great love for each other. You could see it when their eyes meet. Johnny was a jokester so you never knew what words were coming next. My mom and dad looked forward to Johnny and Sandy coming for visits. Dad and Johnny were kindered spirits. He always had an upbeat attitude with a smile. He loved his family and he will be missed. Prayers for Sandy, Aric, Shaun and their families. Love you all*

DeLoris Marsh - March 12, 2017 at 05:23 PM

RW

“ *Johnny, as we called him as kids, was always a loving man. When he was around us, he would make sure that he paid attention to us and made our visits a memorable one. My heart breaks that I can not be there for Sandy and the family. God be with you all. Love Randy and Connie White*

Randy White - March 12, 2017 at 04:35 PM

SC

“ 5 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Sandy Cantu - March 12, 2017 at 11:52 AM