



## Chris Backs Whitley

June 22, 1955 - November 30, 2022

Chris Backs Whitley, 67, of Petersburg, Illinois, passed away surrounded by family on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, in Springfield, Illinois. He was born June 22, 1955, to Stanley E. and Roberta L. (Backs) Whitley in Springfield. Chris spent the majority of his life traveling and adventuring until he met the love of his life, Sherry Ishmael in Petersburg, Illinois, where Chris and Sherry spent the last 38 years of their life together.

During Chris's younger life, Chris proudly served our grateful nation by joining the U.S. Navy, where he was able to travel the globe and help people while doing so. During this time, Chris was stationed on the U.S.S. Midway and served during Operation Frequent Wind which was the evacuation of American and Vietnamese civilians from Saigon and South Vietnam in 1975. After his military service, he lived an exciting life in the Rock and Roll industry. During this time, Chris worked with Jam Productions for bands such as REO Speedwagon and Cheap Trick. This gave Chris the ability to enjoy his art form of choice, while traveling the country with fun and excitement; bringing life everywhere he went. Once Chris met Sherry, he settled down to become a very skilled carpenter. Chris led an extremely full life with bravery and excitement, never shying away from adventure.

Chris is survived by his wife, Sherry Kay Whitley; his daughter, Savannah Lee Whitley of Champaign, Illinois; his sister, Karla Johnston (husband Timothy) of

Murray, Kentucky; sister-in-law, Holly Moore; brother-in-law, Rick Ishmael (wife Lisa); his nieces and nephews: Tonya Beard (husband Mike), Jessica Raridon (husband Brian), Samuel Johnston, Janene Johnston; and several great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother and father.

Chris's family will host a celebration of life in his name at a later date. Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg is assisting his family with final arrangements and will be performing cremation rites. Please visit [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com) to view Chris's online obituary, share memories and express condolences to his family.

# Tribute Wall

PH

“ Huggs to Sherry and Savannah So sorry, Patty and Mike HEDER

Patty Heder - December 03, 2022 at 05:45 PM

LH

“ Larry Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Chris Whitley



Larry and Mary Hundt - December 03, 2022 at 08:40 AM

RW

“ I new Chris for a long time he will be missed rest in peace my friend.

Ronald G Wesley - December 03, 2022 at 08:29 AM