



R.L. Clifton Jr.

September 24, 1927 - January 13, 2017

Robert Lloyd Clifton, Jr. (R.L.), 89, passed away on Friday, January 13, 2017, at Danville Regional Medical Center. He was born on September 24, 1927 in Altavista. He was raised in Schoolfield, which he always referred to as “God’s Country.” He was the son of late Robert Lloyd (Lloyd) and the late Clara Frazier Clifton. He was married on June 17, 1948 to Mary Jo McLean Clifton who predeceased him on July 14, 2006.

R.L. worked for the City of Danville for 40 years where he retired as meter lab supervisor for the Electric Department. During his tenure, he served as the president of the Mid-South Metermans Association. As a young man, he answered the call of the Greatest Generation by serving as a SeaBee in the US Navy, stationed in the Philippines.

R.L. and Mary Jo loved to travel and especially loved to square dance. They were among the founding members of the Southern Squares dance club and enjoyed many trips across the country with friends. R.L. was a scoutmaster for Troop 389 for many years and was ultimately honored by the Blue Ridge Mountains Council with the prestigious Silver Beaver Award.

An active member of Shelton Memorial Presbyterian, R.L. served his church faithfully in many capacities. He was most recently honored with the distinction of Elder Emeritus in appreciation for his dedicated service.

In addition to his wife and parents, R.L. was predeceased by an infant brother, Ernest Carl Clifton and a sister, Katie Clifton Layne. He is survived by his sons, Robert Lloyd Clifton, III and his wife, Kim, of Danville and Roger Joel Clifton and his wife, Karen, of South Chesterfield.

The family would like to express its appreciation to the memory care staff at Bright Leaf. A special thank you, also, to Vickie Fuquay for faithfully bringing her Hearts of Gold Therapy Dogs to regularly visit R.L.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at Shelton Memorial Presbyterian Church officiated by Reverend Paul G. Johnson. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service in the church parlor. Interment will follow at Highland Burial Park with military honors conducted by the United States Navy.

In lieu of flowers, the family request contributions in memory of R.L. to the charity of your choice, the Alzheimer's Association of Virginia- Danville office, 308 Craghead St., Suite 104, Danville, VA, 24541, or Hearts of Gold Therapy Dogs, 3897 Payneton Road, Chatham, VA 24531.

Wrenn-Yeatts North Main Chapel is respectfully serving the Clifton family.

Cemetery Details

Highland Burial Park

3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 15. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Shelton Memorial Presbyterian Church
738 North Main St
Danville, VA 24540

Funeral Service

JAN 15. 3:00 PM (ET)

Shelton Memorial Presbyterian Church
738 North Main St
Danville, VA 24540

Tribute Wall

D(

“ Thinking of R.L. always brings a smile to my face. I used to always call him Charleston Heston when I was a little. To me, he was the most handsome man I had ever seen!

I have two wooden Christmas ornaments R.L. made. One is a red stocking and the other a blue bell. Each has a special place on my tree each year just like the special place he occupies in my heart.

Dana Harrington Tyler (Horton)

Dana Tyler (Horton) - January 21, 2017 at 06:55 PM

AH

“ Robert and Roger - My deepest condolences on the passing of your dad. The Clifton family was a fixture in the wonderful years spent at Shelton Memorial. RL and Mary Jo were such a special couple, and mother and dad thought the world of them both. When I'm able to go back to Shelton, I can still feel the presence of so many of the special families who helped form the nucleus of Shelton. I can clearly picture where RL and Mary Jo sat on the left side of the sanctuary, about 2/3 of the way back. Their spirit is still there! RL's smile was always there waiting for you!

I would like to express my thanks to RL for his military service in the Navy!

My best to both of you and your families!

*Andy Horton
Richmond, VA*

Andy Horton - January 19, 2017 at 07:04 PM

CY

“ Dear Robert and Roger,
Words cannot express the sadness I felt when I learned of R.L.'s passing. I always looked forward to going to Shelton Memorial, where he always had a big smile and a hug for all of us. Most of all I loved that ever present twinkle in his eye! My father counted him as a treasured friend and he was there for my parents throughout their lives. He was a man of integrity, kindness and generosity which he shared freely. That mixed with a healthy dose of humor made him loved by young and old alike! Dad laughed till he cried every time he told the story of a particular Covered Supper in the fellowship hall at church. It seems they were playing some game that required getting to a small table first in order to win. R.L. And dad were competing against each other. They raced to the table and both hit it hard at the same time. It smashed into smithereens and they landed flat on the floor, laughing !hysterically. Apparently, Mrs. Pilkenton was not amused, which made them laugh all the harder! Hope the memories you have will bring a smile to your face and warm your heart throughout your lives.
Carol Horton Younkin

Carol Younkin - January 17, 2017 at 03:46 PM

MB

“ Dear Robert, Roger and family, I am so sad to hear of your Dad's passing. He was such a special person and I still think of him so often. As we were growing up at Shelton Memorial Presbyterian Church your Dad and Mom were like parents to all of us kids. They loved us and taught us by their example how to be good and responsible people. I will miss the hugs your Dad always gave when I walked into the church. That became his trademark! My Dad thought the world of him and now I like to think that old friends are reunited to continue their conversations and joking around which they so loved to do.
Martha Brumfield

Martha Brumfield - January 16, 2017 at 11:17 AM

BB

“ Sorry to hear of Mr. Clifton's passing. Mr Clifton, (I never could call him R.L.) was my Scoutmaster in troop 389 back in the 1970's. I loved hearing his stories about his service in the Seabees in WWII. He served as a great role model as a young man growing up. My condolences to Robert and Roger.

Brett Bondurant - January 15, 2017 at 12:02 PM

MD

“ When I was 11 years old, I was not involved in many extracurricular activities at school, and I remember some Boy Scouts coming to my middle school to promote scouting. It perked my interest, and I brought it up to my parents. Not too long afterwards, I found myself at Shelton Memorial, a little nervous, not knowing what I had just signed up for. I remember well how Mr. Clifton welcomed me and made me feel at home. Although he was not my Scoutmaster for long, he made a strong impression on me. Now that I look back to those days, I appreciate even more how important his leadership and Godly character was in my life. I thank God that our lives crossed paths. I pray God's peace and comfort be with his family and friends.

Michael Dalton
Troop 389 (1981-1986)

Michael Dalton - January 15, 2017 at 11:52 AM

DC

“ *R.L. was an exceptional Scoutmaster in an exceptional troop. He changed lives and gave guidance to many young men.*

God bless you all.

Dave Clark

Dave Clark - January 15, 2017 at 09:34 AM

TH

“ *We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Clifton. We enjoyed talking with him when we visited our mother at Emeritus/Brookdale. May God give you sweet peace as you remember the many wonderful times. Praying for everyone in his family.*



Tim and Janet Hullender - January 15, 2017 at 12:04 AM

DS

“ *Robert, Roger and family We would like to express our sympathy and, as others have stated, to say what an extraordinary gentleman R. L.*

was Anne has known him since their high school years and he visited our home with your mom when I was a small girl. He played football with our older brother when they were on opposing teams. All through the years being in church with him, we enjoyed being greeted each Sunday with his cordial handshake, his infectious smile and his usual hug! He was a wonderful friend through the years and will always be remembered among our best friends!!!!

*Anne Owen and Dale
Saunders*

Dale Saunders - January 14, 2017 at 07:47 PM

JW

“ Robert I am so sad to hear this. I know how hard it is to lose your dad. I will keep you, Kim, and your family in my prayers!

Joy Walker - January 14, 2017 at 12:06 PM

FB

“ Robert and Rodge, I was so sad to read of your Dad's death. He was a very special and wonderful person. His passing will leave a void in a lot of lives - especially all the young men he taught in the Boy Scouts. My son, Brian, loved him and I can't tell you how many times the would say "Mr. Clifton said....." when ever I ask him of the Boy Scout meeting. Working with him at the Meter Lab was such a joy also. He always had a smile on his face and treated everyone with respect. We had a secret between us.....I typed a lot of papers for him with reference to the Boy Scouts and Church stuff while I was working for the City... ON CITY TIME!!!! A big no no to do anything personal on City time and using City material!!!!!! He was always so appreciative but it was a pleasure doing it for him. He was making such a difference in Brian's life - the camp outs especially along with all the other young men. Bob and I visited him in the nursing home but he did not remember us. I will always remember him and the fine Southern Gentleman that he was.



Francine and Bob Bentley

Francine Bentley - January 14, 2017 at 11:27 AM



“ To Robert & Roger, so sorry to hear of "Mr. Clifton's" home going. I still remember the days of playing in the neighborhood and scout nights! What a blessing and life changing times we had as kids but just did not realize it until we grew older. Mr. Clifton was definitely a role model for the neighborhood! Thanks for the memories and I will definitely cherish them! Tony Adkins

Portia-Tony Adkins - January 14, 2017 at 09:20 AM

WB

“ We are very sorry to hear about R L's passing and going home. R L and Mary Jo were two wonderful people and full of life. They traveled with us on several trips with the Gene Scott travel group and were a joy to be with. He will surely be missed just like Mary Jo.

God bless now and the day's ahead.

Wesley & Violet Barker - January 14, 2017 at 09:10 AM

GJ

“ Robert and Roger, So sorry to hear of the passing of your father. He was a great influence on me and my scouting life. I appreciate all he did for young men through Troop 389 throughout the years.

*Gregg Jones
Wilmington, NC*

gregg jones - January 14, 2017 at 08:34 AM

BS

“ I met RL thru his son Robert and wife Kim. RL and Mary Jo were always pleasant and seemed to be having a good time. I remember RL as a kidder and always smiling. RL should be proud of the two sons (legacy) he leaves behind;as they too are kidders and smilers. I know your Dad is in a place of enjoyment, pain free, clear headed and square dancing with Mary Jo. I enjoyed knowing RL and being with him especially at mealtime.
RIP RL.....Barry Sides

Barry Sides - January 13, 2017 at 09:29 PM

CS

“ "Mr Clifton" took over as the Boy Scout leader from "Mr Meadors" at an impressionable age when I was 12. With more patience than Job, he built men who today are leaders. With a quick wit, a strong work ethic, and a passion for doing things the right way his lessons have stayed for the past 50 years. I honor his passing with wonderful memories and my best wishes for his family. Charlie Strange

Charlie Strange - January 13, 2017 at 06:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of R.L. Clifton Jr..



January 13, 2017 at 05:01 PM

JS

“ So sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Jackie and Dale Smith



Jackie Smith - January 13, 2017 at 04:28 PM

BG

Robert and Roger, I am sorry to learn late of the loss of your Dad. I have such fond memories of growing up at Church with the Clifton family. Your Dad always have a firm handshake and a smile that was contagious. In recent years, I would see him at Subway and he still smiled at me. He is now smiling and hugging your Mom.

Brenda Giles Grubbs

Brenda Giles Grubbs - January 16, 2017 at 07:31 AM