



Buddy Lee Cliff

May 14, 1939 - October 8, 2016

Surrounded by all of his children, Buddy Lee Cliff passed away peacefully at Avow Hospice in Naples, FL on October 8, 2016. He was 77. Buddy was born May 14, 1939 in Rock Island, IL to the late Cecil William and Florence (McDougall) Cliff. Although Buddy would likely boast that his greatest achievement was raising five children with his beloved wife of over fifty years, Nancy, Buddy Lee was also recognized as a business pioneer and innovator in Southwest Florida for nearly four decades.

Buddy was a graduate of Rock Island High School and Saint Ambrose Community College. He married the love of his life, Nancy C. Cliff, on December 2, 1961. Following college and his service in the United States Army, Buddy Lee began his career in law-enforcement where he received training as a finger print analyst and served as an officer for the Rock Island, IL Police Department. Buddy would later join the family business as a professional wrestling promoter before relocating his family to Naples, FL in 1978. In the nearly four decades to follow, Buddy Lee Cliff and his growing family would make Southwest Florida their home.

Buddy Lee was a pioneer of light industry in Southwest Florida. An inaugural ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosted by Governor Bob Graham, celebrated the opening of Buddy's corrugated container factory in Bonita Springs, Fl. in the late 1970's. For many years to follow, Buddy Lee sought out and encouraged other light industries and business ventures in Southwest Florida.

Buddy Lee was a founder, charter member, and former president of the Bonita Springs Rotary Club. At the time of his death, Buddy was the longest serving member of this organization and was recently bestowed an Honorary Membership. He was also active in the Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce. Buddy Lee expanded his business ventures by opening The Shipping Station, the first shipping and packaging store in Naples. Buddy Lee and Nancy franchised and operated The Shipping Station throughout Southwest Florida until their retirement.

Buddy and Nancy Cliff were founding members of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church where they were active in all aspects of the ministry. Both Buddy and Nancy loved to dance and were often found impressing crowds on the dance floor. Buddy also stayed active by running, skiing, and even rollerblading - he loved to stay up to date on new fitness trends. An avid airplane and helicopter pilot, Buddy volunteered as a pilot for the Sundowners Patrol Club. Buddy had a great sense of humor and delighted in making people laugh with puns and impressions. Buddy lost his life-long dance partner Nancy to Alzheimer's disease on June 30, 2012. Buddy remained

active in the community by attending meeting and events hosted by the Widow and Widower's Club and the Solo Singles of Collier County. In recent years, Buddy Lee found renewed spirituality and community with First Baptist Church of Naples where he regularly attended the BLG Bible Study Group.

Buddy is survived by his five children, Cary A. (Hope) Cliff, Catherine C. Faerber, Patrick J. Cliff, Constance S. Walters and William D. Cliff all of Naples, FL; one sister, Jeanne Gieger of Florida; and ten loving grandchildren, Morgan, Austin, and Jordan Faerber, Michael and Katherine Post, John Walters, Jacob and Hannah Cliff, Julia Cliff and Lauren Cliff.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother William and his beloved wife Nancy.

Funeral arrangements will be held Friday, October 14th at First Baptist Church of Naples.

Visitation will be held at 9:00 am with funeral service to follow at 10:00 am. A Catholic mass and burial will be held at St John the Evangelist of Naples at 1:00 pm the same day.

Memorial donations in Buddy's name may be directed to the Alzheimer's Support Network, 660 Tamiami Tr. North, Suite 21, Naples, FL 34102.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

St. John the Evangelist Memorial Garden

625 111th Ave. No.
Naples, FL 34108

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

OCT **14**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Naples
3000 Orange Blossom Drive
Naples, FL 34109

Memorial Service

OCT **14**. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Naples
3000 Orange Blossom Drive
Naples, FL 34109

Memorial Mass

OCT **14**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Memorial Garden
625 111th Ave. No.
Naples, FL 34108

Tribute Wall



“ *Buddy Lee Cliff*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Sending along condolences. I'm part of Buddy's Rotary family. I appreciated Buddy's friendship and support. He was a wonderful Rotarian, past President, and friend*



sandra hemstead - October 16, 2016 at 08:32 AM



“ *I would like to extend my condolences to Buddy's family and friends. I grew up with Buddy in the far West End of Rock Island. We were all ornery kids, playing pranks every once in a while. I'm pleasantly surprised to see all the accomplishment he made during his life time. What a great success for a rowdy kid from the West End. His family can be very proud of his legacy and the example he left to his family and friends. From a fellow West Ender, May he rest in peace. Katy Kehoe Young*

Katy Kehoe Young - October 14, 2016 at 01:17 PM



“ *Greg Gorman & David Burke lit a candle in memory of Buddy Lee Cliff*



Greg Gorman & David Burke - October 13, 2016 at 02:13 PM

SP

“ Remembering Buddy (Mr. Cliff insisted we address him by his first name) as a consummate gentleman, always patient and ever-ready to share an amusing or touching anecdote with the staff. He will be missed. The staff at Amerivest Realty corporate office.

Susan Berard Platt - October 13, 2016 at 12:06 PM

FA

“ I have known Buddy since 1985. He and Nancy were a one of a kind couple. Love & Smiles, that is what I will remember of Buddy. We ran together and went on a cruise to Nassau with all our friends from MetLife.
WE WERE ON THE FUND RAISING Committee for St. John The Evangelist Church.
What ever Buddy tried to do it was always his best.

Frank Arsenault

Frank Arsenault - October 12, 2016 at 05:17 PM

GU

“ I remember how cute your Dad was rollerblading with the ski poles in Palm River all the time. I always enjoyed seeing your parents. Love to you all and so sorry for your loss. Geri and Michael Underhill.

Geri Underhill - October 12, 2016 at 01:01 PM

JM

“ So sorry Buddy. I remember when Buddy was a LEO in Rock Island. I was about 10 years old and Buddy took me to see the movie 'Planet Of The Apes'. We got to the Fort Theater and Buddy showed his badge to the ticket clerk and we were escorted in. I was perty impressed with the power of my brother-in-law to get me into the movies for free.

Thanks Buddy for taking care of my sisiter, neices and nephews!

John Marxen - October 12, 2016 at 12:24 PM