



## CMSgt Clarke Herbert Converse

August 16, 1939 - March 4, 2023

CMSgt Clarke H. Converse

On the evening of March 4, 2023 Clarke H. Converse, the loving husband of Christine Converse passed away. He was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, but because of his 31 ½ years in the United States Air Force serving his Country there are many places throughout the world that Clarke called home. He was one of life's characters who loved his family and friends that he also considered to be his family very much; there was nothing Clarke would not do for those he loved. Although he was prickly on the outside, he had a heart of gold, wrapped in a fabulous sense of humor. He will be remembered as a fantastic storyteller.

Clarke dedicated himself not only to his Country but also to his community in his volunteer work. While residing in the UK, in his wife's home town of Spalding, he would monitor the Closed Caption TV system, and while at first the business owners were leery of a Yankee helping them, when he left, the town printed a loving farewell to him on the front page of the local paper. When he moved to Florida he continued volunteering with the Coast Guard, and then became a valued member of the Collier County Volunteer Police Force.

To quote a dear friend, "His Heart was huge and had room for so many of us". A colleague and friend remembered Clarke by saying, "There were few individuals who had such a far reaching impact on our organization... who

were loved so dearly, and by so many... he had the most wonderful sense of humor that I can recall in anyone else ever, with the unique talent to turn the most ridiculous and insane circumstances into matters we could simply laugh about and move forward.”

Clarke is survived along with his wife, three children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandson; one sister and one brother; two nephews and one niece. He is now reunited with his parents, Clarke Williams and Edna May Converse, his brother Marcus “Mark” whom he adored and many service men who he served alongside.

Clarke will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues; his memory will be carried in their hearts and minds forever.

The Converse family wishes to extend a special thank you to the nurses and staff of Joanne’s House at Hope Hospice for the care and dignity they provided.

Memorial Donations may be made in Clarke’s name to Hope Hospice Development Department 9470 HealthPark Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33908

# Tribute Wall



“ *CMSgt Clarke Herbert Converse*

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October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Herbert Bruse lit a candle in memory of  
Clarke Converse*



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**Herbert Walter Bruse** - July 16, 2023 at 12:21 PM

LA

“ I first met Clarke when we moved to Bonita Lakes eight years ago. Like many others in our weekly breakfast group where he often regaled us with colorful stories, I found Clarke to be opinionated, funny, engaging, and somewhat ornery. Clarke was always eager to contribute to the community and over several years, willingly shared his expertise with the community’s HOA and the Collier County Sheriff’s Department. Unbeknownst to his casual acquaintances, underneath all the bravado was a big heart. Clarke once mentioned to me during the holiday season that he had paid for the contents in a shopping cart of a stranger behind him at the local Walmart. “She needed the money more than I did.” For me, that gesture captures the essence of Clarke—tough on the outside, tender on the inside. Rest in peace my friend. We will miss you greatly.



*Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; Love leaves a memory no one can steal. —Irish Poem*

*Leo Au*

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Leo Au - March 22, 2023 at 07:56 PM



“ August 2nd, 1994... I finally got to meet the man I would in subsequent years come to think of as a father more than my own.

Clarke and I had played "phone-tag" from the beginning of July until we met and I came to work for him. I had answered a six-line advert in the job classifieds section of the Daily Press and wasn't entirely forthright about myself when he was attempting to interview me for a communications/IT job. I had no idea what the h\*ll the "JWFC" was and didn't want many to know that my departure from my last Navy chain of command wasn't on the friendliest of terms. But I could spell "VAX" and when Clarke continually reached out to the friend whose sofa I'd been sleeping on, he was never able to tag-up with me. Clarke told me some years afterward that one who was so diligent in trying to be employed was someone he wanted on his team.

I came clean with Clarke when I was hired but, despite corporate risks, he kept me happily busy until I could make recompense with my past (far beyond any corporate requirements he had) and re-establish those things that were necessary for the work he asked me to do. During that time, I became acquainted with an extraordinary personality; one that had been around the block so-to-speak but had found humor in everything around him. Even if one of his techs went "off the reservation", Clarke was quick to correct and quicker to make light of it afterward.

His humor was so special to me and anyone who spent any time with him. Yes, he could be a hard-a\*\* Air Force Chief Master Sergeant when he wanted to be but his preference was elsewhere. I cannot describe his unique sense of humor in any other way than to say that the late Don Rickles and the late Arty Johnson would've been his disciples.

I won't describe here one trip to Pattaya, Thailand, and many INCONUS trips I took with him but will say that he was always looking out for his troops.

*One of the best things that Clarke ever did for me (though neither he nor I were aware of it at the time) was to hire one Christine Smith in mid-'97 to be a PC tech for the JWFC contract. I was just sittin' there, mindin' my own d\*mned bidness and he parked her at the desk next to mine. Both of them collaborated against me on many occasions...*

*Clarke, in instigating and encouraging good work, good humor, and grace from and for a bit of young and overly-confident buckaroo, and my own late Christine (Clarke's hire in '97) in sustaining such work have both, notwithstanding their own departures from this world, brought me to this pleasantly reflective, and more than a little humorous place where I call my life these days.*

*Chief, I've missed you since you hung up your Joint Staff spurs and I miss you more now... I hope one day you can step over my carcass at the Pearly Gates and I'll wake up and say it's Bob Stanley's or John Shafer's fault...*

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**Jim Swords** - March 14, 2023 at 07:11 PM

 Dennis Vaughn

“ *Dennis Vaughn lit a candle in memory of Clarke Converse*



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**Dennis Vaughn** - March 14, 2023 at 12:18 PM

**HB**

*Clarke Converse was a good man whose actions always stemmed from good will. I learned much from him, not just technical info but life lessons as well. You will be missed. I will always remember our side trip to Carlsbad Caverns during one of our many TDY trips. Rest in Peace my friend.*

*.....Herb Bruse Jul 16, 2023*

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**Herbert Walter Bruse** - July 16, 2023 at 12:20 PM

KD

*Such a wonderful human being who lit up any room at anytime. God speed my good friend.*

*Karen Dixon* ❤️❤️❤️

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**Karen Dixon** - October 24, 2023 at 06:55 PM

KD

*An honor to have worked with such a wonderful human being. God speed my friend.*

*Karen Dixon*

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**KD** - October 25, 2023 at 02:44 AM