



## Clifford "Cliff" Christian

April 16, 1937 - July 1, 2022

Clifford C "Cliff" Christian 85, of Centralia, passed away Friday, July 1, 2022 at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born in Wewoka, Oklahoma on April 16, 1937, the son of Clifton "Clif" Christian and Lourena (Sewell) Christian.

Cliff married Judy J VanZandt on April 2, 1958 at the First United Methodist Church in Centralia. They celebrated 59 years of marriage prior to her death on June 16, 2017. He later married Doralie (Dee Dee) Berger Atteberry on July 7, 2018 at Greenview Christian Church and she survives in Centralia.

In addition to his wife, Cliff is survived by daughter Cheri Niermann (husband Kam) of Centralia; sons: Randy Christian of Houston, TX and Ricky Christian (wife Lori) of Houston, TX; grandchildren: Scott Niermann (wife Laura) of Lenoir City, TN, Tim Niermann (wife Lauren) of Centralia, Tyler Niermann (wife Chelsie) of Maryville, IL, Matthew Niermann (wife Sarah) of High Ridge, MO, J.T. "Trey" Niermann of Centralia, Sam "Treven" Niermann of Centralia, and Caleb Christian of Houston, TX; and great-grandchildren: Emma Niermann, Amelia Niermann, Joshua Niermann, Olivia Niermann, Isaac Niermann, Hannah Niermann, Emmett Niermann, Easton Niermann, and a baby boy Niermann due October 2022.

Step-daughters: Leigh Ann McDaniel (husband Chris) of Sweetwater, TN and Susan Crenshaw of St. Louis, MO, step-grandchildren Shain Kell of Minier, IL, Sheena Wimberly (Kelly Johnson) of Centralia, Andy McDaniel (wife Amanda) of Irvington, and Joshua McDaniel of Irvington; and step-great grandchildren,

Autumn Wimberly, Xzavier Kell, Aimee Wimberly, Noah Kell, Leandra McDaniel, Declynn McDaniel, and Caden McDaniel.

Also left to mourn Cliff's passing are bonus son: Randy Mustread (Jill) of Centralia; special friends David (wife Jackie) Sessions of Alabama and Jimmy (wife Susan) Tackett of Mississippi; bonus grandchildren: Haylee and Hydee Mustread both of Centralia, sister: Luwanda Chappell of New Baden, IL, brother-in-law: Larry VanZandt of Centralia; nephew: Kevin VanZandt and wife Tina of Centralia.

Cliff was preceded in death by wife Judy Christian, his parents, great-granddaughter, Grace Ann Niermann, sister-in-law Gerry VanZandt, and nephew: Kirby VanZandt.

He grew up in Patoka, IL and graduated from Patoka High School. He graduated from Southern Illinois University of Carbondale with his Master's Degree.

Cliff worked at Centralia High School from 1962 - 1994 and he also worked part time as a welding instructor until 2002. During his tenure at CHS he served as the Dean of Students, Industrial Vocational Department Head, and Vocational Director. He managed the family's construction and rental businesses.

A man of deeply-rooted faith, Cliff's attended the First United Methodist Church, Calumet Christian Church and most recently Greenview Christian Church in Centralia.

He enjoyed RV camping and fishing, served as a Camp Host in Grenada, MS for several years. Through the years his extended family grew to include his fishing buddies. Cliff also enjoyed attending his grandchildren's sporting events and watching sports on TV. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family, his fur babies, and his many, many friends.

Celebration of Life Services for Cliff Christian will be held Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 11:00 AM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia with Pastor Jimmy Tackett and Pastor Wesley Miller officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Centralia. Visitation will be held Wednesday, July 6,

2022 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the funeral home and also will be held Thursday morning from 10:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Jireh India Mission (Joseph and Leyna George), ACMI Missions (Jim and Andra Howe), and Centralia High School Alumni Association c/o Vocational Department and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Christian Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home Facebook Page.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services  
235 N Sycamore St  
Centralia, IL 62801  
(618) 532-3523  
headsutherland@aol.com  
<https://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

JUL 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services  
235 N Sycamore St  
Centralia, IL 62801  
(618) 532-3523  
headsutherland@aol.com  
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## Celebration of Life

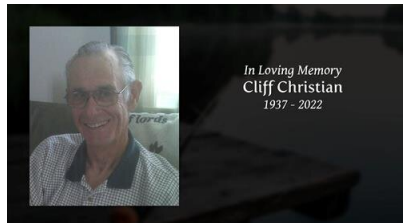
JUL 7. 11:00 AM.

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Clifford "Cliff" Christian*



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**Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services** - July 06, 2022 at 12:57 PM

KB

“ *Once upon a time, not so long ago, High Schools actually hosted their own Junior & Senior Proms. Gymnasiums were transformed into a whimsical night of fun and Joy. Your father, grandfather, GREAT grandfather was the master of design. With patience and precision, Mr. Christian taught many a student the art of weaving crepe paper together to form a faux ceiling to conceal the rafters of the gym. Pure magic. Or so it felt when we returned on Prom night to enjoy our coming of age experience. Mr. Christian made us proud to be called Centralia 'Orphan's. Fondly, Class of '73 - Karen (Burge) Chianakas*

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**Karen Burge** - July 07, 2022 at 05:01 PM

ML

“ *MaryAnn Long(Monken) lit a candle in memory of Clifford "Cliff" Christian*



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**MaryAnn Long(Monken)** - July 07, 2022 at 11:07 AM

RS

“ Many thoughts, prayers & sympathy go out to Cliff’s families. I remembered him as an upper class member at Patoka High School. So sorry for his loss.

Ruth Ann Summers - July 04, 2022 at 12:12 PM

TH

“ Cliff was a phenomenal teacher and mentor. I was a student of his for two and a half years in drafting class. It was a privilege to have known him.  
Terry Hasenfuss

Terry Hasenfuss - July 04, 2022 at 08:43 AM

GS

“ Sorry for your loss Dee Dee and family. Cliff and I shared many fishing stories and talked about carpentry work. He will always be remembered as a great friend and mentor.

Gary Sprehe - July 04, 2022 at 08:03 AM

JH

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

Janet Finley Huffman - July 04, 2022 at 03:35 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Clifford "Cliff" Christian.



July 03, 2022 at 02:49 PM

MH

“ So sorry for your loss DeeDee .



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**Mona Hart** - July 03, 2022 at 01:55 PM

LD

“ DeeDee & family, Sorry to hear of your loss.

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**Lou Donoho** - July 03, 2022 at 01:35 PM

MB

“ Love and prayers to all. Such a wonderful family.

*Marsha Collins Bundy*

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**Marsha Collins Bundy** - July 03, 2022 at 12:11 PM

DW

“ Sending condolences & prayers to the family.  
Thinking of you all in thoughts & prayers. 💕



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**Donna & Allen Wooters** - July 02, 2022 at 11:46 PM