



Dickey Ray Clifford

December 11, 1940 - November 28, 2024

Dickey Ray Clifford, age 83, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 28, 2024, surrounded by his wife, daughter and grandson Cliff, at his residence in Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Dickey Ray was born on Wednesday, December 11, 1940, in Huntsville, Alabama to the late Clyde Clifford and Annie Rogers Clifford. He was a dedicated and loving husband to his wife of 63 years, Carolyn Clifford. The Smith family graciously accepted him as one of their own.

He loved his church family at Ford City Baptist Church. In his free time, Dickey Ray enjoyed playing Rook, exercising, jogging, teaching kids to dive, and demonstrating his famous back flip off the diving board.

Dickey Ray was preceded in death by both parents and grandparents.

He is survived by his wife Carolyn Maxine Clifford, one son, Richard (Lisa Joy) Clifford, one daughter, Lisa (Kenny) Myhan, one brother, Danny (Debra) Clifford, two sisters, Trudy (Steve the Mate) Cartledge and Debbie Garcia, five grandchildren: Cliff, Luke, Cody, Zach, Brock, as well as four great grandchildren: Brantley, Braelynn, Wesley, Keely Mae.

A Visitation will be held at Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home on Thursday,

December 5, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. A Chapel Service will be held at Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 11:00 AM. In honor of his military service, Mr. Clifford will have Full Honors presented to him at the graveside in Gatlin Cemetery in Ardmore, Alabama. Bro. JD Harris will be officiating the service.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to [Fanconi.org](https://www.fanconi.org). in honor of Dickey Ray's grandson, Cliff. Fanconi Anemia, the rare disease Cliff has this donation will help with research.

Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home will be assisting the family with services.

Cemetery Details

Gatlin Cemetery

Stateline Road
Ardmore, AL 35739

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home
27186 E. Main St.
Ardmore, AL 35739
(256) 423-4100
<https://www.ardmorechapel.com/>

Chapel Service

DEC 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home
27186 E. Main St.
Ardmore, AL 35739
(256) 423-4100
<https://www.ardmorechapel.com/>

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Our family was often stationed with Rich and Lisa Clifford and we were fortunate to share many good times with the extended Clifford family. Dickey Ray and Caroline always made me feel comfortable and welcomed in their home. They didn't bat an eye when I traveled from CA to their home and stayed with 3 young, often screaming kids. Dickey Ray had them in the bottom of the deep end of the pool doing all kinds of neat diving things. I always appreciated his humor and kindness. They made a KY girl feel like she was home . I'm glad our children got to know him. He was a cool military hero to them and looked like he had just walked off a Marlboro commercial set. Our kids have heard many a story about Papa Ray from the Clifford boys . We know he will be greatly missed . Sending love from all the Branch family

Maria Branch - December 04, 2024 at 07:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dickey Ray Clifford.



December 04, 2024 at 11:16 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dickey Ray Clifford.

December 04, 2024 at 11:16 AM

JP

“ Dickey Ray’s son, Richard, is a childhood and lifelong friend of mine. Growing up, I spent a great amount of time at the Cliffords. They were a second family to me and Dickey Ray was a father figure to me. I have fond memories of Dickey Ray playing basketball with me and Richard and teaching us boxing by showing us how to work the heavy bag. His greatest influence on me was his military experience. He served in the Navy and served in the Army reserves as a paratrooper. I listened in awe as he would tell stories of going to Airborne school and jumping out of airplanes. I was impressed that I knew someone who did these things. Because of his influence, I would join the Army and go to Airborne school and serve as a paratrooper, later I made a career out of the Army and retired. Dickey Ray had a direct, positive influence on my life. So Dickey Ray, Airborne! and All the Way!
CH (MAJ) James Pennington (USA, Retired)

James Pennington - December 01, 2024 at 10:35 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dakota Clifford - November 30, 2024 at 11:32 AM

ES

I was in the Army Reserve with Dickie . He loved jumping out of airplanes and helicopters. He was a good man and friend. My deepest sympathies to his family. He will be missed. Ellis Swinea

Ellis L Swinea - December 03, 2024 at 08:41 AM

JB

“ I have several:

1. The first time going for a run with him as young boy. I was falling behind him, dad, and Ben. I called out for help and he came back to me. He encouraged me and showed me how to control my breathing so I could keep going. After that day, I often ran with him when we went to visit.

2. He never told us “no” when we asked to get the diving equipment out. We loved going to their house to swim and most times we wanted to use the respirator and dive too. Looking back, that must have been a hassle to get all that equipment out but he always did it. Of course, most times he set up the vacuum so we could clean while we were down there too!

3. He had a distinct, gravelly voice. He was one of the voices of leadership that would pray before the meals at Smith family get togethers. He was a hero to the nieces and nephews. The tattoos on his body and memorabilia in his house pointed to his career of service in The Navy.

4. He and Carolyn created two exceptional children. Richard became a Navy Seal (and later instructor). Lisa became an award winning teacher that is still committed to serving even after her retirement.

Josh Beddingfield - November 30, 2024 at 10:55 AM

CG

“ Cheryl Ables Geske lit a candle in memory of Dickey Ray Clifford



Cheryl Ables Geske - November 30, 2024 at 10:24 AM