



Bill C. Clifton

MAY 16, 2013



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Bill C. Clifton

MAY 16, 2013

Bill Clifton, age, 79, died at his home of heart failure on May 15, 2013. A prominent attorney in Memphis who was often in the newspaper and on television, he specialized in complicated criminal tax defense and had many celebrated cases over his career. His most famous case was defending Jerry Lee Lewis, the entertainer, for whom he achieved an acquittal in the 1980's. Bill was a graduate of Central High School in 1953. He married his high school sweetheart, Margie Sheffield, and joined the Army where he was selected for special training and served with the National Security Agency stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. Using the GI Bill, he returned home to graduate from Memphis State University and Southern Law School, attending law school at night while he worked during the day to support his family. He was briefly an attorney for the IRS and then became a partner in the Memphis law firm of Burch, Porter and Johnson. The celebrated lawyer Lucius Burch took a special interest in Bill and was his valued mentor. Subsequently he opened his own law firm which was highly successful until his retirement in the late 90's. He spent the last ten years of his life traveling the world with his wife, Karen McCarthy, sailing up the Amazon and down the Danube, visiting such diverse corners of the world as Peru, Russia and Tahiti. A feature in the Travel Section of the Commercial Appeal recounted his and Karen's adventures living in San Miguel, Mexico for a year in 2005. He is survived by his four children Amy Anderson, Charles Clifton, David Clifton and Joseph Clifton and eight grandchildren. Bill was known for his humor, wit and charm and will be missed by his family and the larger family of the Friends of Bill W. The family will hold a private memorial service by the ocean



Tribute Wall

Bill C. Clifton

PM

Pam Mcwilliams posted:

Bill was one of the first lawyers I worked for when I got out of high school. He was at Burch, Porter & Johnson. I remember him fondly. He was a very smart man. RIP. My condolences to all his family.

July 19 at 8:36 AM

LC

Lauryn Clifton posted:

Bill was my grandfather. He had a witty and charming sense of humor that never failed to make those he loved smile. He was a well rounded person who enjoyed traveling, reading, writing, and puzzles. He was a very smart man. Bill, better known as "Papa", lived a very colorful life and was a true joy to those around him. My best memory of my Papa is how on some weekends, he would take me to plays and theatre productions at the Orpheum. My favorite was the Nutcracker Ballet. He stood in line with me for a long time just so I could meet the Sugarplum Fairy- talk about patience! Bill Clifton is dearly loved and missed, and he will never be forgotten. Rest in peace, Papa. I love you.

May 21 at 11:14 AM

BP

Brenda Pannell posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

May 20 at 6:16 AM

DC

Debby Cameron posted:

Sweet dreams, BCC. Give my love to Pug.Debby

May 18 at 3:28 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Bill by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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