



Clifford Eugene Bonnell

June 16, 1937 - August 3, 2022

Clifford Eugene Bonnell, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away at the age of 85 on Wednesday, August 3, 2022. He passed away with family at his side in his residence in North Judson, Indiana.

Cliff was born in Indian Creek Township, Pulaski County, Indiana, on June 16, 1937. He grew up walking Indian Creek with his cousin Gerald and acquired his lifelong love of fishing. Cliff was the oldest of six children of Emeron and Annabelle (Doen) Bonnell. He graduated from Pulaski High School and went on to Indiana State Teachers College, where he earned a teaching degree and met his future wife, Wanda Kirkpatrick. Cliff and Wanda were married July 19, 1959, at the Pulaski Presbyterian Church. Wanda said it was pouring rain that day, but at the time they said their vows the sun came out and shone on them through the stained-glass window like a spotlight! They enjoyed 63 years of a wonderful partnership of marriage.

Cliff and Wanda moved to North Judson, Indiana, when Cliff got his first teaching job with the North Judson-San Pierre school system. He taught at the elementary school in North Judson for 35 years, retiring in 1994. His students recalled that Cliff instilled in them the ability to recognize their self-worth, self-respect, and the ability to think for themselves. Cliff loved teaching and all of his students. His co-teachers recall his creativity, even making a Halloween costume out of newspaper and decorating his door to resemble a

fireplace.

Cliff became a father with the birth of Michael Shane Bonnell on July 23, 1960. Donna Jean followed on April 9, 1962, and Carla Jane on June 26, 1964. Cliff and Wanda purchased the farm that became Bonnell's Blueberries in 1974 that is still operated by his family today. It was during this time that Cliff's creative building talents really shone. He built many time-and labor-saving devices to improve production and efficiency, including a packing table to fill pints with blueberries, wheeled carts designed to stack berry boxes, and irrigation equipment. His children state that Cliff could build anything!

Cliff was a member of North Judson United Methodist Church where he taught Sunday School and led the Youth Group along with Wanda. He was an avid bowler and a member of a bowling league. Cliff loved playing euchre with friends and family.

Cliff was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Paul, and sisters Faith and Mary Jane. Cliff leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife, Wanda, and children Michael (Tracy) Bonnell, Donna (Rowdy) McKee, and Carla (Greg) Godby. Cliff was a loving grandfather to Brittney (Matt) Murphy, Kelsie (Brantley) Purcell, Hannah Godby, and Jade Irish. Five great-grandchildren complete Cliff's legacy. His memory is also cherished by his sisters, Peggy (Dale) Shidler and Cathy (Kevin) Farmer.

In honor of Cliff's love of reading, memorial donations may be directed to the North Judson Wayne Township Public Library.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, August 7, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Central Time, at O'Donnell Funeral Home in North Judson, Indiana. Gathering for the graveside service will be Monday, August 8, at Family & Friends Funeral Home in Wingate, Indiana, at 10:30 a.m. Central Time (11:30 a.m. Eastern

Time) with procession to Meharry Cemetery to follow.

Cemetery Details

Meharry Cemetery

Wingate, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

O'Donnell Funeral Home, Inc.
302 Lane Street
North Judson, IN 46366
(574) 896-2149

Graveside Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Meharry Cemetery
20420 IN-25
New Richmond, IN 47967

Tribute Wall

RF

“ I was in the hospital and therefore I did not know that this great man had passed. He was my teacher and he was my bus driver of bus number seven. As far as I'm concerned he was awesome and I thank him for everything he taught me may he rest in peace.

Rebecca Ford - August 18, 2022 at 11:35 AM

SH

“ Cliff, what a great friend that we made while teaching and coaching at NJSP many years ago. We have many fond memories of Cliff. He was one of a kind. RIP

Stewart Hammel - August 08, 2022 at 02:10 PM

TB

“ I have many great memories! I was fortunate to have him as my 5th grade teacher. He use to always smile while giving me a hard time about my not so perfect handwriting. To this day after I write something, I think...yeah, Mr. Bonnell wouldn't think I've gotten a bit better.
I loved him as a teacher and a friend. God bless!

tammy Burns - August 08, 2022 at 02:07 PM

TB

This is Tammy Hammel Burns

Tammy Hammel Burns - August 08, 2022 at 02:15 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clifford Eugene Bonnell.*



August 08, 2022 at 07:25 AM



“ *The last visit I had with Cliff was at the Blueberry Patch Office where we visited about old memories. 🙏. RIP*

Barbara Hucker - August 07, 2022 at 02:21 PM



“ *Cliff was the only person in my life that called me Susan and it was ok. I wish I was there to give you all hugs, but I am sending them through the comforter. Many many lifelong memories of our two families together. We love you*

suzanne kinsell - August 07, 2022 at 08:51 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clifford Eugene Bonnell.*



August 06, 2022 at 11:48 PM



“ *Mr. Bonnell was my sixth grade teacher in his first year of teaching. Even with his inexperience, he was one of the best teachers I ever had.*

Decades later, when visiting my parents, I'd accompany my Dad to Fingerhut's for the morning coffee gang and sometimes Mr. Bonnell would be there too. Not during blueberry season, of course. Even as the entire table was calling him "Cliff", I still found it difficult to not address him as "Mr. Bonnell".

R.I.P., Mr. Bonnell, and I still think you should wash the glasses first.

Wayne Freeman - August 06, 2022 at 03:48 PM



“ *Garden Accent - "Perhaps the stars..." was purchased for the family of Clifford Eugene Bonnell.*



August 06, 2022 at 02:08 PM



“ I had Mr. Burnell as a fifth grade teacher at Liberty Elementary School in North Judson, Indiana. I remember a lot of things from that year, such as going on a field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Mr. Bonnell allowing me and my friends to have a “mailing system” between our desks so we could “quietly” send notes to each other (LOL), as well as him helping me with my struggles in math.

Later in life, I not only became a teacher myself but I married a girl that grew up next-door to Mr. Bonnell, Lori Cherry, that worked for the Bonnell’s on their blueberry farm. We still visit there every year and make the trip from Indianapolis just so we can visit and have the most delicious blueberries ever grown.

The Bonnell’s are such a genuine and loving family. Our hearts, love, and thoughts are with them all.

Thank you for everything you’ve given to everyone over the years Mr. Bonnell.

❤️ You will be missed. ❤️

Thomas Wright - August 06, 2022 at 10:16 AM



“ I have always had alot of respect for Mr. Bonnell. He was my teacher many years ago. He will be missed. Thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Vicki Sturgell - August 06, 2022 at 10:00 AM



“ I remember him as my first basketball coach, and a gentleman. RIP Cliff.

Rolly Nielsen - August 06, 2022 at 09:46 AM

VD

“ I have known Cliff my entire life and he was like a second father to me while I grew up. So many great memories. Cliff will be greatly missed.

Vicky Eichelberger Dean - August 06, 2022 at 09:43 AM

RK

“ Coach Bonnell. My 6th grade basketball coach. Very fond memories. Rest In Peace, Coach.
Rusty E. Kerns.

Rusty E. Kerns - August 06, 2022 at 09:27 AM

JB

“ Mr. Bonnell was my 5th grade teacher. I remember him well and the lessons that he taught me. I loved his classroom and have fond memories of my fellow classmates. He was an excellent teacher.

John Berg - August 06, 2022 at 04:53 AM

RT

“ My 6th grade teacher and then when I was a Senior I was a Cadet teacher for his class. He instilled a sense of worth that I never forgot. My prayers to his family.

Roy Tolson - August 06, 2022 at 12:08 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clifford Eugene Bonnell.



August 05, 2022 at 04:25 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Clifford Eugene Bonnell.*



August 05, 2022 at 11:34 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clifford Eugene Bonnell.*



August 05, 2022 at 10:46 AM