



Charles Edwin Chuck" Clift

September 8, 1926 - March 30, 2006

Charles E. Clift, 79, of Millbrook, Alabama died at his home on Thursday, March 30, 2006 after a hard fought battle with cancer.

Charles was born September 8, 1926 in Syracuse, New York, the son of Ward L. and Bess E. (Fish) Clift. He was the first Director of the Burnet Park Zoo in Syracuse, New York and the creator and co-owner of Fantastic Animal Land, Tully, New York. He went on to be Assistant Director for the Pittsburgh Zoological Society, Pittsburgh Zoo, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Zoological Director of Warner Bros Jungle Habitat Park System, West Milford, New Jersey, Director of the Santa Ana Zoo, Santa Ana, California and Director of the Montgomery Zoo, Montgomery, Alabama, retiring in 1991. He was on the Board of Directors for the International Society of Zooculturists and was a Professional Fellow of AAZPA.

A Navy veteran of WWII, Mr. Clift graduated in 1947 from Morrisville Agricultural and Technical Institute in Morrisville, New York. He was a 53 year member and Past Master of Konosioni Lodge #950 F&AM in Syracuse, a member of Camillus Chapter #438, Order of the Eastern Star, Camillus, New York, a member of First United Methodist Church, Prattville, Alabama, a member of the Advisory Board for Rainbow Girls, a Father Advisor for DeMolay, and past President of the Prattville Chapter of the Alabama Council for the Blind. Until his death, he was an active member of the North American

Trap Collector's Association, contributing many articles to their newsmagazine and was inducted into their Hall of Fame for his significant contributions to the hobby of trap collecting.

Mr. Clift is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ruth S. Clift and his daughter, Susan C. Heidtmann of Newport, Kentucky. He was preceded in death by his son, Charles E. Clift Jr., his parents, Ward L. and Bess E. Clift and siblings Ward Richard Clift and Kay Heidenreich.

Other survivors include his granddaughters, Melissa Heldtmann of Cincinnati, Ohio, Sara (Spencer) Coers of Avon, Indiana, Jennifer (John) Paganelli of Liverpool, New York; his grandsons, Matthew (Katie) Clift of Syracuse, New York and Mark Clift of Nederland, Colorado, his great-grandsons, Nicholas and Andrew Paganelli of Syracuse, New York; his brothers-in-law, Milton (Lois) Smith of Columbus, Indiana and David Heidenreich of Colton, New York; several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Monday, April 3, 2006, 4 to 7 p.m. at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, 4612 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, New York.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, April 4, 2006, 11 a.m. at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, 4612 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, New York.

Burial will follow at Onondaga Valley Cemetery, 2500 Valley Drive, Syracuse, New York.

Pallbearers will be Sherman Olin, Matthew Clift, Mark Clift, John Paganelli, Spencer Coers and David Heidenreich. These men were very special people to Mr. Clift. He was loved and admired by many and will be missed by all.

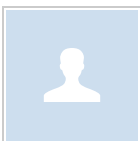
Tribute Wall



“ *Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles Edwin Chuck" Cliff*

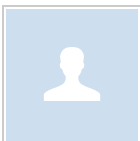


Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - March 30, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *"When someone you LOVE Becomes a memory,the MEMORY becomes a TREASURE."I will miss Chuck and will treasure his memory.Love, ar*

April 03, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was so sorry to read of Chuck's illness and death. The family may not remember me - it has been maybe 50 years now. Chuck, Ruth and kids used to visit our family - the Greenwoods- along with the Kelly's. All were good people, and I have fond memories of playing with the kids. Chuckie, Susie and I used to have apple fights in our apple orchard. Boy - Chuckie could really throw a wild apple. I remember my Dad, Claude, and Chuck talking about varieties of poultry while my mom, Kate, and Ruth, visited in the kitchen. Such simple times and the best of memories. I'll never forget the beautiful aquariums at their house in Syracuse. Take care - and I will never forget the good times.....Dawn*

April 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Chuck, I will miss all the good times we had together. Love you very much, Stan.

April 02, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ruth my heartfelt thoughts are with you. I remember Chuck as a young girl and watching him with his animals in back of the milk house with Kay. So many years have passed by. My best to you Marilyn

April 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ We send love and sympathy to the entire family during your time of grief.

April 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Chuck, you are at your peace now. I will be with Konosioni Lodge #950 F&AM for your Visitation. I know that we will meet in haven. Sailor Rest Your Oar...

April 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM