



## Clifton Simpson Coffman Jr.

October 10, 1914 - January 15, 2010

On Friday, January 15, Myra Wanda Coffman will say goodbye to her husband and lifetime companion, Clifton Simpson Coffman, Jr., 95, who died peacefully in their home on Monday, January 11, 2010. A celebration of Clifton's life begins at 10:00 a.m. Friday at first Baptist Church of Huntsville, officiated by Reverend Carroll Williams, followed by burial at the Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery, Huntsville. Visitation with family and friends will be on Thursday evening, January 14, from 5-7 p.m. at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 Normal Park Dr., Huntsville. Clifton was born on October 10, 1914, in Lewisburg, West Virginia to Dr. Clifton S. Coffman and Eunice Neel Coffman. He pursued a career in forestry after attending West Virginia University and earning bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan in 1937. By 1940, he was working for the Soil Conservation Service in Nacogdoches, Texas, which he called "the most important position I held because I met my wife there." Clifton and Myra were married on November 25, 1942, beginning a 68 year partnership and marriage. World War II interrupted Clifton's forestry career, as it did the careers of so many members of the "Greatest Generation." Following Officer's Candidate School, he spent most of his service with the 77th Infantry Division in the Pacific theater. In a 1998 letter to Clifton, one of his platoon members, Art Bachman, praised his leadership saying, "you treated me and the rest of the squads with respect and not as underlings. You were a gentleman." Upon his discharge from the Army in 1946, Clifton returned to Texas. As the forester for the Texas Longleaf

Lumber company in Trinity, Clifton joined members of a pioneering group: the first “modern-day” industry foresters in East Texas. Champion Paper Company and Southland Paper Mills bought out the Texas Longleaf Lumber Company in the early 1950’s, and during a two year transition period, Clifton was the forester for both companies, eventually going with Champion. In 1967, Champion selected Clifton to organize and manage 500,000 acres of timberland in Alabama and Tennessee. He and Myra moved with their youngest child, Nan, to Alabama, where he finished out his career, retiring, along with Myra, in 1980. A member of the Society of American Foresters since 1938, Clifton remained a member until his death. He was also a lifelong member of the Texas Forestry Association, as well as a Rotarian. Returning to their longtime home in Huntsville, Texas, Clifton and Myra enjoyed retirement with world travel, reading, gardening, and playing bridge with friends. They were active members of First Baptist Church of Huntsville, where Clifton was a trustee and taught Sunday School as he did at all churches he attended. Clifton and Myra’s three children, Dr. Clif (“Bill”) Coffman, III, of Shreveport, Louisiana, Charles Coffman, of Santa Fe, New Mexico and Nan Coffman, of Houston, are a source of continuous pride, as is their grandson, Dana Clay Coffman, of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Clifton will also be missed by Clif’s wife Dianne and children, Jonathan and Julie; sister Nancy Addison, nieces Carol McKeever, Judith Rayback, and Gail Guss; sister-in-law Dr. Ethelaura Ramey, nephew Richard Ramey and wife Karen and niece Pat Ramey, as well as special friends Craig Moore, Kathy Partin, Wendell Floyd, Jane and Jimmy Mallery, Jere and Robert McCann, Connie and Bob Parker, and Susan and Wes Sanders. The family extends a sincere thank-you to Clifton’s devoted caregivers Juanita McKinney, Mae Ennis, Cynthia Archie, Helen Jackson, and Willie Mae Mundy. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Clifton Simpson Coffman Jr.*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dear Myra,  
I was saddened to see Clifton's obit in the Decatur Daily but comforted by his long and distinguished life and by the many years you were able to spend together. I have fond memories of our time together at Calhoun. We are thinking of you at a sad time.  
Old friend,  
Harry Moore*

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**Harry Moore** - January 27, 2010 at 09:17 AM



“ *Dear Coffman Family,  
Thank you for letting me be a part of your family and experiencing the gentle and calm presence of your father and husband Clifton Coffman. In that way he will be forever in my heart.  
With love,  
Cynthia Barclay*

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**Cynthia Barclay** - January 23, 2010 at 11:00 AM

SJ

“ Mrs. Coffman, I have so many special memories of your family. I remember how I loved going over to your house when you lived across the street from us in Decatur. Your home was always a warm and inviting place. Thank you for being such wonderful friends to us through the years. Mr. Coffman was very dear to us, just as you are, and we'll miss him. I love you, and I'll be praying for you in the days to come.

Love,  
Susanne (Smith) Jennings

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**Susanne Jennings** - January 18, 2010 at 05:53 PM

SS

“ Mrs. Coffman, I have many fond memories of visiting with you and Mr. Coffman when you lived in Decatur, Alabama and in your visits after retirement. I was a little tike at the time, but I remember it was always a treat to get to visit with you or the Sims (our other neighbors). I never forgot your black dog that you named Shadow and a few years later I got a black labrador and named her Shadow as well! But my best memory of y'all is that I never, and I mean NEVER, saw either of you without an ear to ear smile on your faces and you really knew how to warm people's hearts. You have always been such dear friends to our family and we love you very much.  
Love, Stuart Smith and family

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**Stuart Smith** - January 16, 2010 at 09:09 AM

JS

“ Hardy and I send our love to you, and our prayers are with you as you say goodbye to Mr. Coffman, our dear friend and neighbor and a brilliant, kind, and generous man. He was a remarkable person in many ways; his was truly a life well lived. What a legacy he leaves to his children and grandchild! What a joy for our family to know all of you. We were blessed to have you as neighbors in Decatur, Al. and have enjoyed keeping in touch as you visited us annually for so many years and have written many warm and newsy letters. We were so happy to be able to visit with you in Huntsville along with Susanne and Sydney and my mother several years ago. Our prayer for you is that God is giving you a special measure of comfort and peace today and in all the days to come. Though we can't be with you today, please know that we are with you in spirit.  
Love, Judy and Hardy

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**Judy Smith** - January 15, 2010 at 09:40 AM

SM

“ Although I never met Mr.Coffman I can say he is survived by such a wonderful brilliant and kind person in his daughter Nan.Im sorry for the loss of your father but I celebrate a product of him through you.  
Much Love  
Scott and Paula

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**Scott Moore** - January 14, 2010 at 06:51 PM

CH

“ I send my love to all of you. Mr. Coffman has always had a special place in my heart, and I am so happy to have visited with him in July. We shall all cherish those fond memories of him as they bring comfort to us in times of sorrow. I pray a special blessing for all of you on Friday as you celebrate the life of your husband, dad, and granddad. He was a kind and loving, gentle person. I wish I could be there with you but will not be able to come. Just know I am there in spirit. Next time I am in Huntsville, Myra Wanda, I will come and visit. Blessings, Carole Ann

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**Carole Ann Hughes** - January 14, 2010 at 05:10 PM