



John Clifton

June 12, 1944 - August 11, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

John Clifton

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – CAPE GIRARDEAU

829 North West End Boulevard, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

John Clifton, 81, a lifelong resident of Cape Girardeau County, passed away peacefully at his home on August 11, 2025, after an 8½-year battle with post-stroke complications.

Born in Jackson, Missouri, to the late Elsie and Roscoe Clifton, John graduated from Jackson High School in 1962. He made his home in Jackson until 1994, when he and his beloved wife, Deborah (Kamp) Clifton, moved to Cape Girardeau. The couple were married on February 10, 1968, and shared 57 years of devoted partnership.

From an early age, John demonstrated a deep commitment to serving his community. He began working for Cracraft–Miller Furniture & Funeral Home (now Ford & Son Funeral Home), where he obtained his Funeral Director's

license, a credential he maintained for 35 years. Over the decades, John's career spanned law enforcement, fire service, investigations, and public office. His professional and volunteer service included:

- 32 years as a volunteer with the Jackson Fire Department
- Officer with the Jackson Police Department
- Volunteer for Cape Girardeau County Civil Defense (then the county fire department)
- Member of the Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Patrol and Royal Oak Juvenile Program
- Past Chairman of the Region 8 Council on Criminal Justice
- Past President of the MCMEA
- Councilman for the City of Jackson
- Deputy Coroner for Coroners George Rouse and John Carpenter
- Investigator for the Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Department and

member of the Major Case Squad

- Peace Officer of the Year recipient
- District Supervisor for the Missouri Division of Liquor Control, overseeing 19 counties
- Federal Court Security Officer for the U.S. Marshal Service
- Cape Girardeau County Coroner for 16 years, a role many believe he most cherished

In addition to public service, John was a dedicated entrepreneur. He owned and operated a convenience store in Jackson for several years, co-founded Investigative Associates, Inc. with his wife (specializing in fire investigations in Missouri and Arkansas), and most recently owned Midwest Mortuary Transport, LLC, which he established in 2004.

John was a proud member of Cape Girardeau Elks Lodge 639, served on the Salvation Army advisory board, and enjoyed volunteering for Cape Girardeau airshows. While his career was his passion, John also enjoyed the occasional round of golf, fishing trips, traveling with Deborah, and visiting Gulf Shores, Alabama, where they formed lasting friendships. Time with family, friends, and beloved pets—Tiger, Charlie Brown, Trixie, Hunter, Blackie, and Daisy—was always treasured.

He is survived by his loving wife, Deborah; two sons, Scott (Katherine) Clifton of Naperville, IL, and Chris (Karla) Clifton of Cape Girardeau; two grandchildren, Morgan Clifton of Naperville, and Anthony (Felicity) Clifton of Grays, UK; and two great-grandchildren, Lucas Pacheco and Lexi Clifton. He also leaves behind three nephews, Jim Hughey of Missouri City, TX; Scott Hughey of Trinidad, CO; and David (Victoria) Niswonger of Chesterfield, MO; two nieces, Beth (Mike) Amaro of Houston, TX; and Deborah (Mel) Pohlman of Elburn, IL; three grand-nieces and five grand-nephews.

The family would like to extend their countless thank you's and appreciation to their special friends, Janet Berendzen and VNA AIM and Hospice for everything they have done.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters and their husbands—Virginia (Floyd) Thiele, Mary Lou (Jim) Hughey, Betty (Gene) Jaco, and Margaret (Gary) Niswonger; a niece, Susie (John) Ellison; and a niece-in-law, Tracy Hughey.

Visitation will be held Friday, August 22, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Crain Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 829 N. West End Blvd., Cape Girardeau. The Cape Girardeau Elks Lodge 639 will conduct a service at 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, August 23, at 1:00 p.m. at Crain Funeral Home & Cremation Services, with Rev. Sam Roethemeyer officiating. A visitation at the funeral home will also be held on the day of the service from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM.

Interment will follow the service at Russell Heights Cemetery in Jackson.

Memorial contributions may be made to:

- Southeast Missouri Pets, 180 Weston St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 – semopets.org
- Jackson Police Dept. Benevolent Fund, 202 W. Jackson Blvd., Jackson, MO 63755
- Jackson Fire Rescue, 525 S. Hope St., Jackson, MO 63755
- Cape Girardeau Police Dept., 2530 Maria Louise Ln., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
- Cape Girardeau Fire Rescue Foundation Fund, 1 S. Sprigg, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
- Adult & Teen Challenge of Mid-America, 303 MATC Lane, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

John Clifton lived a life of tireless service, integrity, and dedication to others. His legacy will endure in the countless lives he touched through his work, his volunteerism, and his kindness.

Crain Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Cape Girardeau is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Russell Heights Cemetery

Jackson, MO 63755

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **22**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (cst)

Crain Funeral Home - Cape Girardeau
829 N. West End Blvd
(4 blocks north of Southeast Hospital)
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 335-3223
crain@crainsonline.com

Elk's Honor Service

AUG **22**. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (cst)

Crain Funeral Home - Cape Girardeau
829 N. West End Blvd
(4 blocks north of Southeast Hospital)
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 335-3223
crain@crainsonline.com

Visitation

AUG **23**. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (cst)

Crain Funeral Home - Cape Girardeau
829 N. West End Blvd
(4 blocks north of Southeast Hospital)
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 335-3223
crain@crainsonline.com

Funeral Service

AUG **23**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (cst)

Crain Funeral Home - Cape Girardeau
829 N. West End Blvd
(4 blocks north of Southeast Hospital)
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 335-3223
crain@crainsonline.com

Interment

AUG **23**. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (cst)

Russell Heights Cemetery
Jackson, MO 63755

Tribute Wall

JS

“ 1 file added to the album John



Jon Shaffer - December 02, 2025 at 10:56 AM

DC

Thanks Jon, where was this?

Deborah Clifton - January 07 at 08:41 PM



“ 8" Angel holding Dove was purchased for the family of John Clifton.



August 27, 2025 at 03:21 PM

KM

“ Dearest Debbie & Family ☐

Words do not even come to us on how to comfort you during this sad time. John was a special guy, fun loving, yet always professional! You and John are very special to our family! May Our Lord hold you in His Loving arms and give you peace! Thank you always for your love and friendship!

Love always;

The Herb & Kathleen Miller and Family



Kathleen K Miller - August 21, 2025 at 08:44 PM

DC

I just now realized you can reply to these messages. Thank you so much for you loving comment. Your family has always been special to us as well.

Love y'all, Debbie

Deborah K Clifton - January 21 at 07:34 PM

GM

“ *John was a fine man, I enjoyed his friendship for many years!*

Greg Mathis - August 15, 2025 at 09:58 PM

DC

Hello Greg, I just now realized you can reply to these messages. Thanks so much for you kind words. Sincerely, Debbie

Deborah K Clifton - January 21 at 07:34 PM

DF

“ John was such a great guy. He helped us with investigative services regarding our grandson almost 30 years ago & we've never forgotten his kindness and compassion. Keeping the family in our prayers.

Donnie Forbs - August 15, 2025 at 09:31 PM

DC

Hello Mr. Forbs, I just now realized you can reply to these messages. Thank you so much for your kind words about John. I actually recall working with John on the investigation regarding your grandson. Thanks again for thinking of him. Sincerely, Debbie

Deborah K Clifton - January 21 at 07:38 PM

JS

“ John was an incredible source of wisdom, always willing to sit and discuss issues and provide great advice. He was a mentor but more importantly a friend. We shared many stories and countless laughs during our friendship. I am forever grateful for his friendship and guidance. He will certainly be missed.

Jon Shaffer - August 15, 2025 at 12:09 PM

DC

Hi Jon, I just now realized you can reply to these messages. I really appreciate all your kind words about John. You and John really had some good times together; he always enjoyed your friendship. Love ya', Debbie

Deborah K Clifton - January 21 at 07:41 PM

LA

“ My condolences to John's family. Larry Arnold-Lewis County Coroner.

Larry Arnold - August 15, 2025 at 11:43 AM

DC

Hello Mr. Arnold, I just now realized you can reply to these messages. Thank you so much for your expression of sympathy. Sincerely, Debbie Clifton

Deborah K Clifton - January 21 at 07:42 PM



“ Always enjoyed working and talking with John when I called him usually in the middle of the night. Always professional and empathetic to the families he served in our emergency department.

Charles Pancoast - August 15, 2025 at 07:39 AM

DC

Hello Dr. Pancoast, I just now realized you can reply to these messages. Thank you so much for your kind words after John's passing. It really means so much to me. Sincerely, Deborah Clifton

Deborah K Clifton - January 21 at 07:47 PM

FT

“ So sorry to hear this about John. He always had time to chat and helped me with any question that I had about Funeral Business when I joined the Industry . Frank Trankler



Frank Trankler - August 14, 2025 at 11:02 PM

TK

I am so sorry to hear about the loss John was a good good friend, always had a joke to tell. He will be missed by many. I thought a lot of him.

Tommy Kimbel - August 16, 2025 at 05:51 AM

JH

John was a great guy.....I always enjoyed his company.

John Hodges - August 16, 2025 at 04:02 PM

DC

*Mr. Trankler, I just now realized you can reply to these messages.
Thank you so much for your kind words after John's passing.
Sincerely,
Deborah Clifton*

Deborah K Clifton - January 21 at 07:49 PM

DC

*Hello Tommy, I just now realized you can reply to these messages.
Thanks so much for your kind words after John's passing.
Sincerely,
Debbie*

Deborah K Clifton - January 21 at 07:51 PM

DC

*Hello John, I just now realized you can reply to these messages. Thank
you for your kind words after John's passing.
Sincerely,
Debbie*

Deborah K Clifton - January 21 at 07:52 PM