



## Thomas L. Clifton

June 13, 1948 - July 6, 2021

CEDAR FALLS-Thomas L. Clifton, Jr., 73, of Northlake, TX, died Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at his home.

He was born June 13, 1948, in Hampton, Iowa, the son of Thomas L. and Jean (Macicuk) Sr. He graduated from Cedar Falls High School and later served in the United States Army. On September 16, 1968, he was united in marriage Nancy L. Farr in Waterloo. She died May 5, 2001.

Tom worked at John Deere for ten years, was a pilot for Professional Office Services in Waterloo, and currently worked for the FAA as an Aviation Safety Inspector, beginning in Des Moines and later transferring to Texas. He served in the Iowa Army National Guard for 28 years as a helicopter chief instructor pilot.

Survived by two sons, Chad (Jennyfer) Clifton of Tucson, AZ and Zachary (Ashley) Clifton of Ankeny; daughter, Amber Ilax of Dysart; seven grandchildren, Audrey, Caleb, Richie, Samantha, Madison, Jazmyn, and Jamie; sister, Kyna White of Anchorage, Alaska; and brother, Brad (Janice) Clifton of Seattle, WA.

Preceded in death by his parents; wife; and sister, Denise Clifton.

Graveside services 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 23, 2021 at Orange Township Cemetery, Waterloo, with full military honors provided by the Cedar Falls AMVETS and the Iowa Army National Guard. Reception will follow at the Majestic Moon Event Center in Waterloo (1955 Locke Ave). Online condolences may be directed to: [www.richardsonfuneralservice.com](http://www.richardsonfuneralservice.com).

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Orange Township Cemetery

Waterloo, IA

# Previous Events

## Burial with Military Honors

JUL 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

Orange Township Cemetery  
Waterloo, IA

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ Tom flew for a 421 Cessna for Lockard Companies as well as POS for several years, and employees and family alike were always impressed with him.

*He was very professional and very competent, and great to be around at all times--a wonderful person.*

*With our sympathy to his family----*

*Ken & Amy Lockard*

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**Amy Lockard** - September 23, 2021 at 08:01 PM

DM

“ My favorite aviation quote from Tom “Just because it’s legal, doesn’t mean it’s safe”!

*That is so true, and speaks of his superior aviation wisdom. To this day, I still use that quote!*

*The last time I actually saw Tom was August of 2016 where we shared beers with other friends at the Harley Davidson store in Waterloo. However, we spoke often on the phone and shared numerous funny memes via text.*

*I will truly miss the way he would articulate his view on things like aviation and politics etc. He would always get a laugh out of me.*

*R.I.P*

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**David Morales** - July 25, 2021 at 04:27 PM

DM

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**David Morales** - July 25, 2021 at 04:12 PM

GY

“ To the family of Tom,

*I first met Tom in the winter of 2011 when a friend and past client referred him to me for buying a home in Texas. The day I picked him up to go looking at homes I knew immediately that Tom was going to be much more than a client. We hit it off right away and our relationship became friends first and client second. I was always interested in his stories about flight instruction and his humor was right up my alley!*

*I moved from the Indiana to Texas in 1982 but always remained a Chicago Bear and Cub fan. Each year I send out Cowboys and Rangers schedules but, several of my clients are from the Midwest and follow the Bears and Cubs. He always called me whenever I sent out my Baseball and Football magnet schedules each year to discuss how bad Da Bears and the Cubs would be. I really enjoyed those conversations and will sadly miss this year's phone call.*

*I am so thankful I got to know Tom and was very fortunate to call him my friend. He was a bright light on a cloudy day and I know he will be missed by so many people.*

*I wish his family peace, comfort and understanding during this difficult time. Just know that Tom left a positive message about life to many of us and his spirit will carry on!*

*Sincerely,*

*Greg Yeater*

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**Greg Yeater** - July 24, 2021 at 10:12 AM

JM

“ Chad and family I am proud and honored to have served with the Cliftons I have so many good Memories Tom will be missed by many my thoughts and prayers are with you all Jeff meighan

Jeff meighan - July 23, 2021 at 09:55 AM

WF

“ With Love, Your Tyonek Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Thomas L. Clifton.



With Love, Your Tyonek Family - July 22, 2021 at 01:15 PM

TF

“ The Thurston Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Thomas L. Clifton.



The Thurston Family - July 21, 2021 at 10:27 PM

LR

“ Tom and I had many memorable discussions about our aviation careers. The emphasis of ‘safety in the air’ helped both of us and enhancing safety for other pilots. Tom, I am going to miss those talks. Your friendship and professionalism will be missed.

*Les Raisch – Retired POS Corporation.*

Les Raisch - July 21, 2021 at 08:54 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas L. Clifton.*



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July 21, 2021 at 08:13 AM



“ *My family and I were sad to hear that Tom had passed. We had him over for holiday dinners and once invaded his backyard for stargazing. I have many fun memories of my time working with Tom, most involving lunch. We even put a goldfish (mechanical) in the water cooler on his desk. He gave as good as he got. We'll miss you Tom.*

*Chris, Margaret, Abby, and Emma Collins*

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**Chris Collins** - July 20, 2021 at 11:01 PM



“ *Tom's Family, We were sorry to hear of the loss of Tom. he was a good friend and peer. he will be missed. Our thought and prayers are with you all.*

*Gale and Barbara Huey*

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**Gale and Barbara Huey** - July 20, 2021 at 11:21 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas L. Clifton.*



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July 19, 2021 at 10:45 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Thomas L. Clifton.*



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July 19, 2021 at 02:32 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Chris Manthe** - July 19, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Tom, you helped me begin my career in aviation. You were an inspiration to me as I began those first hours of flight instruction. We worked together for many years as you pushed me to always try for the next level. For that I am grateful. We shared many good times in the years after that. I will truly miss you, my friend. Rest in Peace!!*

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**Larry Arenholz** - July 19, 2021 at 10:12 AM



“ *Larry and Faith Arenholz purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of Thomas L. Clifton.*



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**Larry and Faith Arenholz** - July 19, 2021 at 09:59 AM

JH

“ I was shocked recently, learning of the passing of Tom Clifton. After talking with Tom at a couple of local events - after years living in different states it was great to remember and discuss the good old days... in our last phone discussion s few short weeks ago he seemed excited and was looking forward to possibly buying a home in Florida and enjoying a well deserved retirement. He spoke highly of his kids and looked forward to visiting with them in the area in the near future. Personally, knowing first hand the value of chopper pilots and the exceptional skill they possess - I admired his professionalism and career devotion.  
Tom will be missed by many....  
Jim Hamlyn

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**jim Hamlyn** - July 17, 2021 at 04:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas L. Clifton.



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July 17, 2021 at 07:36 AM