



Richard "Dick" E. Clark

July 28, 1938 - May 11, 2024

Richard E. (Dick) Clark died on May 11, 2024 surrounded by his family. Clark was born on July 28, 1938 to Ralph R. Clark Sr. and Gertrude Gibson Clark. His parents, five brothers, and two sisters died before him. He is survived by two sisters, Mary Jane Stewart and Beverly Hawkins, both of Ringgold.

Clark was a graduate of Ringgold High School, South Georgia College (Associate of Arts), Georgia Southern College (B.S. in Education, 1961 and M.Ed., 1968), and West Georgia College (Ed. Specialist in Administration, 1984), and was active in the education of youth for thirty-nine years. Twenty-two of those years were spent serving Ringgold High School as principal. Clark was a survivor of the last large polio outbreak in 1954 when he was sixteen years old and contracted the disease only six months before the Salk vaccine was put into use in 1955. He spent six months in the famous polio rehabilitation center in Warm Springs, Georgia that was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary Jean Smith Clark formerly of Newnan, Georgia, sons Michael (Trina) of Ringgold, Brian (Julianna) of Dalton, daughter Valerie Clark of Ringgold, grandsons Cullen, Miles, and Elijah, granddaughters Audrey and Natalie, great-grandchildren Eady and Clyde Clark and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to a career in education, upon retirement, Clark served as lay pastor of two Walker County Churches, Kensington UMC and Cedar Grove UMC, for sixteen years. He was also a charter member of the original Catoosa

County chapter of Gideon's International, and was the Dalton District United Methodist Director of Lay Speakers, and served many years as president of the Ringgold United Methodist Men. He also served for a period of time as a member of the Georgia Chapter of Discover God's Call and was president of that organization for three years. He served approximately ten years as a member of the Georgia High School Athletic Association as well.

Memorial contributions may be made to The River Community Church building fund located at 2410 Cleveland Highway, Dalton, Georgia 30721. Services will be held at The River Community Church on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. with the Rev. Dr. Brian E. Clark officiating. Burial will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday in the Anderson Cemetery of Ringgold. The family will receive friends at Wilson Funeral Homes Wallis ~ Stewart Chapel on Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Online guest book at www.wilsonfuneralhome.com. Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Homes Wallis – Stewart Chapel, Ringgold, Georgia.

Cemetery Details

Anderson Cemetery

LaFayette St.
Ringgold, GA 30736

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Ringgold Chapel
443 Boynton Drive
Ringgold, GA 30736
(706) 935-2331
spencer@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

The River Community Church
2410 Cleveland Highway
Dalton, GA 30721

Graveside Service

MAY 16. 3:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Cemetery
LaFayette St.
Ringgold, GA 30736

Tribute Wall

RC

“ SORRY TO HEAR OF THE LOSS OF DICK IVE KNOWN HIM AND HIS FAMILY MOST OF MY LIFE HE WAS A GOOD FRIEND AND A PRINCIPLE TO MY CHILDREN MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND THE FAMILY AND COMFORT YOU IN THE TIME OF MOURNING /RICHARD W. CLARK SR.



Richard W OR Barbara J Clark - May 16, 2024 at 09:38 AM

DO

“ Doshia O'Neal lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Clark



Doshia O'Neal - May 15, 2024 at 08:03 PM

TR

“ Treva R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick" E. Clark.

Treva R. - May 14, 2024 at 08:10 PM

YF

“ Your Raymond James Bank Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick" E. Clark.

Your Raymond James Bank Family - May 14, 2024 at 05:51 PM

YF

“ *Your Raymond James Bank Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard "Dick" E. Clark.*



Your Raymond James Bank Family - May 14, 2024 at 05:51 PM

EK

“ *Elizabeth Klaus lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Clark*



Elizabeth Klaus - May 14, 2024 at 02:58 PM

EK

Sending my Deepest Sympathy:& Prayers:

*Mary
Michael
Bryan
Valerie
Children, Grandchildren*

I am deeply sorry to hear of passing of Richard. I did Babysitting for Mary & Richard while children were Pre-school age. Elaine Cummings Seems like yesterday.

Elizabeth Klaus - May 14, 2024 at 03:05 PM

TL

“ Teresa Long lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Clark



Teresa Long - May 14, 2024 at 12:16 PM

ST

“ He was my school principal at ringgold high school,he was a very nice man,was a friend to my father prayers for the family 🙏🙏



Sharon teems - May 14, 2024 at 10:36 AM

KW

“ A man who could have used his authority to cause me grief. Yet in kindness he encouraged and instructed me throughout my high school years. Not that I was spared any paddlings. I came to respect Mr. Clark both as a principal and as a friend. Dick Clark was a friend to many people and shall be missed. May the LORD bless and comfort his family in the days ahead.

Kenny Williams - May 13, 2024 at 09:17 PM

KA

“ Kathy Akins lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" E. Clark



Kathy Akins - May 13, 2024 at 06:39 PM