



Robert Donald Clayton Jr.

May 26, 1930 - October 17, 2016

Robert Clayton II died on October 17, 2016, after a long bout with pancreatic cancer.

He was born in Fargo, ND on May 26, 1930, to Robert and Lillian Clayton. After spending time in Minnesota and Montana, Robert spent most of his youth in Longview, WA. Following high school, Robert graduated from the U of Washington in 1952 with a degree in Health and Physical Education. The years 1953-54 were spent in the U.S. Army, mostly on the DMZ in Korea. Following military service, Robert earned degrees from the U of Northern Colorado and the U of Oregon, culminating in a doctoral degree in Educational Administration.

After teaching and coaching for three years in Longview, WA, he embarked on a college teaching career in Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Colorado. In 1959, Robert married fellow educator Joyce Carlson of Stratton, NE. Robert's last teaching position was as Professor and Chairman of the Physical Education Department at CSU from 1975-1980.

In 1980, Robert and Joyce started Sport About in Ft Collins, which they actively operated until 1997. Following retirement, the Claytons combined travel and mission as they participated in over a dozen work groups for various churches in the Southwest and Northeast as members of Volunteers in Missions.

Robert was passionate about Aquatics. As a competitive swimmer, he won Washington State High School Championships and then earned four varsity letters at the U of Washington. Later on, he competed in the military and with the Colorado Masters. He served the American Red Cross for over 40 years as an instructor, and also taught and coached swimming at the age group, high school, college and Master's levels. The fact that all of his children were competitive swimmers, teachers, and coaches at various times was a source of personal pride.

During his career, Robert authored five books, mostly in aquatics. He also served as president of two national professional groups. For over 20 years he conducted an annual Aquatic Management course for the American Swimming Coaches Assn.

Robert was an active worshiper and member of Christ United Methodist Church in Ft Collins since 1975, serving on many church boards.

Robert is survived by Joyce, his wife of 57 years and children Lisa (Scott) Bare and children Andrew and Meaghan of Coeur d'Alene, ID; Lora (Justin) Gubler and children Clayton and Taylor of Williamsburg, VA; Robert III (Kelly) Clayton and children Robert IV, Noel, Daniel, Anna, Joshua, and Faith of Colorado Springs, CO; and Lynne Boyette with children Hayley, Tyler and Cameron of Spring Hill, KS.

Services will be held at Christ United Methodist Church, 311 East Drake, Ft Collins, CO 80525 on Friday, October 28, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent to the Wider Missions Offerings at Christ United Methodist Church.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **28**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Christ United Methodist Church
301 E. Drake Road
Fort Collins, CO 80526
info@goesfuneralcare.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Donald Clayton Jr.*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Dr. Clayton was my favorite professor. His caring and wisdom was so helpful for me. So sorry to hear of his passing.*

Ted Chamberlain

Ted Chamberlain - September 29, 2019 at 03:47 PM



“ *Dear Joyce and Lynn, I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Bob. Joyce, it was always nice seeing you and Bob together at the gym. I will miss seeing his sweet, smiling face. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

Fondly, Kelly Vahrenwald Allen

Kelly Allen - October 30, 2016 at 10:47 AM



“ *What can one say? Death can be anticipated but still not welcomed. It is such a difficult concept ---even to those of us in our 80s who have seen it so many times. .*

After all your years together you will feel his spirit everywhere--that's about all the condolence I can muster. .

Joyce, I'm happy to have known you since our years at Stratton, Nebraska high school.

You're the best!

Rose Stehno Brinks - October 27, 2016 at 07:57 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Robert Donald Clayton Jr..



October 27, 2016 at 04:05 PM



“ *Your Threat Tec Family* purchased the *Treasured Lilies Spray* for the family of Robert Donald Clayton Jr..



Your Threat Tec Family - October 27, 2016 at 01:12 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Robert Donald Clayton Jr..



October 26, 2016 at 07:56 PM



“ *Air Force Athletics* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Robert Donald Clayton Jr..



Air Force Athletics - October 26, 2016 at 07:38 PM



“ I knew Bob through his son, Air Force Men's Swim coach, Rob Clayton. There was a dignity and integrity about Bob that was unmistakable. Men of character produce children and grandchildren of character. I know his family will miss him.

Casey Converse - October 26, 2016 at 06:46 PM

LW

“ My thoughts, prayers and love are with the Clayton family. Growing up as a friend of Lynne's, I spent much time with the Clayton's. Dr. Clayton was a very positive influence on me - offering swim advice and overall encouragement. I admired his wisdom, quick wit and sense of humor which were still apparent even in his final months.

Laurel Whitaker - October 21, 2016 at 05:22 PM

DM

“ There were some good times when the Miksch family and the Clayton family were together in Mankato as well as other places where we were able to gather. Robert will be missed dearly. My sympathies go to all of the family. I only wish it would be possible for me to attend his memorial service, but it just doesn't work out. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Dale Miksch

Dale Miksch - October 21, 2016 at 06:14 AM

GB

“ Gracia And Norm BAre lit a candle in memory of Robert Donald Clayton Jr.



Gracia and Norm BAre - October 20, 2016 at 01:43 PM

DF

“ *Duane and Bobbie Gubler Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert Donald Clayton Jr..*



Duane and Bobbie Gubler Family - October 20, 2016 at 11:31 AM

DG

“ *Dear Joyce and family, we are saddened by the loss of your husband, father and grandfather, Robert. He had a good life and we know he is now with his Father. Please accept our warmest sympathies for your loss.*
Duane and Bobbie Gubler and family

Duane Gubler - October 20, 2016 at 10:15 AM

DM

“ *Robert was a great friend and pretty good tennis player. Then he pushed me to run on an indoor track to help keep me in shape. He could make physical punishment appear to be fun! Carol and I had super great suppers with Robert and Joyce at the Inn Towne in Mankato. Our memories of Robert will last a lifetime, all good. We are blessed to call him, Friend. Dale and Carol Molesworth*

Dale R. Molesworth - October 19, 2016 at 01:50 PM

LB

“ *Lynne Boyette lit a candle in memory of Robert Donald Clayton Jr.*



Lynne Boyette - October 18, 2016 at 10:11 PM

MC

“ Robert, you challenged me with wise counsel, you were a mentor and a friend. I will miss your smile, wit and wisdom. Rest and know you are loved. Mary Ann Corliss

MaryAnn Corliss - October 18, 2016 at 06:02 PM

MC

“ Mary Ann Corliss lit a candle in memory of Robert Donald Clayton Jr.



Mary Ann Corliss - October 18, 2016 at 05:33 PM

WF

“ Joyce.....Wally and I are so saddened by your loss of Robert. He was one, wonderful man!! You had many wonderful years together.....remember all of the good times. Memories are forever.



Love and God's Blessings to you and all of the family.....

Wally and Gretchen

Wally Ruff and Gretchen Fleming - October 18, 2016 at 04:50 PM

CH

“ Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Robert Donald Clayton Jr.



Chrissy - October 18, 2016 at 11:58 AM