



L. J. "Dick" Cleaver

March 30, 1939 - April 4, 2012

L. J. 'Dick' Cleaver, age 73, of Houston Arkansas, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, April 4, 2012. He was born March 30, 1939 in Culpepper, Arkansas, a son of Jess Cleaver and Lois Nelson Cleaver. Other than his parents he was preceded in death by his first wife Jane Cleaver, and brothers Leon and Leonard Cleaver.

He is survived by wife Bonnie Cleaver; children, Beverly (Donnie) Brothers, Kim Fuller , Liesa (Jerry) Johnson, Richard (Andrea) Cleaver, Randy (Shannon) Fontenot, Lori (Bill) Griffith, Tamara (Stevie) Duvall and John (Brandi) Hankins; brothers, Jim (Donna) Cleaver, and Jack Cleaver; twelve grandchildren, four great -grandchildren. Dick served in the Army and was an avid fisherman.

He served as a youth counselor for Special Touch Ministries, a member and former deacon at Houston Assembly of God church. He was an awesome Father, loving husband, surrogate Dad to many, a trusted friend, faithful Christian and an all around practical joker.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 7, at Houston Assembly of God with Bro. Buddy Wroten, Bro. John Chapman, Bro. Mike McDaniel, and Bro. John Haydel officiating. Burial will be at May Cemetery by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton. The family will receive friends 6:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, at the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *L. J. "Dick" Cleaver*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *Although I have not seen Dick in 55 years I often thought of him and wondered what became of him. He, Carl Simpson and I were the first employees at Coffee Creek Landing on Harris Brake Lake, loading and unloading fishing boats for customers, when it opened the summer of 1957. I remember Dick as an extremely charismatic individual and a people person who got along with everyone. He always had a smile on his face, a joke to tell and exhibited a wonderful sense of humor. The road from Houston was dirt at that time and you knew when Dick was on his way to work because the dust would be 100 feet in the air above the lake dam as he sped down the road. He was one of those outstanding characters you meet once in a lifetime and I'm very sorry to read of his passing. My condolences to the family in your loss.*

Buford Suffridge - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM



“ *I only knew Dick as a young man. A man who worked hard and played harder. He always helped Jane to welcome everyone to their home. What more could I say?*

Alice Minyard - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

ER

“ Dearest Beverly, Kimberly, Liesa & Richard, I truly have thousands of the most wonderful memories with your precious Daddy. He brought life, laughter love and fun to every family occasion. Before he had his own children, he spent time with and loved all of the kids in the family as if we were his own. I will never forget Dick carrying me all the way to the top of Pinnacle Mountain on his shoulders. I was amazed that he actually installed a bag swing *INSIDE* the house for the kids to play on. He tried his best to weed out the worst of my boyfriends, by harrassing and embarrassing them (and me) as intensely as possible. The premise was that if they couldn't handle it then they didn't belong in our family. So, the sooner we could put them to the test and get rid of them the better. My other most outstanding memories surround all of the fun I had with him at our family reunions at Easter (fish fry, egg hunts, etc)and Thanksgiving. I fell in love with your Daddy before he and Jane were even married. That love was nurtured and grew stronger and deeper with every passing year. Underneath all of the fun and joking, he was a man of great character and integrity with a heart of gold. I respect him greatly and also appreciate his military service to our country. I know you will miss him every day for the rest of your lives, as I do my precious Daddy. I have come to understand that the big, aching empty place left inside of us should be viewed as a gift instead of a burden. If we had not loved them and been loved by them so greatly, we would not feel such pain and loss after they are gone from us here. Wednesday morning, I thought about my Daddy being among those welcoming your Daddy home to Heaven. I can now clearly imagine them laughing together and planning their next fishing and hunting trips. Your Daddy loved Easter celebrations so much. It seems fitting that God chose to take him from us in time to spend this Easter in the presence of *THE "I AM the resurrection and the life"*. I am hugging you up tightly in my prayers. My eternal love,
Cousin Evonne

Evonne Rice - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

ER

“ Dear Bonnie, Your great love for and devotion to Dick was a beautiful thing to see. It restored such joy to him in the final years of his life. He was back to being his TRUE self for the first time and a very long time. Thank you for taking such wonderful care of him. I am so sorry about the loss of this wonderful man you love. You are a VERY special woman. You were truly a gift sent from God to Dick and to all of us. I will be praying for you in the weeks and months ahead. You will always be a part of our family. Love, Evonne

Evonne Rice - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

PW

“ We remember Dick Cleaver as a Christian man who lived his life being a fine father figure and faithful church member, and even though we have not seen him for many years, we are convinced that he remained a steadfast patriarch of his extended family and dedicated leader of his beloved church. This is the legacy of life and celebration that his family will often cherish, and we are further assured that he will be welcomed home as one of the 'good and faithful servants' in whom God is well pleased. May the Holy Spirit provide all the strength and comfort needed during this time of reconciliation is our prayer.

Paula and John Wilhite - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

DJ

“ He was a good man and a wonderful father even though it has been awhile I can still remember the good times we had!!! My thoughts and prayers are with the family God bless!!!!

Dawn (Biggs) Jones - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

SE

“ So wish I could be there. Wish I had had a chance to get to know him more as a child. So glad I will see him again in heaven. Thank You Jesus for salvation. Love you all and we are praying.

Scott, Tonia, Sierra, and Lizy Ethridge - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

RM

“ Have enjoyed pastoring Bro Dick these past few years. His live has been a blessing and inspiration to all he came in contact with. His Faith remained through his sickness. May God bless and encourage all the family and friend! Pastor Mac

Rev Michael McDaniel - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

FL

“ I went to school with Dick at Wonderview, my husband and I had a trucking company and bought lots of tires from Dick he was a very special person and always had a smile.

Farrell & Louise Lentz - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

DG

“ Bev, Uncle Donnie, & Haily,

I'm so very sorry to hear about your dad. He was such a good man. He's home with the rest of our loved ones. I will keep you all in our prayers. We love you!!!

David & kim Gibson - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

JR

“ Kim, sorry to hear about the loss of you father.

Jeff Riedmueller - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

BM

“ *Liesa & Bonnie,
Sorry to hear of the passing of your father. May God be with you
during this difficult time.*

*Praying for you,
Betsy Moss*

Betsy Moss - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

LB

“ *Dick was a good friend. He had a deep conviction of Christ's love.
He lived his life so his life shown before others. I will miss him.*

Sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Larry and Janet Boozer - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM

AC

“ Dick was a cousin of mine, and though I only met him once, he and Bonnie welcomed me into their home and made me feel just like a regular member of the family. I was traveling in the area, looking for clues about my family on my father's side. My father abandoned our family back in 1965 when I was only three years old, and little else was known. I found Dick and Bonnie's name in the phone book and, after a brief telephone call; I stopped by for a visit. Dick had other things to do that day, but he dropped everything to help me find some answers. He called his brothers - not once, but several times - and probed their memories (as well as his own) until we finally learned that we were cousins. At one point, I mentioned that I 'hoped my visit wasn't too much of an inconvenience (thinking that that was the polite thing to do). Dick paused as if he couldn't possibly understand my meaning; and then, smiling, he said, rather matter-of-factly ... "You're Kin." And I realized in that moment that it was true- that he and I were family. That's the kind of Man that Dick Cleaver was... and I know from other comments made here- that our brother, our cousin, husband, father and friend- is now in the arms of Jesus. And though we are happy for him in that ... he will still be missed. My condolences to Miss Bonnie and the children during this time of loss.

Anthony Cleaver - June 29, 2018 at 09:51 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time of sorrow and loss. May you find comfort and strength in the Lord.

Tina Zachary

April 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our prayers and sympathy to each of you.*

Dick and Jane opened their home and hearts to us as we were growing up in Houston. I will ever be grateful for the joyful times we had. I have shared their story many times with folks here. I can hear his laughter even now.

I will treasure the visit I had with both Bonnie and Dick. So neat to hear of their ministries and their joys.

Boy, don't you know the angels are having a blast right now with Papa Dick's arrival.

What a week to depart, Easter... It is because of the Promise that we know we are separated for only a time.

May God give you peace and comfort that only He can. If we can do anything, please let us know.

*Sincerely,
Jade & Johnette*

April 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time. Dick will be greatly missed.*

Ronald & Johnnie Black & Family

April 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM