



## Charles F. Clarke, Jr.

March 3, 1929 - January 1, 2020

Loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother, Charles F. Clarke, Jr. died on January 1st of natural causes at 90 years of age. Born in Chicago, Illinois on March 3, 1929 to Virginie Dennehy Clarke and Charles F. Clarke, Sr., Charley attended the Bell School (class of 1942), Canterbury School (class of 1947), and finally Brown University (class of 1951) where he majored in Classics and made many friends in the DKE fraternity. Following college, Charley served as a Second Lieutenant in the Army during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953.

Once he left the service, Charley soon began his distinguished career in Chicago real estate. He began at Arthur Rubloff & Co in 1956 and eventually became Vice President in 1963. He was recruited by Sudler & Co in 1965, a firm known primarily for its residential property management in Chicago. His first big assignment was to lead the team to manage and lease the new John Hancock Center building, then the world's tallest, which was completed in 1969. He then went on to work on another major multi-use complex, Water Tower Place. Charley continued to work in commercial brokerage at Sudler for thirty-nine years. In conjunction with his professional life, Charley served on the boards of the Mid City Bank, Verado Energy, and the Greater North Michigan Avenue Association.

Charley met Ellie in 1958 when he was asked to escort her to a cousin's bridal

dinner in Lake Forest. Their first date was the next day at the wedding. Charley lost no time and, six weeks later, he proposed. They were married on January 3rd, 1959 in Palm Beach, Florida. They were married for 61 years.

Charley believed fervently in service and had a long life of philanthropic work. He served on many non-profit boards: Canterbury School, The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Catholic Charities (as President), Onwentsia Club (as President), the Otho S.A. Sprague Memorial Institute (as President), Barat College, and Lake Forest Hospital. He also worked diligently for the City of Lake Forest, where he lived most of his life. He was on the Lake Forest City Planning Commission and its Zoning Board of Appeals and, finally, Charley served as Mayor of Lake Forest from 1990 to 1993 (as had his father 1943-1946).

Charley was an outdoorsman and loved traveling with his wife, kids, and grandkids, especially their time together out west in Telluride, Colorado. From the age of nine until around seventeen, he spent the month of July as a ranch hand on his Aunt Sunny and Uncle Gratiot's ranch, called Hotfoot, named after a college drinking society. Among the many friends he had at Canterbury, one was Pat Hemingway, the son of Earnest. One year, Charley spent his spring break in Havana, Cuba where he went deep sea fishing, hunting, and drank frozen daiquiris at the Floridida bar with father and son Hemingway. He gave his children a love for nature with many trips out west skiing, camping, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding. Family trips to Europe and Ireland were had and, once his work life slowed down, Charley and Ellie enjoyed trips to Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and Australia and New Zealand. In 1984, Charley and Ellie bought property in Telluride, Colorado, which they named Hot Foot in honor of the ranch he worked at as a boy. Charley's love of the outdoors and the American West was infectious and was passed onto his children and grandchildren.

Charles is survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Eleanor O'Connor Clarke; his sister Louise Clarke Hough; his three children, Charles F. Clarke, III, his wife Vanessa Balbach Clarke, Timothy S. Clarke, and Jay A. Clarke; his seven grandchildren, Arlo, Darby, Chase, Haley, and Ben Clarke, and Liam and Cora Bradley; and many beloved nephews, nieces, and cousins. He is pre-deceased by his daughter Eleanor M. Clarke, his parents, his brothers John Clarke and Thomas Clarke and his sister Patricia Clarke Flynn. He was immensely dedicated to, and proud of his wife, kids, and grandkids. May he rest in peace.

A funeral mass will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2020 at the Church of St. Mary, 175 East Illinois Road, Lake Forest. Interment will be private at St. Mary Cemetery in Lake Forest.

Funeral arrangements by Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest, 847-234-9649 or [www.RTfunerals.com](http://www.RTfunerals.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Catholic Charities of Chicago (721 N. LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60654) or the Canterbury School (101 Aspetuck Ave, New Milford, CT 06776).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary Cemetery

Spruce Road & Sheridan Road  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

JAN 17. 4:30 PM (CT)

Church of St. Mary  
175 East Illinois Road  
Lake Forest, IL 60045  
<http://www.churchofstmary.org>

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ *Christopher Bacon lit a candle in memory of Charles F. Clarke, Jr.*



---

**Christopher Bacon** - February 03, 2020 at 11:52 PM

KS

“ *Dear Ellie,*

*My cousin Missy sent me the news about Charlie's death. I am so sorry and certainly feel your pain.*

*What a wonderful life you had together! Cherish the memories. He was one beautiful person!*

*May your faith, family and friends sustain you during this difficult time. He is at peace now.*

*Am going to Vero Saturday. If you come down please let me know!*

*With love , prayers and sympathy,*

*Kathy Sullivan*

---

**Kathy Sullivan** - January 15, 2020 at 09:08 AM

TE

“ *My Condolences to the Clarke family! It was my great honor to receive the resolution of appreciation from Mayor Clarke at a surprise block party upon my return from Operation Desert Storm. I still have this on the wall in my home! I will keep your family in my prayers and pray for the happy repose of his soul!*

---

**Tom Egan** - January 08, 2020 at 10:03 PM

TW

“ *Dear Aunt El, Charlie, Tim and Jay,*

*Sending my love to you ... and my deepest sympathies. What a tremendous privilege it is to be Charley Clarke's nephew-in-law. One of THE finest men I've ever met — a man of honor, integrity and true character.*

---

**Tom Wagner** - January 07, 2020 at 10:35 AM

 Kathy Carney

“ *Aunt Ellie, Charlie, Vanessa, Tim, and Jay, my heart goes out to you..Please know that I'm sending lots hugs and love! Daddy Chuck will be missed by all who were blessed to have known him. I will miss his smile, inquiring mind and his genuine interest by asking "Kath, how are you doing?"*

*I'm so so sorry that I will not be able to be there for the funeral due to knee surgery. I will be there in spirit for sure!*

*His legacy lives on in all of you and your children.*

*Love you all soooooo much!*

---

**Kathy Carney** - January 06, 2020 at 12:14 AM

MP

*I'm so very sorry for your loss, the Clark family. I just love Mr. and Mrs. Clark, did so many catering jobs for the Clarks over my 25 years in my business .*

*Got to know them pretty well. Also worked at the Lake Forest High School in which I grew up in Lake Forest and went to the high school as well ! Also knew Tim as well through the high school, what a sweetheart ! God Bless you all 🙏🙏*

---

**Mary Peddle** - January 06, 2020 at 08:25 PM

DH

“*Dear Ellie and your beautiful family. My sympathy for your loss. Charlie was one of our first friends when we moved as newly weds to Chicago. He was so elegant in his calm kindness. Truly one of the great generation. I am with you in spirit and prayer. Denise*

---

**Denise Hickey** - January 04, 2020 at 12:47 PM



“*We are so sorry Ellie. Everyone was blessed to be in Charlie's presence such a very kind, personable and gallant gentleman. Mom so valued your and Charlie's friendship. Tanya and I send our love and prayers to you and the family.*

*Tanya and Chris McCormick*

---

**Christopher McCormick** - January 03, 2020 at 11:13 PM



“ Dear Aunt Ellie, Jay, Timmy, and Charlie! There are too many memories to count, but Uncle Charlie was like a father to me as you know. He was a true class act and a model of how to live gracefully on this planet, giving and achieving so much. I respected him so deeply and count him as one of the major influencers of my life. I'm so glad that my kids and I got to see him a few months ago. Sharp and loving all the way to the end. I will be reading Robert Service from Montana to honor him, thinking of him in the leather fringed vest at Jay's slumber parties, making us all feel special! A lover of words and the West... Perhaps why I love both so much, and all of you. With love to all of you always, Laura

---

**Laura Munson** - January 03, 2020 at 06:08 PM

LS

“ Dear Ellie,

*My Mom and Dad, Jone and Charlie Gedge, were so fond of you and Charlie. You were such a dazzling couple! And I appreciated that you also had big hearts to help others and leave the world a better place.*

*Thinking of you.*

*Lindsay Gedge Strand*

---

**Lindsay Gedge Strand** - January 03, 2020 at 02:43 PM

DS

“ Dear Ellie and your family . Rick and I send sooo much love to all of you in this time of loss . Charlie was a wonderful man whom I always enjoyed being with . Wish we'd had more times as neighbors at Oakwood , but I know how happy you were that Marina & Peter were your neighbors again . With love , the Sipes

---

**debbie Sipe** - January 03, 2020 at 01:56 PM

KB

“ Dear Ellie, Charlie, Tim and Jay,

*My heart is heavy with sadness over the news of Charley's death.*

*😭 My dear Dad also died January 1 in 2017 one day after he turned 90! This is a tough way to begin a new year and decade, and it's left a huge hole in the hearts of all of us that new and loved Charley. Some of my very fondest memories are of baby sitting you kids (and of course sweet Eleanor) and the colorful conversations I had with your Dad when he drove me home. You were blessed to have had Charley as your Dad. And Ellie, you and Charley were a wonderfully matched team with all that life tossed your way. Charley was so adorable, kind, fun, friendly and a joy to know!!! I will miss him terribly, but know he's in great "Heavenly" company!!! May your treasured memories help sustain you in the difficult days, weeks, months and years to come! Big hugs of hope to all of you and your families at this most difficult and sorrowful time. Much love!  
Katie Frost Bibbs*

---

**Katie F. Bibbs** - January 03, 2020 at 01:20 PM