



Clifford Wright

June 1, 1954 - December 1, 2020

Clifford Harrison Wright, 66, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

Cliff was born June 1, 1954, in Detroit, Michigan and raised in Southgate with three siblings. Becky Henderson and Christopher Wright preceded him in death and Patty Fowler survives; as well as three nephews, David, JT and Jacob and their families.

In his early 20s, Cliff joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the missionary program where he served in the mission field for one and one-half years. He loved teaching the people of South Africa and also learning their culture. The last six months of the mission were spent in upstate New York.

Coming to Topeka in the 1970s, Cliff was employed by the Seven Up Bottling Company and the Sutton family for over two decades.

Cliff and Steve Gleason were partners in life for 34 years, and also in business, co-owning University Flowers at 17th and Washburn Avenue, since 1991.

Their great love for animals has been evident all their lives. Lucy, Chase and

Daisy Mae were at Cliff's side until he went to the hospital. They too were his faithful and loving companions who will miss their Daddy.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Contributions in Cliff's memory may be made to Helping Hands Humane Society and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ Clifford Wright

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Steve, I'm so sorry that I just learned, today, that you've lost Cliff. He was so thoughtful and kind, a big "Teddy Bear". We'll always have the shared memory of my 2001 "wedding cake". You both got me thru that one, as you joyfully stated, "I love sugar roses !! " and ate the sugar roses off the top, so you could replace them with the beautiful flowers, as we had planned !!! Cliff and I just laughed. I'll see you, soon. Chrystal

Chrystal Brim - May 24, 2021 at 12:20 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fran Robertson - December 16, 2020 at 08:45 PM



“ We are so saddened to hear about the passing of Cliff. Everyone at Gradient sends their love and prayers during this difficult time.

Aprilly - December 14, 2020 at 03:42 PM

PW

“ Steve, our heart is broken. We loved his sense of humor and how much he loved life. We will always be here for you. You are strong and can get thru this with the love of your friends and family.

Dennis and Paula

Paula K Wakes - December 10, 2020 at 10:43 AM

KS

“ Steve. I'm so saddened to learn of Cliff's passing. He was a lovely man, so full of life and joy and fun. Sending prayers for you at this difficult time.

*Karolyn Sharp
Penny Bella's Mom*

Karolyn Sharp - December 09, 2020 at 02:26 PM

CE

“ Cliff was a special person; big, blustery and loveable. Such a caring individual!

Coralee Evans - December 08, 2020 at 07:16 PM

VE

“ Steve, I am so saddened and shocked to hear of Cliff's passing. Though I never met him in person, I have had many conversations with him over the phone. He was a dedicated man, who could lift my spirits, even when I didn't know that they needed lifting. Your beautiful floral creations have blessed our church for many years. One time, he sent me a small bouquet, as an apology, for an oversight in an order. I thought it was so kind of him to do that. He didn't have to, but did it out of the goodness of his heart. My heart goes out to you Steve, and your fur babies. He will always be with you in spirit, and know that you and the babies were so very important to him. He spoke so kindly of all of you in our many conversations.



*Love and Prayers from all of us at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.
Vickie Edwards, Administrative Assistant*

Vickie Edwards - December 08, 2020 at 11:46 AM

JS

“ Steve,
My most heartfelt condolences to you. Prayers are offered for Cliff and for you.

Julie Spencer

Julie Soencer - December 08, 2020 at 09:20 AM

MF

“ My sincere condolences. A wonderful man.

mark fuller - December 08, 2020 at 08:26 AM

NL

“ Steve

You are in my thoughts and prayers with the loss of Cliff. May your memories sustain you in the coming days and weeks ahead.

With sincere sympathy.

Nancy Lord

Nancy Lord - December 08, 2020 at 03:47 AM

AD

“ Steve, I have started to write this a hundred times but can't find the words to express the sadness in my heart. I have thought of so many conversations we have had and just which one to tell. So this is what I have

chosen. I remember one day when you were not in the shop and we had this long conversation about him, his love for you and the relationship you shared. I will never forget it. It was honest, it was raw and emotional. He could make me laugh and make me cry at the same time. He was a good man that always tried to do his best. I know the last time I saw you two he didn't appear to be feeling well and I know the stress Covid had put on you and the shop. I also know you are facing two challenges, the loss of Cliff and carrying on his legacy in the shop. You will soon find while he is gone, he will remain in your heart and in everything you do. May God walk you through this journey. Your friends in the community will be there for you. We will cry with you and laugh with you because you were always there for us. It's our turn to give back to you. Hang in there. Lighting the periwinkle candle because Cliff would argue blue or purple! Love you Always.



Ann Duffy - December 08, 2020 at 02:18 AM

KM

“ Steve, I'm shocked and saddened to hear of Cliff's passing and my condolences to you and your family. I hope you are comforted by the memories of your life together. I remember him coming to the bank with you when you were still at Dillions and he was still at 7 UP. He believed in you and your talent and it was clear he was willing to do anything for you to live your dream.

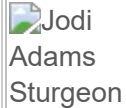
He was such a bright light and will be missed.

Kathleen Marker - December 07, 2020 at 06:22 PM

BA

“ Steve, I am very sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you. I always enjoyed working with the two of you and was amazed at your connection.

Blair Adams - December 07, 2020 at 05:16 PM

 Jodi
Adams
Sturgeon

“ Steve, family and friends- thought I can't claim to know you all that well, it seems like you've been on the outskirts of my social circle all my adult life. I so enjoyed seeing your smiling faces at the bi-annual White Cloud Flea Market. I enjoyed listening to you both discuss (and cuss) the prices on glassware in my dad's booth. And then... you created this beautiful arrangements for my step father to keep my mothers ashes in. It was like you too the ideas we had, even as many as there were, and translated them into a gorgeous masterpiece that still sits on a dresser in my step father's apartment. I've lost count of the corsages and other arrangements you've done for us throughout the years. Cliff was always smiling and trying to get you to as well, Steve. I'm thankful for having the chance to share space with such a kind and wonderful man. He's in Heaven now, tending the most beautiful flowers we will ever get to see. Jodi Adams Sturgeon
James Adams youngest daughter

Jodi Adams Sturgeon - December 07, 2020 at 02:52 PM

 DI

“ Steve I am heartbroken for you. You and Cliff were the perfect pair. I did not realize he was sick. He was like a big teddy bear! Always with a story to tell I will keep you and the fur babies in my prayers. RIP BIG GUY! YOU WILL BE MISSED AND FOREVER LOVED

Debbie Ingenthron - December 07, 2020 at 11:53 AM

 SC

“ Steve I am so sorry for your loss. I always loved talking to cliff when I ordered flowers and especially when I would drop off left over vases after our thrift sale.

Stacey Cooper - December 07, 2020 at 11:43 AM

KA

“ *My most sincere and deepest sympathies for you Steve and the entire community who had the pleasure to know and love such an amazing man!*

Karen - December 07, 2020 at 09:55 AM

PA

“ *My deepest condolences to Steve and the fur kids...I'll always remember the first time I visited the flower shop...Cliff helped me figure out was I was looking for very patient and kind man...you both made me feel welcome and not just another face... He had endless stories and jokes...thanks for the memories Cliff you will definitely be missed by many*

Patty - December 07, 2020 at 09:22 AM

DB

“ *So sorry to hear of Cliff's passing, I met both of you when I was working at Suttons then JB Bauersfield . Then when you open your shop I would go over and order flowers for my grandmothers and dads funeral and the Christmas wreaths that you would make me , Cliff will be missed he was a nice guy always a kind word and loved the pups .*

Hugs my friend

Debra Bahret - December 07, 2020 at 09:02 AM

KD

“ Steve, this is one of your past customers, Kimberly Draeger. I remember coming in and when getting flowers or ordering flowers, we would talk about our love for our furkids. I treasure the compassion Cliff and you provided me when I lost my husband in 1999. I was honored to have known him and be a recipient of his talent.

Your precious love has not ended. It lives forever. He is still with you, albeit in spirit. Steve, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Let me know if there's anything I can do.

*Peace,
Kimberly Draeger*

Kimberly Draeger - December 06, 2020 at 02:59 PM

SO

“ Steve, I'm so sorry for your loss. My parents, Roy and Rosie O'Neil were treated so well by you and Cliff and they would want me to share their condolences.

Steve O'Neil

Steven G O'Neil - December 06, 2020 at 02:05 PM

MI

“ Steve: I am so very sorry about Cliff's passing. He was so much fun in the shop. Please let Beryl and I know if there is anything we can do for you.

Marla Isaac - December 06, 2020 at 02:04 PM

GD

“ Steve, Darrell and I were so sad to hear of Cliff’s passing. We feel like the two of you have become friends, as we’ve come to your shop every time we have needed flowers for many years. It was always a joy to visit with you both....the light-hearted banter the two of you shared with your customers, and the obvious care you put into every arrangement, made it a pleasure to come into your shop. And, of course, we got our little Sammy from you! Our hearts go out to you and hope that you will find peace as the days and weeks go by. You will be in our hearts and prayers.

Gaylene and Darrell Dibbern

Gaylene & Darrell Dibbern - December 06, 2020 at 01:42 PM

DH

*Steve - so sorry for your loss. Cliff was always so much fun to talk to.
Dorothy Hedman*

Dorothy Hedman - May 30, 2021 at 12:55 PM

LW

“ Steve, I am truly at a loss for words having just heard of Cliff's passing. The previous posts echo some of what is in my heart. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I am so very sorry for your loss.
Laura Will

Laura Will - December 06, 2020 at 12:30 PM

KK

“ My deepest condolences to Steve and all family members. I am so sorry to learn of Cliff's passing. I so enjoyed visiting with you both at antique shows and flea markets as well as coming in to University Flowers and ordering flowers for my loved ones. Cliff was always offering laughs, had such an upbeat attitude and of such a caring nature. He will be surely missed by oh so many people. My prayers are with him and to you also Steve - please, take care of yourself.

Karen Knox - December 06, 2020 at 12:15 PM

JO

“ Dear Steve, we are heartbroken to learn of your loss!! I met Cliff in 1983, and have considered you both friends ever since! As life partners you balanced each other perfectly, and with such love and dedication I've always admired you both so much.

Cliff has made me laugh when I felt like crying, and hugged and cried with me when I needed it so much! He has been this big "open book, tell it like it is" presence for all!

Steve, you and Cliff have done so much for others....please know you are in our prayers and we are here for You if there is Anything we can do.

With our love, Jeanice and Jim Olinde



Jeanice Olinde - December 06, 2020 at 12:15 PM

LR

“ Steve, Lucy, Chase & Daisy Mae my heart is breaking for all of you. I loved coming into University Flowers to visit you guys. You all would manage to make me laugh when I was having the worst of days. You two were always a bright and shining light in my life. I will miss our nonsensical conversations, the hugs and laughter. Rest in Peach Cliff. You will be greatly missed.

Lori Rognlie

Lori L. Rognlie - December 06, 2020 at 10:30 AM

KM

“ Steve, please accept my sincere love and appreciation having known Cliff. I know he drove you crazy sometimes, but that was part of his charm. Blessings to you and your fur babies as I know your sadness is great. I'm sending love and virtual hugs your way.
Karen Myers, (University UMC)

Karen Myers - December 06, 2020 at 09:13 AM

JA

“ Steve, I was so shocked and saddened to hear of Cliff's passing. Buying flowers was but one of the treats in visiting University Flowers. We had so many wonderful giggles together and as I told you on Thanksgiving, I've been missing the heck out of you two. Please know that my thoughts are with you at this sad time. May our dear friend rest in peace after a lifetime of spreading joy to others.

Jaylene - December 06, 2020 at 08:30 AM

KH

“ *My heart is breaking for you and the furkids! I have so many memories of him, from all sides of his personality! He loved Steve and the furkids with all his heart. He will be greatly missed! I am sending you prayers for strength and guidance!*



Krista Hooper - December 06, 2020 at 08:21 AM

RC

“ *It's hard to believe Cliff is gone. I just saw him when I was in the shop ordering flowers for a retirement event set for December 1. You two always held a special place in my heart because we have a gay son that just married last month. I was just one of you customers so we didn't know each other well, but I always looked at you two as a wonderful example of living your lives with authenticity and I could always see the love you had for one another. Our hearts go out to you Steve.*
Rudy and Bonnie Cuevas

Rudy and Bonnie Cuevas - December 06, 2020 at 07:42 AM

SC

Oh Steve! I am heartbroken for you. I am sending hugs and prayers. Long time I have known you two. I am deeply sorry

Susie Coleman - December 06, 2020 at 09:04 AM

BW

“ *I was shocked and saddened to hear of Cliff's death. He was a wonderful person. He did my beautiful wedding flowers and I met his partner at that time. I wish I could have shared more conversations with him. Rest easy, Cliff. You were one of a kind!*

Becky Wilkes-Wagner - December 06, 2020 at 07:31 AM

RV

“ I've known Steve and Cliff for well over a decade and have considered them both as close friends for almost as long. Cliff's big heart and friendly nature -coupled with a mischievous streak- made for many fond [and some funny] memories, Like the time he presented me -with a straight face- the saddest, most wilted bouquet of flowers ever dug out of the trash and stuffed back into a vase. But he took pity on my crestfallen face and quickly leaned down to pull a magnificent bouquet from it's hiding place to take its place. He could easily have prolonged the prank for an additional 15 seconds but his inherent kindness kicked in. Cliff, I'll miss you but I won't forget you.

Robert VanSickle - December 06, 2020 at 04:44 AM

OC

“ Cliff was a good friend to my family, we are really sad . We love you , I miss the days at church when you always seating with us at the sacrament meetings, we were good friend . When I had my sad days , you usually says , do not worry, come to my flavors store and pick up some flowers to your wife ,,,, when my daughter passed, you cried. We will love you forever ! We will meet again , you were a great missionary. H.F bless your family! .

Oliver /Cristina Candido - December 06, 2020 at 03:13 AM

LC

“ I remember first meeting Cliff, around 1978, and him letting me listen to his album Eve by Allen Parsons Project; through the years sharing genuine heart-to-hearts and many funny stories, and what a great laugh! He loved our mama and she loved him and treated him like her own. We equally fell in love with you Steve, and my heart breaks for you buddy. You two have shared in our family's joys and sorrows and I pray peace to you and the other members of Cliff's family. He will sorely be missed!

Lisa Cloud - December 05, 2020 at 11:33 PM

BO

“ So very sorry for your loss. I loved calling the store to order flowers, and visit with Cliff. And boy he could talk!! He literally cried with me when I spoke of the loss of my little girl, my favorite four legged buddy. He loved his dogs so very much. I am not sure he ever knew a stranger.

Thoughts and prayers with you thru this difficult time. The world lost a good one when he passed.

Bobbi

Bobbi - December 05, 2020 at 11:32 PM

TW

“ I'm so sorry for your lose . Cliff was a sweetheart and a beautiful person..

Tonya Widow - December 05, 2020 at 10:44 PM

NN

“ Dear Steve, Our sincere sympathy to you. It was always a joy to visit you both at the store and learn what was going on in your lives. May you know that we will be praying for you during this time of your loss. His flowers will bloom in heaven and make it a better place. We will be here for you and please reach out to us if we can help you in any way.

Norman and Nancy Nellis

Norman Nellis - December 05, 2020 at 10:39 PM





“ Steve: Mark and I are shocked to hear of Cliff's passing and we know you lost your life partner! For that, we offer our heartfelt sympathy. We always looked forward to a cheerful conversation when we came into the store, all the years of flowers delivered to Virginia at Manor Care!! Taking care of our family weddings-in Lawrence and Topeka!!! For all the times you both lifted our spirits, know all your customers are here to lift you.

Becky Hilbert Burghart - December 05, 2020 at 10:26 PM

SF

“ Steve I'm so sorry to see this. I absolutely loved the conversation in the store - you guys have been apart of our family for 26 years by designing our wedding flowers and you have been with us through many life events. Cliff always brought a smile to my face and the stories he could tell - sure going to miss him!

Sherry Fitzgerald - December 05, 2020 at 09:38 PM

VS

“ Oh, Steve, I am so very, very sorry to hear this news. My heart is broken for you and the pups. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.💔😭

Virginia Soppe - December 05, 2020 at 09:27 PM

BF

“ Steve, Jeannene and I are heartbroken to see that Cliff passed away. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Bobby Freeman - December 05, 2020 at 07:29 PM

PF

“ *Your are the best of us!!! Every good memory
I have is filled with you!!! I Love and miss you!*



Patricia Fowler - December 04, 2020 at 02:14 PM