



Douglas Edward Kliever

May 12, 1942 - April 8, 2026

Douglas Edward Kliever passed away on April 8, 2026. Known to family and friends as “Grumpy,” he was born in May 1942 in Oregon, the son of Edward and Bina Mae (Billie) Kliever.

Raised in Medford, he graduated from Medford Senior High School, where he was senior class president, a two-time state forensic champion, and a National Merit Scholar. He went on to attend Princeton University, graduating Magna Cum Laude from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and later earned his law degree from Stanford Law School, where he served as president of the Stanford Law Review.

While at Stanford, he met Virginia (“Cookie”) Harper, his closest companion and constant through the decades. They married after his graduation and moved to Washington, D.C., where he clerked for Judge Oscar Davis of the U.S. Court of Claims and began a distinguished legal career, joining and ultimately becoming Senior Counsel at a New York–based law firm before retiring fully in 2000. Together, Doug and Cookie raised two sons, Eric and Chris.

After retiring, he remained active, traveling extensively with Cookie and close friends, gardening and working in his wood shop.

Cookie passed away in 2008 after a battle with cancer. Her loss marked a profound turning point. In the years that followed, with his loyal canine companion, Grumpy took to the road in an RV, traveling across the country, visiting Civil War battlefields and reconnecting with friends and family. True to form, he approached these journeys with discipline and curiosity, sharing his deep interest in history with friends and family.

Grumpy later brought his sons, their spouses Tracy and Lisa, and his grandchildren, Alex and Cameron, on many trips, revisiting the places he and Cookie had explored together during their adventures.

Along with his children, their spouses and grandchildren, he is also survived by his grand-daughter-in-law Danae, great-granddaughter Sylphiette and his dog Bingo.

He is remembered for his intellect, discipline, and devotion to his family, and will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Mr. Douglas Kliever may be directed to support General Cancer Research at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. Please make checks payable to Johns Hopkins University. Gifts may be mailed with a memo indicating that this gift is in memory of Mr. Douglas E. Kliever to the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, (<https://secure.jhu.edu/form/Kimmel>) 750 E. Pratt Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 2120

Upcoming Events

Memorial Service

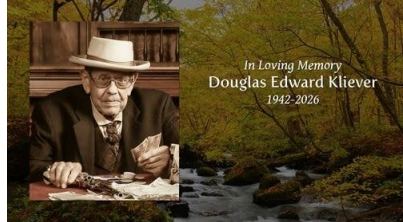
JUL 12. 1:30 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Douglas Edward Kliever* ”



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - Yesterday at 12:42 PM

JM

“ I only knew Doug for the last twenty months of his life. I met him when I came by to look over the house that was for sale next to his home. He happened to drive by that first time I came and he stopped to say hello to this stranger who was snooping around without a realtor. That was the beginning of a treasured but far too short friendship. He would invite me over to his home frequently for conversation and bourbon (me on the bourbon, not him). We would have meals together at his house, or sometimes go out to dinner at Fords in Rock Hall or go to breakfast at Phat Daddy's in Chestertown. It was always Doug who initiated the get together. I don't think there was ever a time when he was driving by that he didn't stop to engage me in conversation. The guy was so smart, knew history, and was so up to speed on current events that it was always my pleasure to learn something new from him every time we sat down together. He would sometimes talk about his wife, Cookie, and tell me little things about her. She was obviously close to his heart and I know he missed her just by the way he spoke of her. He would also talk about his sons and their wives, his grandchildren, and his great grand child. He loved them all. And he was one of the most generous people I've ever been around. Not so much with his money but more importantly with his time. In the short period I was lucky enough to be his neighbor I met one of the most important people in my life. I think of him often and will miss him until I hope we meet again. Joe Mullee

Joe Mullee - June 27 at 09:49 AM