



The Honorable John Thomas Clark III

September 15, 1943 - February 2, 2014

The honorable John Thomas Clark III passed away peacefully on February 2nd, 2014 at Corsica Hills Nursing Home in Centreville, Maryland at the age of seventy. For the past few years he had battled Parkinson's Disease.

Born in Baltimore, MD on September 15, 1943, Judge Clark attended Centreville High School in Centreville, MD. In 1965 he graduated Cum Laude from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Judge Clark received his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1969, and was admitted to the Maryland State Bar that same year. He returned to Centreville, Maryland to join his father in his private law practice. From 1971-1975 Judge Clark served as an Assistant State's Attorney for Queen Anne's County and as the State's Attorney from 1975-1979. In 1979, he was appointed District Court Judge for Queen Anne's County and retired from that position on February 1, 2011. At the time of his retirement, Judge Clark was the longest sitting District Court Judge in the state of Maryland. During his tenure, Judge Clark served on the District Court Committee on Criminal and Motor Vehicle Matters and on the Board of Directors for the Judicial Institute of Maryland. He was a member of the American Bar Association; Maryland State Bar Association (litigation law section) Queen Anne's County Bar Association; on the Board of Directors for Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc.; as a member of the Lion's Club and American Legion; and as a member of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council in Queen Anne's County. He

also served in the Army National Guard. He was an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Centreville, MD where he served as Acolyte Director for twenty five years.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years Sally; his son David of Church Hill, MD, David's wife Valerie and their two sons Jordan and Ethan; his son Jonathan of Los Angeles, CA; Jonathan's wife Yasue and son Winston. He is also survived by his brother Bill of Centreville, MD, and his sister, Carol of Rock Hall, Md. He leaves behind his niece, Stacey Baker, and her family of Rock Hall, MD, and Marion Wolfe Dixon of Portland, OR.

A private family burial will be held on Friday, February 7th. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Parish Church, Centreville on Saturday, February 8th to begin at 11:00 AM.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial gifts be sent to St. Paul's Parish Church, Box 278, 301 S. Liberty St., Centreville, MD 21617. Memorial gifts can also be sent to Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 1359 Broadway Suite 1509, New York, NY 10018 www.pdf.org or [Info @ pdf.org](mailto:Info@pdf.org).

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
301 South Liberty Street
Centreville, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Sally, I was deeply saddened to learn of John's death. He and I were very good friends during those four years of misery called Law School. I had hears from Judge Krug that he was ill, but I looked him up on Google today and learned of his death. I hope that you and your family can take solace in the knowledge that you shall see him again. With deep sympathy, Jim Keenan*

James I. Keenan Jr. - April 15, 2014 at 03:22 PM



“ *Robert A Ellsworth lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Robert A Ellsworth - February 21, 2014 at 10:26 AM

TP

“ Sally,

So sorry to learn of John's death. He, you and your family are in my prayers. He was a great friend and fraternity brother. May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

*Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Hank "Flea" Perrin*

The Rev. Hank Perrin - February 14, 2014 at 06:09 PM

SA

“ Dear Sally,

I am so sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you and your family. John was such a good, kind person and will indeed be missed. May Jehovah, the God of comfort, comfort you in your time of sorrow. Know that even though he may be gone he will not be forgotten. He will forever live on in your heart.

Stephanie Ayers

Stephanie Ayers - February 10, 2014 at 09:56 PM

LT

“ SALLY, I AM SO SAD FOR YOU AND YOUR BOYS. LOSING A PERSON YOU LOVE IS THE HARDEST THING YOU'LL EVER DO IN LIFE. JUST BE GLAD THAT JOHN WILL ALWAYS LIVE IN YOUR HEART. LOVE AND PRAYERS,
LINDA CASH THOMAS



LINDA THOMAS - February 10, 2014 at 11:50 AM

JP

“ Sally,
*I am so sorry for your loss. These tributes to John are a testament to what a wonderful man he was.
You are in my prayers.*

Jo Ann Hale Petty

jo ann petty - February 08, 2014 at 11:54 AM

RB

“ Sally, *I am sorry to hear of your loss. Wish I had made it to the last reunion to visit one more time. Tho I had only met John on two occasions, I could see he was a good husband.
Blessings to you and your family.*

Bob Barnett

Robert Barnett - February 08, 2014 at 08:17 AM

TW

“ Dear Sally,

It was a great shock to learn today of John's death. I immediately thought of how we had been friends since primary school days – but mostly going our separate ways over the years. I especially recall the fun we had in the Boy Scouts long ago. As I read the tributes to John, I realize what a wonderful friend and mentor he had been for so many. I wish I had taken more time to visit over recent years. But I am grateful for the events we shared – like the class gathering at the gallery. It happens that my old college roommate, who lives nearby, is also dealing with Parkinson's now – so we are doubly aware of how cruel the disease can be. I hope that the thoughts and prayers of so many will be a comfort to you and your family in the coming months and years. I am proud to be able to say that John was a classmate and friend.



*Sadly, Tom West
February 7, 2014*

Thomas G. West - February 07, 2014 at 06:07 PM

JB

“ Judge Clark was a close family friend. While I only had the pleasure of seeing him on family trips to Centreville, his keen wit and wonderful sense of humor were of more significance than words can describe. I also appreciate the personal advice he offered during difficult times in my life and the professional advice he was kind enough to offer when I was considering law school, attending law school and practicing law as a young attorney. He had a fantastic way of relaying his opinion on a given topic with a casual tip of the head, raise of the eyebrow, knowing grin and contagious laugh that could never be duplicated. I know he will be missed by everyone he touched.

Jeff Benton - February 07, 2014 at 09:19 AM

BB

“ *Brenda & Mike Beaver lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Brenda & Mike Beaver - February 07, 2014 at 08:07 AM

PF

“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to the family of this fine and honorable man. I knew him for many years as a fellow prosecutor, and later as a conscientious and dedicated judge. Finally I encountered him as a student in a night class I taught at Chesapeake College. I was impressed that someone with such a position of prominence would be interested in expanding his skill set - and a little nervous about having a judge before whom I regularly appeared as a student. I need not have been. My thoughts and prayers are with all who morn his passing..*



Phil Foster - February 06, 2014 at 10:27 PM

DC

“ *David And June Clark lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



David and June Clark - February 06, 2014 at 06:28 PM

MH

“ *Sally and Family, I am so sorry for your loss and know that you will have many wonderful memories of John. May God Bless you all.*
Martha Roe Herman



Martha Roe Herman - February 06, 2014 at 06:07 PM

CW

“ *Centreville United Methodist Women sent a virtual gift in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Centreville United Methodist Women - February 06, 2014 at 04:40 PM

DC

“ *Sally, Lynn and I extend our deepest sympathy in your loss of Johnny I had the privilege of starting grade school with him. We graduated on the same stage, played sports together on the same fields. As we matured in life Johnny became a lawyer and I became a State Trooper.. We met several times in the Courtroom. Whether the case went my way or against me I was always satisfied with his decision and ruling. It was evident to me that Judge Clark was fair and honest in his rulings. Johnny I hope that we reunite acquaintances one more time. "May God shine his light upon you in heaven as he has while you were with us on earth"*



Don & Lynn Conley

Don Conley - February 06, 2014 at 10:52 AM

AW

“ As a spanish interpreter I was so fortunate to have worked in his courtroom. I learned so much from him. It was an honor to have met you. Ana Wackenfeld..

annie wackenfeld - February 06, 2014 at 06:20 AM

RF

“ As we age and mature we learn to appreciate the finer experiences in life. I had the priviledge and honor to have served as a Spanish Interprer in Judge Clark's court for the last 15 years he was on the bench. He was a great adjudicator and compassionate towards the weaknesses of those who came before him. I will miss him at the bench, at St Pauls and as a friend. May you go with God,John.
RF

Rick Ferrell - February 05, 2014 at 10:30 AM

BW

“ Bernie & Brenda Williams lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III



Bernie & Brenda Williams - February 05, 2014 at 09:28 AM

AA

“ God Bless you Your Honor. I have so so many good memories of you being so kind and decent to everyone. Heaven must be welcoming a new angel. Love Anna Aita. Law Offices of Anna Aita

Anna Aita - February 04, 2014 at 11:30 PM

JM

“ Joe Mullikin lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III



Joe Mullikin - February 04, 2014 at 10:13 PM

EC

“ My friendship with John goes way back. I remember having fun with John in Little League and Boy Scouts. Those were the days of adventure and mischief. And not to forget to mention those 4 years as classmates at the old Centreville High School...right across the street where he and Sally and family have lived for years. I always admired John...he was very competitive and always sought to excel in everything he thought important...academics, track, cross country, soccer, baseball and basketball. I remember with envy watching John make basket after basket shooting at the hoop on the pole behind his parent's home nearby my home.

And then there is this great photo of Sally and John looking at each other and laughing together sitting at the table with Ed Benton and Bill Cross at Cathy's and my wedding reception when we all were so young.

We last saw John in September on our way to my 1961 class reunion/picnic at Margaret Ann Dodd's farm at Carmichael. When I asked John if he had anything special to say to his classmates, he smiled and said in a whisper like voice, "tell them to have a good time." This is how I will remember John. We will certainly miss John. We are so sorry.

Ed and Cathy Cissel

Ed Cissel - February 04, 2014 at 03:40 PM

GE

“ I first appeared before Judge Clark many years ago. It was one of my first experiences coming from the other side of the Bay Bridge. He was wonderful. He was thoughtful, knowledgeable, and very patient. I enjoyed watching him try cases as I waited to be called. While I would refer some of my Eastern Shore clients to local lawyers, I never referred a case where I would have the opportunity to appear before Judge Clark. He was a gentleman and a gentle man. He had compassion and strove to do the right thing for the person before him. The next to the last time I appeared before him, the case had to be postponed because of an overcrowded docket. When I went to the clerk's office to reschedule the date he was standing there. I told him I remembered when the dockets were not so crowded that he could finish all the cases in a day. I then remarked that was also at a time when we both had a lot more hair. He laughed and wished me well and I had the pleasure of coming back to try the case before him. His premature retirement was great loss the the legal community, and his passing is a great loss to his family. There is a special place in heaven for people like Judge Clark. May God grant him the peace, and give his family the comfort of knowing that he is comfortable, and that his spirit and love will be with them each and everyday. Rest in peace Judge Clark.

Gary S. Bernstein, Esquire
Towson, Maryland

Gary S. Bernstein, Esquire - February 04, 2014 at 12:34 PM

HE

“ r.i.p sorry for family loss



heather - February 04, 2014 at 10:32 AM

SB

“ I have very fond memories of working with Honorable John and ow much he loved his family, his work and his community. I was so pleased with his work in the therapeutic pool and his sense of accomplishment . Such a gentle soul with a gentle wit as well. My thoughts are with his family and friends. Susan Baker

Susan Baker - February 04, 2014 at 10:02 AM

LH

“ We sahere in your grief. Although we are so many miles away, you are in our prayers for strength and peace. It surely has been a blessing to witness your family during the last months give your love so compassionately to John and others at Corsica. Doug and Llla Holmes and Ms Kitty

Lila Holmes - February 04, 2014 at 09:50 AM



“ Tim & Laura Bishop lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III



Tim & Laura Bishop - February 04, 2014 at 09:22 AM



Thoughts and prayers to the family. Judge Clark was a classmate of mine also and will be sadly missed. Tim & Laura Bishop

Tim & Laura Bishop - February 04, 2014 at 09:26 AM

DM

“ Judge Clark was a wonderful judge and a true gentlemen. His passing is a loss to the judiciary, Queen Anne's County and the State of Maryland. I always enjoyed appearing before him. My sincere sympathies to his wife, family and friends.

*Judge Daniel R. Mumford
Ocean City, Maryland*

Daniel R. Mumford - February 04, 2014 at 09:11 AM

WB

“ Sally and family: Wheeler and I are so sorry to hear of Johnny's passing. We have lost a giant in our county. Johnny always made himself approachable on the street for anyone with a question and in the courtroom he was the most fair judge one could ever expect to find. Thoughts and prayers to all. Love Ya'

Holly and Wheeler

Wheeler Baker - February 04, 2014 at 07:54 AM

JL

“ Jack And Robin Laird lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III



Jack and Robin Laird - February 04, 2014 at 07:35 AM

EM

“ As a young Trooper, my first cases were handled by John (Johnny) Clark and his dad as they represented the State's Attorney's Office for Queen Anne's County. Shortly thereafter he was appointed State's Attorney and then Judge for the District Court. In his capacity as a prosecutor and judge, I always found John to be a thorough, fair man. As a prosecutor he would always take the time to give you advice on how to prepare for court. As a judge, if you asked it of him, he would gladly take you in "chambers" and render advice. No one can ever say that John Clark did not give them their day in court. As any police officer will tell you, even if a defendant wanted to plead guilty, John always wanted the defendant to "enter a not guilty and hear the facts". A sigh of "oh no" would come from the police officers but at the end of the day, everyone knew it was the right thing to do for everyone involved.

Not only has Maryland's legal system lost an honorable man, but Queen Anne's County has lost a wonderful citizen and friend.

Earl Beville Retired First Sergeant MSP - February 04, 2014 at 06:54 AM

KR

“ *Kim Ruth lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Kim Ruth - February 04, 2014 at 06:46 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



staceybaker - February 04, 2014 at 06:34 AM

SB

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



stacey baker - February 04, 2014 at 05:29 AM

JH

“ *Joe And Ann Haymaker lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Joe and Ann Haymaker - February 03, 2014 at 07:31 PM

JH

I have good memories of growing up together in Centreville Heights. Our sympathy to Carol, Billy, and John's family. Joe

Joe and Ann Haymaker - February 03, 2014 at 07:34 PM

DD

“ As a new attorney I had heard all the horror stories. Embarrassment, being belittled by Judges with little patience and feared what my inexperience would bring upon my clients. Then I met Judge Clark. What a true gentleman. Kind, patient, fair and knowledgeable. Always a fair shake, even in defeat you had your day in court without any penalty for trying your best. The University may have given me the diploma, but Judge Clark gave me the opportunity to grow into a trial attorney. For that I am eternally grateful. Respectfully, DDR.

DDR - February 03, 2014 at 06:59 PM

DN

“ Dawn Nock lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III



Dawn Nock - February 03, 2014 at 05:26 PM

CF

“ Curtis George & Family lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III



Curtis George & Family - February 03, 2014 at 04:34 PM

RE

“ *Ronnie & Bonnie Edwards lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Ronnie & Bonnie Edwards - February 03, 2014 at 04:22 PM

TH

“ *Tim Blackiston, Corsica Hills sent a virtual gift in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Tim Blackiston, Corsica Hills - February 03, 2014 at 04:00 PM

ND

“ *Many years ago, I tried my first case before Judge Clark, a subrogation matter for an insurance company. I lost the case, but Judge Clark walked me to my car afterward and gave me some pointers and was just so kind. I never had occasion to appear before him again, but I have never forgotten his kindness. He was truly a gentle man.*

*Nancy McCutchan Duden
Deputy County Attorney
Anne Arundel County, MD*

Nancy Duden - February 03, 2014 at 03:28 PM

JP

“ *JoAnn & Royden Powell lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



JoAnn & Royden Powell - February 03, 2014 at 01:35 PM

DP

“ *Doug Pierson lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Doug Pierson - February 03, 2014 at 12:16 PM

CT

“ *Connie Todd lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Connie Todd - February 03, 2014 at 09:47 AM

CT

“ *Sally and Family. I was so very sorry to hear of John's passing. He was a wonderful, humble gentleman. He will me missed by all that knew and loved him. Thoughts and prayers to you and may you cherish all of the wonderful memories.*

Connie Todd - February 03, 2014 at 09:46 AM

BD

“ *Butch And Bev Dadds lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Butch and Bev Dadds - February 03, 2014 at 09:43 AM

BD

Sorry for the loss of a great man. the family is in out thoughts.

Butch and Bev Dadds - February 03, 2014 at 09:44 AM

JE

“ *Sally and family,We are so sorry for your loss.Johnny was a very special person to many of us and he will be missed by all who knew him.God Bless You and hope you find peace in the many memories of one so dear to you.*

Jim and Mary Ann Edwards - February 03, 2014 at 09:00 AM

JE

“ *Jim And Mary Ann Edwards lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Jim and Mary Ann Edwards - February 03, 2014 at 08:55 AM

PM

“ *Phyllis Martin lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



phyllis martin - February 03, 2014 at 08:55 AM

LP

“ *Lynda And Gene Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Lynda and Gene Palmatary - February 03, 2014 at 08:08 AM

LP

Sally and family: Our prayers and thoughts are with you in the loss of a great friend. He fought the battle, but God saw he was getting tired and couldn't fight anymore. We all have memories that will remain in our hearts. Blessings to your family at this time and may God give you the strength and love to get through this difficult time in your lives. God Bless, Lynda and Gene

Lynda and Gene Palmatary - February 03, 2014 at 08:12 AM

DK

“ *To Sally and family: My memories are many and although I am sad, I will forever carry with me all that he taught me. God Bless you
.. With Sincere Sympathy, Debbie Kiel*

Deborah Kiel - February 02, 2014 at 06:05 PM

DK

“ *Deborah Kiel lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Deborah Kiel - February 02, 2014 at 05:59 PM

NW

“ *Nancy Lee Jewell, Register Of Wills lit a candle in memory of The Honorable John Thomas Clark III*



Nancy Lee Jewell, Register of Wills - February 02, 2014 at 04:04 PM