



Roger Ellis Clark

March 2, 1943 - December 18, 2025

“I’ve had a great life, people have treated me so well.” That was something Roger Ellis Clark said in one of his clearer moments during an intense five-year battle with dementia. It was a simple statement, and a true one. That is how he felt about his family, friends, coworkers, students, customers, colleagues, caregivers, and all of the people who surrounded him in Talbot County.

Roger Ellis Clark was born on March 2, 1943, in Washington, DC, and died on December 18, 2025, in Easton, MD. After spending short periods of time in Massachusetts and New Jersey, he grew up in Claiborne, Maryland, a place that helped shape his lifelong connection to the Eastern Shore and its people. He was the son of Oscar Hugh Duffey Clark and Mary May Clark.

Roger was one of four brothers. He was preceded in death by his older brother Duffy Clark and Duffy’s wife Nancy, by his brother Peter Clark, and by Peter’s wife Ann, who resides in St. Louis, Missouri. He is survived by his younger brother Vince Clark, whose wife Linda preceded him in death, of Michigan. Roger deeply cherished the bond he shared with his brothers and their spouses, and with the many wonderful nieces and nephews who were an important part of his life.

Roger was predeceased by his beloved wife, Carol Sue Clark, the person he

cherished more than anyone in this world. They were married on August 17, 1970, after meeting while teaching together. Their marriage was marked by intense love and deep respect. At times their affection was visibly expressed, but always it was emotionally rich and grounded in trust, companionship, and mutual reliance. Even as dementia slowly took hold over the last years of his life, Roger never stopped asking about Carol Sue. They were happily married for forty years until Carol Sue's sudden passing in 2011.

Roger is survived by his two children, Michael Clark and his wife Michelle of Easton, Maryland, and Jodie Clark Pullinger and her husband Mark of Sheffield, England. He is also survived by his two grandchildren, Alexis and Lane Clark.

In addition to the love he shared with his own family, Roger held close the family of his wife, Carol Sue. He greatly enjoyed the company of her brothers and sister, including Ken Furnish, who preceded him in death, and his wife Dorothy Furnish of Milford, Delaware; Lois Swing, who preceded him in death, and her husband Jack, who also preceded her in

death; and Darrell Furnish, who preceded him in death. He also deeply valued time spent with all of their children, his nieces and nephews, each of whom was extremely special to him.

Education was the defining work of Roger's life. He earned a Bachelor's degree in History from Salisbury State College, now Salisbury University, in 1965, and a Master's degree in Education from Western Maryland College, now McDaniel College. For thirty years, he served the children of Talbot County with dedication and care. He began his career teaching Civics and United States History at Easton Junior Senior High School. He later became a respected administrator, serving as Principal of Easton Middle School, Easton High School, and St. Michaels High School.

Throughout his career, Roger was active in professional organizations including the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Maryland State Teachers Association, and the Talbot County Education Association, where he proudly served as President. Even in retirement, he remained a passionate supporter of Talbot County Public Schools students and staff.

After retiring from education, Roger and Carol Sue owned and operated The Clark and Clark Team, a successful real estate firm specializing in residential sales throughout the tri county area.

Earlier in life, Roger was also a certified lifeguard, water safety instructor, pool manager, and swim coach, roles that reflected his lifelong commitment to mentorship, safety, and community involvement.

Roger gave generously of his time and leadership beyond his professional career. He served on the Board of Camp Wright, was an active member of the Rotary Club of St. Michaels where he served on the Scholarship Committee, and was a devoted member of Christ Episcopal Church in St. Michaels. He also served on the Workforce Investment Board, the Channel Marker Board, and the Bay Hundred Youth Task Force Scholarship Committee.

Visitation will be held Friday, January 30, at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 200 S Harrison St, Easton, MD 21601, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Christ Church St. Michaels in St. Michaels, Maryland. A graveside service will be held at a later date and will be private for family.

Roger Ellis Clark lived a life rooted in service, family, education, and love. His

legacy lives on in the countless students he guided, the colleagues he led, the community he served, and the family who loved him deeply.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites those who wish to honor Roger's memory to make a donation to either the Talbot County Public Schools Education Foundation at <https://tcpsef.org/> or to the Talbot County Education Association c/o Katie Curry, Easton High School, 723 Mecklenburg Avenue, Easton, Maryland 21601.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN 30. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home
200 S. Harrison Street
EASTON
EASTON, MD 21601

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Church
301 S. Talbot St.
St. Michaels, MD 21663

Tribute Wall

CF

“ Roger and I were cousins and special pals thru childhood. While visiting GM Mary May and the aunts and uncles on the Eastern Shore where I was born during WWII, we went crabbing and sailing and shooting hoops, playing board games and loving the dogs. Who could ask for anything more? These are wonderful memories of my times in MD. He and brothers were wonderfully supportive in times of trouble, for which I am still grateful. Loving regards to entire family. Cathy May Tyler Findley

Cathy Findley - January 27 at 05:03 PM

FW

“ From May Family: Clare, Cathy and Walt purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Roger Ellis Clark.



From May Family: Clare, Cathy and Walt - January 26 at 04:56 PM

FW

“ From May Family: Clare, Cathy and Walt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger Ellis Clark.

From May Family: Clare, Cathy and Walt - January 26 at 04:56 PM

MS

“ We wish we could have had more opportunities to be with Roger; he was fun, generous, intelligent, warm--we knew immediately he was someone we would enjoy spending time with. What a wonderful legacy he has left...

Mike-Gayle Stahl - January 26 at 03:30 PM

ML

“ Mike L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger Ellis Clark.

Mike L. - January 24 at 11:36 AM

LL

“ Love The Leikachs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger Ellis Clark.

Love The Leikachs - January 24 at 11:06 AM

LL

“ Love The Leikachs purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Roger Ellis Clark.



Love The Leikachs - January 24 at 11:06 AM

SV

“ Roger was one of the first people I met when coming to Talbot County to work in Education. He and Carol Sue were my realtors and later, my neighbors and fellow churchgoers. I will always remember his hearty laugh, the stories of life on the Shore, and the deep love he had for his family. Ti Michael, Jodie, and family I give my love and condolences.

Sheila Vaughan - January 02 at 08:05 AM

CC

“ A good man, effective school administrator, and mentor to many. He will be fondly remembered. Thoughts and prayers for his family during this time.

Christina Carlson - December 27, 2025 at 07:53 PM

DL

“ Roger was such a sweet and caring person. We have many memories of Thanksgiving weekends in OCMD and Christmas parties in St Michael's. We will truly miss him. May his memory be a blessing.
Neil and Dixie

Dixie and Neil Leikach - December 27, 2025 at 01:10 PM

DW

“ I have so much respect for Roger. As a teacher in Talbot County, I was fortunate to first know him as a parent whose children, Jody and Michael, I taught in elementary school. He and Carol raised wonderful children. And of course, I knew him as a principal. He exuded high standards, fairness, and respect for everyone.. I often think of him and Carol, and I'll miss them both.

Dottie Woodard - December 27, 2025 at 09:31 AM

PF

“ I first met Roger when he was a lifeguard who blew his whistle at me more than once. He must have learned something about managing children because he became a teacher and then a principal at three different schools. Over time we became friends, with Roger volunteering as treasurer for my campaign committee. I know the last few years have not been easy ones for him, but he left a mark on this community over his career that will be felt for generations. Now he can reunite with Carol Sue and all the good memories will come back. Prayers for Michael, Jody and their families.



Phil Foster - December 27, 2025 at 02:40 AM

PF

“ Penny Finkner lit a candle in memory of Roger Ellis Clark



Penny Finkner - December 26, 2025 at 12:06 PM

VW

“ Valerie Wheatley lit a candle in memory of Roger Ellis Clark



Valerie Wheatley - December 24, 2025 at 10:34 PM

GB

“ George Ball lit a candle in memory of Roger Ellis Clark



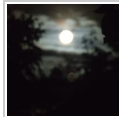
George Ball - December 24, 2025 at 11:07 AM



“ Kathy Smock lit a candle in memory of Roger Ellis Clark



Kathy Smock - December 24, 2025 at 10:40 AM



I had the privilege of working with Roger at both Easton Middle and Easton High schools. He was committed to the students and staff and encouraged high standards for all.

Kathy Smock - December 24, 2025 at 10:42 AM

DM

“ Roger will always hold a soft spot in my heart. He was the kindest man (and funny). The years I worked for Roger and Carol Sue are cherished memories. They weren't just my employers, they were my friends, they were the example I strived to follow. Roger will be missed deeply. My thoughts and my heart are with Roger's children, grandchildren and family. With Love, Diana Miles

Diana Miles - December 24, 2025 at 10:03 AM

GB

“ Gary Ball lit a candle in memory of Roger Ellis Clark



Gary Ball - December 24, 2025 at 08:48 AM

AF

“ Andy Foster lit a candle in memory of Roger Ellis Clark



Andy Foster - December 24, 2025 at 06:31 AM

KF

“ So sorry for your loss

Kaiden Fitch - December 23, 2025 at 10:58 PM

CM

“ Chris Metz lit a candle in memory of Roger Ellis Clark



Chris Metz - December 23, 2025 at 05:26 PM