



Clifton Lee Bridges M.D.

January 20, 1944 - September 25, 2024

Clifton Lee Bridges, M.D. passed away at his home in Leesburg, Florida on September 25, 2024 following a long battle with heart disease.

He was born on January 20, 1944 in Elizabeth City, NC to Horace Lee Bridges and Elizabeth O'dell (Carver) Bridges. His father was career Navy and he spent his early years living all over the country including time on two bases in the Hawaiian Islands.

After his father's retirement the family returned to their hometown of Coleman, FL where Cliff attended Wildwood High School. There he met his future wife of 60 years, Glenda (Johnson) and both received their BA from University of South Florida in 1965. In 1969 he graduated from Emory University School of Medicine and was selected to the honorary medical society of AOA. He did his residency training in general surgery and otolaryngology at the University of Alabama and the University of Miami, moving to Leesburg to open his private practice, Lake Ear, Nose, and Throat Associates in 1974. In 1976 Bridges was joined in practice by his medical school friend, James Merriwether Hardy, M.D. For decades, their partnership served our community with purity, holiness and beneficence, honoring the Hippocratic oath.

Dr. Bridges was board certified in both otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery and a Fellow of The American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Bridges was a proud veteran, having served eight years in the U.S Army Reserve Medical Corp. In addition to his private medical practice, Dr. Bridges was active in many community organizations serving as Chief of Staff at Leesburg Regional hospital and Lake Community Hospital. He was president of the Lake County Medical Society, served on the board of Lake Sumter Hospice and the Leesburg Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of Morrison United Methodist Church and served on the finance and endowment committees for many years.

Dr. Bridges served on the boards of Citizens National Bank of Leesburg and later Citizens First Bank of the Villages for a total of 40 years, becoming Chairman of the Board of each. He treasured his banking career and his colleagues there as well as his medical colleagues and patients.

He was a member of the Leesburg Quarterback Club for over 40 years enjoying lifelong friendships and trips with some of his favorite people. He was a member of the USF alumni association and a proud University of Florida Bull Gator and loved taking family and friends to games in the Swamp.

Loving and loyal, dedicated and determined, he was a consummate provider. He gave nothing but the highest standard of care to each and every patient regardless of their ability to pay. His family was his most precious joy. He instilled in his children and grandchildren the belief that knowledge and education are powerful. He demonstrated his faith with generosity, courtesy, kindness, and confidence. Cliff was erudite, resourceful, fair and diplomatic. Until his final days he prioritized providing and creating opportunities for his family as well as providing medical guidance to friends.

We will miss him terribly but will never forget his wisdom, support, and sense of humor. May he rest in peace with joy in the arms of the Lord.

Dr. Bridges is survived by his loving wife Glenda Johnson to whom he was married for 60 years, children Clifton Lee Bridges Jr. M.D. (Allison Sewell), Martha Bridges Mehr, D.D.S (Jon Mehr, D.D.S.), and Lt. Col Ret Christopher Bridges (Lt. Col Ret Heather Hall Bridges). He leaves behind 9 beloved grandchildren, Sam, Cade, Kate, Cliff, Ava, Ryan, Chase, Jay, and Taylor, a beloved brother, Claude Roy Bridges, and six nieces and nephews.

Services for Dr. Bridges will be held Sunday, October 6 at 2pm at Morrison United Methodist Church in Leesburg, FL

For those who wish, memorials may be made to Folds of Honor or Morrison United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Morrison United Methodist Church
1005 W Main St
Leesburg, FL 34748-4924
(352) 787-3786

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Bridges was a doctor that not only cared about his patients but the people he worked with. I was an operating room nurse and I enjoyed working with him. He was the best !*

Carol Miner - November 26, 2024 at 01:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..*



October 14, 2024 at 12:37 PM



“ *Rosita Nobles-Poole planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..*

Rosita Nobles-Poole - October 14, 2024 at 12:37 PM



“ *Gabe O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..*

Gabe O. - October 08, 2024 at 09:23 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..



October 06, 2024 at 08:57 AM



“ Halla and Andy Sher purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..



Halla and Andy Sher - October 05, 2024 at 12:13 PM



“ Joey, Jeanne, Josie & Jake McDonald purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..



Joey, Jeanne, Josie & Jake McDonald - October 05, 2024 at 09:19 AM



“ Joey, Jeanne, Josie & Jake McDonald planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..

Joey, Jeanne, Josie & Jake McDonald - October 05, 2024 at 09:19 AM

ET

“ Eric & Amy Teal purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..



Eric & Amy Teal - October 04, 2024 at 04:41 PM

FS

“ Fouad and Judy Shami purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..



Fouad and Judy Shami - October 04, 2024 at 12:41 PM

PG

“ Prices, Adams, Adairs, Nelsons, Greers purchased the *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet* for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..



Prices, Adams, Adairs, Nelsons, Greers - October 03, 2024 at 04:02 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..



October 03, 2024 at 12:58 PM

TW

“ *The Riley's and The Wellman's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..*

The Riley's and The Wellman's - October 03, 2024 at 12:58 PM

JS

“ *John Williams and Nick Shelton purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..*



John Williams and Nick Shelton - October 01, 2024 at 04:11 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..*



October 01, 2024 at 09:31 AM

LR

“ *Lynn and Andy Reeves planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..*

Lynn and Andy Reeves - October 01, 2024 at 09:31 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..*



September 30, 2024 at 04:53 PM



“ *Our prayers and thoughts are always with you and your family. Thank you Brigdes family for all the years of doing some of the family's hair though out the years. Kay @ Kays Barber and Beauty*

Kay - September 30, 2024 at 12:29 PM

TB

“ In 1979, as a fourth-grader playing soccer with Lee, one of my best buddies, I first met the Bridges family. Dr. Bridges had a big impact on me. From sleepovers at their house to cheering us on at sports games, he showed a kindness that went beyond mere courtesy.

Living nearby on Sunnyside Drive in Leesburg and spending time with the family offered me a unique glimpse into their world. From water skiing on Lake Harris to eating out after church, or in their dining room at home, I saw many sides of Dr. Bridges. I was even fortunate enough to join them on family vacations, witnessing his dedication to family time firsthand.

He helped Lee and me with trigonometry late into the evening, played basketball in the driveway some days, and operated on me as his patient on others. It was a unique experience to see all facets of a man's character as a boy and later as an adult - only then do you truly know a person.

At home or in the community, this remarkable man carried himself with the same gentle dignity. Once, as a teenager, I injured my foot while working on a farm in Sumter County. In a panic, I called my friend's dad. Concerned, he dropped everything and met me at the ER in 15 minutes - just one example of many.

What struck me most was his consistent character. Whether in surgical scrubs or jogging with his dogs, saying hi to me while I played baseball in the street on Sunnyside Drive, he treated everyone with equal respect. He encouraged my pursuits in college, played chess with us kids, helped with homework, joined pickup games of 21 in his driveway, and always took a genuine interest in others.

His balanced approach to life was admirable - juggling a demanding career with family time and community involvement. He understood that relationships were life's most valuable asset and lived that belief daily.

To the Bridges family – thank you for sharing this incredible person with us. He made our community immeasurably better. His legacy of compassion and integrity will continue to inspire us all.

We'll miss you deeply, sir, but your impact lives on in the countless lives you touched. Thank you for showing us how to live with purpose and kindness.

Todd Bates - September 30, 2024 at 11:17 AM

KM

How very beautiful. Absolutely the man I knew as well.

Kenny & Rhonda Magamoll - September 30, 2024 at 03:35 PM

LB

What an incredible tribute Todd. Thank you for your kind words.

Lee Bridges - October 01, 2024 at 03:46 PM

MM

Thank you so much Todd. He was certainly my role model and hero. We miss him so much.

Marja Mehr - October 02, 2024 at 06:54 AM

SB

Dear Glenda, It is with great sadness that we saw Clif's obituary in The Pharos AOA magazine. We have such fond memories of those years at Emory and the wonderful friendship we shared during medical school and beyond. The many tributes on this site are wonderful evidence of a dedicated life of service and compassion which is not at all surprising. We are sending you a gentle hug through cyberspace and our hopes that time is helping you heal his loss. May you feel the love of many of us who were blessed with being able to call both of you friends.

Suzanne and Steve Blievernicht

PS We live in Asheville, North Carolina. If you ever get up this way, please let us know. We would love a visit with you. ❤️❤️

Steve and Suzanne B. - March 16, 2025 at 06:22 PM

CG

“ *He was loved and will be missed by many.
Rest In Peace*



charlotte LaRue guimond - September 30, 2024 at 10:21 AM

KM

“ *What a blessing and privilege to work with Dr Bridges as an office nurse and surgical scrub. His wisdom, humor, and compassion for his patients were a part of his daily practice.
Thank you Glenda, Lee, Marja, Chris and families for sharing this wonderful man with us. Prayers that his great love for each of you and your wonderful memories of him sustain you. Go rest on high.*

Kenny & Rhonda Magamoll - September 29, 2024 at 11:13 PM



Thank you Rhonda and Kenny. He loved you too! Thanks for reconnecting and loving and supporting all of us these last few years. Your friendship can never be forgotten.

Marja Mehr - October 27, 2024 at 10:37 AM

LF

“ *Love, Train Gang Families purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..*



Love, Train Gang Families - September 29, 2024 at 02:32 PM

BF

“ Brian Brooks and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..



Brian Brooks and family - September 28, 2024 at 02:28 PM

BF

“ Brian Brooks and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D..

Brian Brooks and family - September 28, 2024 at 02:28 PM

BH

“ Cliff was a dear friend, and classmate. Our oldest sons are very good friends. He will certainly be missed by friends family and community.💕💕

Barbara Hudson - September 28, 2024 at 07:44 AM

SK

“ Stephen & Elizabeth Knowles lit a candle in memory of Clifton Lee Bridges M.D.



Stephen & Elizabeth Knowles - September 27, 2024 at 09:06 PM

RH

“ *Deepest condolences on the loss of Dr. Bridges. He was brilliant surgeon and a super nice human being. This world is better because he walked through it. What a wonderful legacy he leaves!* ”

Rebecca Hampton - September 27, 2024 at 05:55 PM



Thank you so much.

Marja Mehr - October 27, 2024 at 10:38 AM