



## Rollyn Cliffton Gibbs

October 17, 1935 - December 13, 2025

Major General Rollyn Cliffton Gibbs, USA (Retired), of Clintonville, died peacefully in the early hours of December 13, 2025. Born October 17, 1935, in Fremont, Ohio, Cliffton moved to Columbus at a young age and became a proud graduate of The Ohio State University, earning both a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Juris Doctor in 1958. A distinguished military graduate, Cliff was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve, serving his country with honor for over 37 years. He rose to the rank of Major General, commanding the 83rd Army Reserve Command in Columbus and playing a pivotal role in preparing units for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. His service included significant contributions to military civic action projects and international military integration efforts. He was also a member of the Board of the Army War College Foundation and remained active with the OSU ROTC Alumni Society as an Emeritus member. In addition to his military career, Cliff was a respected attorney in Columbus for over 50 years, specializing in debtor and creditor rights, bankruptcy, and corporate law. He began his legal career in 1960 with the law firm of Nappi & Cunningham, before joining the law firms Cunningham, Burns and Gibbs, Cunningham, Gibbs, & Cavalieri, Arter & Hadden LLP, and then Bailey Cavalieri LLC. He finished his career serving as in-house counsel for Bundy Baking Solutions, based in Urbana, Ohio, an international company founded by the Bundy family to whom Cliffton was devoted both personally and throughout his legal career. He served as

counsel in numerous high-profile insolvency cases during his career and was an original member of the bankruptcy trustee panel for the Southern District of Ohio. His calm demeanor and ability to provide objective, dispassionate counsel benefited his clients immensely. During the latter part of his legal career, Cliffton served as a mentor to many young attorneys using his wisdom, and displaying his wonderful character, which exemplified all which is good in the profession. Cliffton was a valued member of several professional legal associations including the Columbus Bar Association and the Ohio State Bar Association. Cliffton was devoted to his Presbyterian faith and a longtime member of Overbrook Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. He was predeceased by his beloved mother, Cora Alice Cliffton, his father, Rollyn Matt Gibbs, his aunt Nellie Hibbard Cliffton, his uncles Emerson George Cliffton and Russell Gibbs, and cousin Diana Jane Cliffton Burnham. He is also survived by numerous extended family members in West Unity, Ohio including Jan Hutchinson, Judy Rand, and Rose Stough. Always seeing the best in humanity, one never heard Cliffton utter a negative word about anyone. He will be remembered for his devotion to country, community, and his chosen profession. Heartfelt thanks to Cliffton's dedicated caregivers during his final years, namely Rutreast (Tree), Julie, Marlene and Alpha from Options Home Services and Melanie, Rena and Trish from IKOR of Columbus, and to the families of Nick V. and Avalon K. Cavalieri and Russell T. and Elizabeth A. Bundy for their unwavering love and attention to Cliffton during his lifetime. His was truly a legacy of leadership, service, and integrity. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214, with a reception and luncheon to follow at the Church. Private interment to be held at a later date and time at West Franklin Cemetery in West Unity, Ohio. In lieu of flowers, donation may be made in Cliffton's memory to Overbrook Presbyterian Church at the address above, or to a charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

**West Franklin Cemetery**

# Previous Events

## **Church Service**

JAN 6. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Overbrook Presbyterian Church  
4131 North High Street  
Columbus, OH 43214

# Tribute Wall



“ Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Rollyn Cliffton Gibbs



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**Rutherford Funeral Homes** - January 05 at 01:52 PM

RW

“ Cliff was an amazing person and he was valued member of our family!

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**Renette Wooten** - April 28 at 05:48 PM

KE

“ I served as MG Gibbs' Aide de Camp for his final 6 years in command of the 83d Army Reserve Command. We traveled the state and I always enjoyed our discussions - whether a history lesson at a Presidential Wreath Laying Ceremony, on our way to the Dum Dum factory in Bryan, or at Tom's Ice Cream Bowl! He served as an inspiration for me to attend law school and branch transfer to the Army Transportation Corps. Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful in re-connecting with him in the last year or so and am saddened to learn of his passing. I will always look up to the example he set.

*Judge Kevin Popham  
CPT, USAR (Ret.)*

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**Kevin** - February 02 at 02:11 PM

JM

“ Many of you only know Cliffton from church, the military, or the legal profession. Colonel Donald Good and I I knew him through almost his entire life. The three of us grew up in Clintonville and became friends in Clinton Elementary School and the Boy Scouts, Troop 69. I was a year behind them in school, but we were close friends and followed the same paths in our lives. We knew his mother and aunt, and we did many things together.

We all went to Crestview Jr. High, North High School, and THE Ohio State University under grad and OSU Law School. Cliffton chose a program that allowed him to enter law school his senior year of undergrad and received his BS in Bus Adm and Juris Doctor at the same time and his Army commission. Don was also in the College of Commerce, but did not choose to attend law school.

Our paths went in different directions at that point, but since I moved to Newark, Ohio, Cliffton and I saw each other on a regular basis at sporting events and holidays. Donald's career in the Air Force took him overseas for much of his career but once he was back in Washington DC as a Colonel in the Air Force, our friendship picked up and continues to this day. We now must say farewell to our dear friend of almost 90 years. You should all be that lucky to have such a friend for so long!

Because of health and location, Donald is in northern California and I am in southern California, we probably won't be able to attend the funeral, but Cliffton will always be in our hearts.

God speed and rest in peace, our dear friend Cliffton. A lifetime of fond memories.

Judge Robert J. Moore, Retired

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**Judge Robert J. Moore** - January 05 at 11:35 AM

RM

“ Cliff was a wonderful man. Always ready with good advice and good humour. Dick Murphey

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**richard murphey** - December 18, 2025 at 07:21 PM