

CLIFFORD A. MORTON



The former Bethel Park Mayor, Clifford Alan Morton, age 90, passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 28th in the Artis Memory Care Facility in Bethel Park. He was born on September 23, 1933, to Jay Sidney and Irene Stover, and grew up in farm country in northern Pennsylvania, where he attended Spartanburg High School. He attended Allegheny College as a freshman where he met his

wife, Joan Mitchell. After serving three years in the Marine Corps, he went on to receive his bachelor's degree from Washington and Jefferson College, and later his master's from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years Joan Mitchell Morton; devoted sons, Mitchell Jay (Karen), and Shawn Alan (Kelly); grandchildren, Jarrett Morton, Alayna (Cameron) Carver, Tanner Morton, Sarah (Michael) Maynard, Anna Morton, Matthew Turner, and Justin Turner (Melissa); and 12 great-grandchildren. Deceased in addition to his parents, are sisters, Willa Morton, and Carol (William) Phillips; and an infant granddaughter, Brittany Morton. Surviving is a brother, William (Connie) Morton; and a sister, Linda (Phillip) Carter. Cliff was a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as his extended family. He always enjoyed playing, watching, and coaching his sons in many sports, particularly baseball and football. Many weekends were spent at Lake Seneca, Ohio, where the family enjoyed camping, boating, water skiing, fishing, and golfing. Cliff was a member of the Ruthfred Lutheran Church in Bethel Park where he, many times, served as trustee. He loved participating in a men's weekly church bible study called "Journey through the Word." Through the years, Cliff held a variety of positions that qualified him to run for the mayor's position in 1998. Serving 16 years as mayor, Cliff was dedicated to serving his community and implemented many improvements and programs benefiting his community. These programs include Bethel Park beautification projects, utilizing volunteers, Boy Scouts, and residents; the decorative banner program; organized a holiday lighting display contest including a winner from each ward. The most popular was the 90-plus club recognizing senior citizen birthdays and recognizing them at an annual luncheon to honor their milestone. These programs are still in effect today thanks to him. He also contributed articles to the Bethel Park Magazine. Prior to his mayoral position, he served seven months working as a seaman on the Great Lakes; five years teaching English in the Bethel Park junior and senior school district; 18 years employed at U.S. Steel as a sales service supervisor (retired); a six-year term on Bethel Park School Board; 10 years as owner of (Wood Whims), a custom-made wood shop; a passion for woodworking skills he passed onto his sons. He was also employed by Paul Henney Funeral Home, where he was a driver and greeter. He was also a member of the Historical Society; Elks Club, American Legion; and former member of the Lion's Club and Gideons. He was also part of the Allegheny County, and PA, State Mayor Association; and a trustee of the Ruthfred Lutheran Church and the Bethel Park Foundation. The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation for the loving care and support, the Artis Senior Living Care Home and the Commonwealth Hospice staff showed to Cliff. Especially during his final days, their care and compassion were comforting for the family. Visitation will be Sunday, 2-4 only, and Monday, 2-4 and 6-8 at the **PAUL HENNY CREMATION AND FUNERAL HOME**, 5570 Library Road, Bethel Park, PA. The service will be on Tuesday, 11:00 a.m., at Ruthfred Lutheran Church in Bethel Park followed by a luncheon at the church. Everyone, please meet at the church. Burial will be at the Jefferson Memorial Park following the luncheon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation in Cliff's memory to the Alzheimer's Research Center Pittsburgh - UPMC Montefiore, online at adrc.pitt.edu or Ruthfred Church Benevolence Fund at 3401 South Park Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102.

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