



Joseph Correll Clemens

October 29, 2017

When you look at a blank canvas, what do you see? How about a lump of clay? Joseph saw not just potential but unspeakable beauty. He would not stop until he created that beauty and you as the outsider, saw it too. The same goes for people; he never saw the worst in anyone, only what they could be, and he would make them believe it too.

Joseph Correll Clemens or "Butch" was born in Philadelphia, PA. and was the son of the late Richard Clemens and Louise Thomas Clemens. Joe attended St. Francis School for Boys and St. John's School for Boy. Though sometimes his behavior was far from exemplary, he was a bright and curious student who had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge that would follow him into his last days.

Joseph volunteered and entered the Army in 1964, during the height of the Vietnam War. After proudly serving his country halfway around the world in Southeast Asia, he was granted an Honorable Discharge and full military disability pension.

In 1976, he met Carolyn Dennis. From that union, the following year, he was granted the proudest part of his life; becoming a father, followed by becoming a proud grandfather. He would paint, draw, play chess, and teach auto mechanics to his daughters. When he became a grandfather, he did all of these same activities with his grandchildren including trying to teach them to play the guitar.

Butch was a tinker, and loved working on TVs and anything electronic. He

also loved to play his guitar and taught many how to be decent chess players; he had a great command of the game and was a master chess player.

Butch was known for his generosity. If he thought you needed a shirt, he'd pull his off and give it to you. His heart was made of pure gold. He would do for others and genuinely not want anything in return.

Joe died peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, October 29th, 2017 at his home in Germantown. He is survived by his two loving daughters, Oriel, "T", Harris (James) and Ciara, "CC" Robinson (Gerald); his adoring grandchildren Jaslene and Arya Harris, Shyla, Chloe, and Lincoln Robinson; his brothers Michael, Richard, and Larry Clemens. He was preceded in death by his sister Crystal Rose Cornitcher "Chrissy". He is also survived by a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and extended family. The family sincerely thanks everyone for cards, flowers and sympathy shown to us.

From the first letter of St. Peter: Beloved, sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you the reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, so that when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the Will of God, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteousness that might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, He was brought to life in the Spirit.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 8. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Faith Emmanuel Church
29th & York Sts.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Service

NOV 8. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Faith Emmanuel Church
29th & York Sts.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Interment

NOV 8. 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

Washington's Crossing
830 Highland Ave.
Newtown, PA 18940

Tribute Wall



“ *Been on my mind lately guy...I never thought you'd leave us...honestly I didn't. I will Never Ever forget your voice or your life lessons you literally instilled in me. I still hear your voice as of your right here next to me. I never thought you'd not come over whenever nor do I stop expecting a knock at my door and it be your handsome face smiling back at me with the smile and hugs of Life..it Always brought Me back to life. You weren't just my Uncle..You were my Bestie all of my life amd Especially when Mommy died.. I still see you in my minds eye..I still hear your laughter...I didn't want you to go with your parents and your sister..I wanted you to stay with me ..forever! One day..I will see you again Uncle Butch..and I will proudly learn to play the guitar from you..until then my Blessed Uncle..sleep now...&..I love you.*

Joyous Muhammad - November 23, 2017 at 06:08 PM



“ *Uncle Butch, we only met a handful of times however I will never forget the smiles and hugs you shared with me. So full of love and warmth. Rest in paradise Uncle Butch.
From Larry: "Butch, you know I fucks with you! Brother, I love you."*

Myra Clemens - November 08, 2017 at 08:31 AM



Joyous Muhammad - November 10, 2017 at 05:36 PM

NC

“ Though there's so many wonderful memories I have of my Uncle Butch, a few of my most favorite memories of my Uncle is driving to his home on Wister St with my Mom every month to take him to the Italian Market his favorite place to get his groceries. I always would look forward to going not just to shop but just to spend time with the two of them together and he always had to have his Buffalo steaks it never failed LoL... we would also always have lunch at this little sandwich shop known for their hot Roast beef, tripe, and Roast pork sandwiches, well on one occasion before we leave he pulled out his guitar and he says "listen to this song I just wrote last night babygirl, it's called Sunset over Tahiti," and he started playing it for us and I just remember how I smiled so hard because he says to me "I wrote that for you!" I never forgot the title because it was so unique just like my Uncle.. another favorite memory was the time I asked him to fix Dee's Barbie Jeep and not only did he fix it, he had rigged it up so that it could accelerate so fast way above the average speed 😂😂 it was originally 💕...but the best memory was speaking with him the last time I saw him and he asks me "how many degrees do you have now gal?" So I responded "3" and he says "Ok well when will you be working on your fourth one?" Despite anything he always believed in his family and always encouraged us to strive as far as we could in our education because he knew our potential and intelligence.. I'm going to miss you Uncle Butch and though you're no longer here with us I know that you are at peace with Mommie. You were one of the most pure hearted, loving human beings this world will ever know. I feel so blessed to have had you as such a great Uncle and role model... until we all meet up again I love you and will miss you so!



Nia Cornitcher - November 07, 2017 at 07:05 PM



“ Where do I even begin to start Joseph Cordell Clemens aka Butch was my Uncle, he was such a pure and innocent spirit always parting his wisdom upon you, when he talked I listened as there was always a lesson to be learned. He asked me to be his music manager bc he trusted my business acumen.. I recall as my mom was battling for her life in the hospital he arrived to visit his baby sister, a few mins I to his visit my mother said she wanted an orange or a tangerine and he said "baby girl you want a tangerine", he dug in his pocket, low and behold he pulls out a tangerine for his sister, he was always right on time. I will forever and always love and miss my Uncle, I will also always hold onto your Vietnam hat that you gave me when you spent Thanksgiving at my home.. Rest well Uncle and I love you beyond life, Kiss my mommy and grandmom for me.. 😍😭

Rashidah Cornitcher - November 05, 2017 at 05:37 PM



“ Glorious Memories Garland was purchased for the family of Joseph Correll Clemens.



November 04, 2017 at 09:37 AM

DE

“ Butch was my first cousin there wasn't ever a dull moment when he visited summer street! You already know he bore the Thomas trademark of being super handsome and his smile put shade on the sun! He painted grandmoms house the exterior ,when everybody saw that flawless paint job, many of the neighbors hired him to do theirs. Butch also showed skill in electronics too, butch took grandmoms floor model colored tv apart , I was about ten years old !not many families even had tv's and surely not like that one!He was doing well with the tv, he explained to me what every piece was he had all over the living room floor, I felt that this was a wonderful thing butch was doing and I couldn't wait for grandmom to see her suprise, well the phone rang, I answered it and gave the statement that gramoms not here right now and butch is teaching me how too fix her t.v. it wasn't long before her sons popped up ALL of them!! Grandmom said butch put everything back of course Sears was on the way! the repair guy found a perfectly functioning t.v. he told grandmom your grandson has a job with us, and he did a good job here! However I don't remember butch working for sears! He was also an artist I so wish I had sat down and talked with you while you were here, so cousins find out where our older cousins are living go and visit because they have your ancestry within them! So rest in peace sweet cousin butch! Give flub a hug for me! Love desi

Desi - November 04, 2017 at 09:01 AM

MC

1964 I joined the Army and was on my way from 30th Street Station, heading to Fort Jackson, South Carolina to begin basic training. Mom, dad, Bip, Chris Butch and Larry were there to see me off. Butch pulled me aside and told me he was going to South Carolina with me. I said how great was that, my brother was going to accompany me to basic training and come back home. Butch said he wasn't coming back home, because he talked a stranger in signing for him to join, on the, "Buddy Buddy," system with me. We had five minutes to explain it to mom and dad before boarding the train to Army Basic Training. Everyone was shocked, but Butch was brilliant in his joining, and keeping it a secret until train boarding time. I was so glad that my baby brother, out of the three olders, was accompanying me on the unknown in the service of our country. Our happiness was put arrest on arrival to basic training when our drill Sargent, in a loud raspy voice, that the rest of the volunteers had the heart to join the army on their own, not the Clemens sisters. Thus started our rocky entry into the US Army, which we both served Honorable. Butch I miss you and all the adventures we were on. Love you dude! Mike 🇺🇸🌈👊

Michael Clemens - November 04, 2017 at 04:32 PM



Joyous Muhammad - November 07, 2017 at 10:55 PM

CC

Wow that's amazing! I miss him so much

Ciara Clemens-Robinson - November 09, 2017 at 09:24 PM

RS

“ As Joseph's, (aka, Butch) 1st cousin Robert Thomas, I remember his love for electronics , playing his guitar, making everyone laugh and his love for traveling to Cape May NJ in happier times. We're all gonna miss you Butch, rest in peace.

Robert Thomas Sr., Zedrick/ Clara's son - November 04, 2017 at 07:11 AM



“ He was my Uncle.. And he will Always be my Uncle. Time and space... Rest Uncle Butch 🙏🏾💕💕💕💕

Joyous Muhammad - November 03, 2017 at 07:17 PM

NC

Love you sis!!

Nia Cornitcher - November 07, 2017 at 07:09 PM



I Love You Too New New💕💕💕 Very Much So

Joyous Muhammad - November 08, 2017 at 01:56 PM