



Clinton M. Bell Jr.

August 24, 1943 - August 22, 2019

Clinton M. Bell Jr. of Bellingham, WA passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 22, 2019 at Whatcom Hospice House in Bellingham.

Born in Dalton, GA in 1943 to Edith and Clinton Sr., housewife and minister, he was a high school dropout who enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country for 25 years. One of his first assignments was to present the flag to families of fallen soldiers. Finding that too painful, he volunteered for a tour of duty in Vietnam. Until the end of his life he was unable to hear about wounded warriors without shedding tears. He himself was a wounded veteran.

He went to college on the GI Bill, earning a Bachelor and two Masters degrees in business and health care administration, which led to a career in health care. His assignments took him around the country and the world, but his years in Belgium were the highlight, serving at SHAPE/NATO Medical Center.

Following his retirement from the Army, the family moved to Whatcom County where Clinton was first employed by Whatcom Medical Bureau and later by AON/Sterling Life. His position at WMB allowed him to greet each new physician coming into practice, personally getting to know many and considered them friends.

He was a generous, sensitive, kind, and caring soul. He had strong beliefs, strong opinions, and he was direct – no question about it! He saw the potential in people, expected them to do their best, then encouraged them to do better.

He would do anything to help, whether family, friend, or a stranger, and expected nothing in return. Clinton was fiercely protective of those he loved. His circle of friends was small and he cared deeply for them.

Clinton is survived by his wife, Wendy; daughters, Jeannou, Michelle, and Tammy; sons, Eric and Mark; sister, Regina; brother, Charlie; seven grandchildren; two (soon to be three) great-grandchildren; and a multitude of nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank all the medical professionals involved in Clinton's care and asks that, in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to Whatcom Hospice Foundation.

A private service is planned for the family and close friends.

Tribute Wall

CK

“ Dear Major Bell,

Happy Veterans Day.

Thanks for the great training and funny scary memories.

Your Former CICA LEAD

Private Carolyn King

Caroline King - November 11, 2025 at 07:38 PM

DA

“ Wendy & Family – I’m so sorry to hear of Clint’s passing. I have no contact information for you or would reach out directly. I very much enjoyed my many years of working with you both. Please know I am thinking of you with great fondness. Much love, Debbie

Debbie Ahl - September 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CK

Amen

Caroline King - November 11, 2025 at 07:39 PM

LN

“ I lost an iconic figure in my life. Clint brought me to Whatcom County twenty five years ago by hiring me to work at Whatcom County Medical Bureau. That act led to the most exciting and fulfilling years of my life. Clint was a visionary, decisive and difficult at times, but was also warm, funny, (mischievous) and supportive of staff. He built good teams and let us work to get some amazing things done.

He loved good food, wine, and music, and RUGS! I will miss him greatly. My heart goes out to his loving wife Wendy who so carefully ensured his health was optimal as it declined, but in the end disease processes won the battle.

My thoughts are with his family and that small circle of friends that remained close to him, and that big WMB family who will have some amazing stories to tell. RIP Mr. Bell.

Lori Nichols - September 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CK

Amen

Caroline King - November 11, 2025 at 07:39 PM