



## Merritt Cleve Atchley

November 16, 1950 - April 27, 2017

Merritt Cleve Atchley died peacefully on Thursday, April 27, 2017 in Tallahassee, FL at the age of 66. He was surrounded by his family and friends.

Cleve was born on November 16, 1950 in Decatur, AL to Cliff and Ruth Atchley. His family moved to Tallahassee when he was 10 years old. He graduated from Leon High School in 1968. He married Laura Schroeder in 1972.

Cleve retired from the City of Tallahassee as a Construction Inspector. He was an avid gun enthusiast and certified NRA instructor. Cleve was an active and dedicated member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He worked with The Boy Scouts of America for many years and was a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award. He also loved to teach unique methods of outdoor cooking. Cleve was driven to show his love through serving others. Cleve's children remember him as a big-hearted, loyal, magnetic, compassionate and assertive father.

Cleve is survived by his wife Laura; parents, Cliff and Ruth of Pell City, AL; son, Matthew, his wife Patricia and their children Simon, Mason and Laney; daughters, Chaille and Marie; daughter-in-law, Kimberly and her daughters Madelyn and Chloe; siblings, Cinderella Forney of North Dakota and Crystal Hubertus of Texas. He is preceded in death by his son, Clint, and his brother, Cliff Jr.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2 at Bevis

Funeral Home in Tallahassee. The funeral service will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 3, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 312 Stadium Drive. Bishop Chris Hargrett will officiate the service. Interment will immediately follow at Tallahassee Memory Gardens. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Cleve's life. The family would like to thank caregivers, hospital staff, etc. for their efforts, care and dedication.

Todd Wahlquist and Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) are assisting the Atchley family with their arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee Memory Gardens

4037 North Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Funeral Service

MAY 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
312 Stadium Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32304

# Tribute Wall

CT

“ I just saw this and I to was touched by this wonderful man and family. My family and I moved in next door to them in 1986 from Virginia and we knew no-one! Then we met Laura and Cleve and came to love them instantly. They took my family under their wing! Cleve was an awesome man and family man. He left quite a legacy.  
Cathy and Bill Tucker

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**Cathy Tucker** - December 30, 2021 at 03:56 PM

RB

“ It is with a heavy heart and deep regret that I am unable to pay my respects in person to a man who is cherished and loved by all who knew him in any way or for however brief. My heart and thoughts are with his family and friends as they lay Merritt Cleve Atchley to rest, and celebrate the life of someone who was very much like a father to me and whom I loved as such. I look to the writings of poet Robert Burns to find the words that I am so desperately lacking. I felt that sharing both of the following would be fitting and appropriately apply to Dad Atchley.

*"Epitaph On My Ever Honored Father"*

*O ye whose cheek the tear of pity stains,  
Draw near with pious rev'rence, and attend!  
Here lie the loving husband's dear remains,  
The tender father, and the gen'rous friend;  
The pitying heart that felt for human woe,  
The dauntless heart that fear'd no human pride;  
The friend of man -- to vice alone a foe;  
For "ev'n his failings lean'd to virtue's side."*

*-Robert Burns*

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*"Epitaph On My Own Friend"*

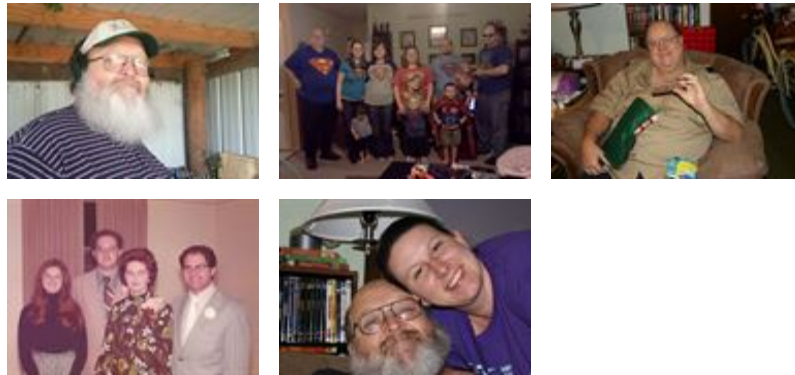
*An honest man here lies at rest,  
As e'er God with His image blest:  
The friend of man, the friend of truth;  
The friend of age, and guide of youth:  
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,  
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd:  
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;  
If there is none, he made the best of this.*

*-Robert Burns*

**Richard Berry** - May 03, 2017 at 06:00 AM



“ 76 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Bevis Funeral Home** - May 02, 2017 at 09:33 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Merritt Cleve Atchley*.



May 01, 2017 at 08:09 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray* was purchased for the family of *Merritt Cleve Atchley*.



May 01, 2017 at 04:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Merritt Cleve Atchley.



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May 01, 2017 at 02:29 PM



“ *Albert and Delores Ramey and Family* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Merritt Cleve Atchley.



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**Albert and Delores Ramey and Family** - May 01, 2017 at 10:31 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Merritt Cleve Atchley.



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May 01, 2017 at 06:59 AM



“ *Daniel Poole and the Poole Family* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Merritt Cleve Atchley.



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**Daniel Poole and the Poole Family** - May 01, 2017 at 02:32 AM

PW

“ I was fortunate to be Mr. Atchley's home physical therapist. He was funny, open and a real family man. He shared recipes and vegetables with me. He was very motivated to get better and I was shocked by his sudden death. I am happy to have known him. - penny

Penny Weimer - April 30, 2017 at 07:28 PM

DS

“ A wonderful kind man. Wishing the family peace and the knowledge that they will be reunited again one day. Gives us reason for hope.

donna Salyers - April 30, 2017 at 05:50 PM

PF

“ Patricia Brock and family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Merritt Cleve Atchley.



Patricia Brock and family - April 30, 2017 at 03:24 PM

BB

“ My husband and I got to know Cleve when he was serving in the 5th Ward Bishopric and we were running the Family History Center on Thursday night. Cleve is one of the kindest, wisest and funniest men that we have been lucky enough to call a friend. He is an excellent teacher, as well, I discovered when my daughter, a friend and myself took a gun class from him. Tallahassee Stake is poorer now that he has moved on, but Heaven is richer.

Bill and Trudie Bell - April 30, 2017 at 03:03 PM



“ I will never forget the first time we met the Atchley's. Cleve was quite the character and such a great story teller. We were so blessed to have our daughter marry into such a wonderful and loving family. They are our family as well. Cleve is now with Clint, may God bless them both. All our love. The Oalmann Family

Kelly Oalmann - April 30, 2017 at 02:20 PM

LB

“ I remember Cleve teaching me how to cook inside an orange peel over an open fire. He was always such a gentle and amazing man. It's comforting to know that he was lovingly greeted by his Savior's arms when he stepped through the veil. My love and prayers to his family. ❤️

Lori Barnes - April 30, 2017 at 10:42 AM

 Pilar Delp

“ What a blessing Cleve was to our family. So grateful to have known this wonderful brother in the gospel. - Delp Family

Pilar Delp - April 30, 2017 at 06:28 AM

MM

“ Michael and Cheyenne Milner purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Merritt Cleve Atchley.



Michael and Cheyenne Milner - April 30, 2017 at 05:33 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Merritt Cleve Atchley.



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April 29, 2017 at 11:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Merritt Cleve Atchley.



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April 29, 2017 at 11:30 PM

BF

“ Recall first memories of meeting Cleve when he worked at Walgreens Drug Store and attended Tallahassee Junior College. Became great friends taking similar interests in many activities as target shooting, automobiles, CB radios, Scouting and enjoying fine meals around town as two bachelors.

Cleve and I both gave up the single life and married within a couple of years of each other to be with a wonderful wife. I have been a friend of his wife's family for almost 49 years and have known Laura about the same amount of time. They both have always been remarkable in every way and helped me many times when I required a little extra advice or consoling through rough times and disappointments.

They never turned their back and have supported our friendship since 1968 which must be a record for friends. At least in my book. Cleve has always been an outstanding and terrific individual in every way quick to respond in offering assistance.

I know he sincerely loved his wife, children, parents and siblings and recall his sacrifices to provide what he could for them. He treated me great and know he did the same to others.

We spoke on the phone about 9 - 10 days and he was in good spirits looking forward to returning home to be with his wife and daughters.

Our birthdates are one year and one week apart and we shall remain friends in my memory forever. I will miss him.

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Byron Fain - April 29, 2017 at 10:56 PM

SS

“ It is hard to know where to begin with my memories of "Brother Cleve". From going with the Atchley's to see Christmas lights and getting donuts, to doing taxes (and applefritters) to serving together in many callings. He is a great man, who I admire, love and call a friend. We love and miss you Atchley family.

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**Steve Stone** - April 29, 2017 at 10:07 PM

DA

“ I always enjoyed Cleve's talks in church, presentations in boy and cub scouts, and him bringing donuts to our house just because he was awesome like that! We'll never forget you and the service you provided!

- The Sleep Family

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**Daniel** - April 29, 2017 at 10:03 PM

SM

“ How our family loved Cleve. Every time we saw him it was like seeing Santa. We were greeted with hugs and a huge smile. For over 30 years he has always been there to do whatever was needed, no task was too small. Integrity, generosity, love and fun were Cleve's. signature traits. We will miss him terribly, and send prayers of comfort to his loving family. We know he has heard the words " Well done thou good and faithful servant ."

Love

The Morgan family

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**sue morgan** - April 29, 2017 at 09:42 PM

DA

I always enjoyed Cleve's talks in church, presentations in boy and cub scouts, and him bringing donuts to our house just because he was awesome like that! We'll never forget you and the service you provided!

- The Sleep Family

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**Daniel** - April 29, 2017 at 10:01 PM

CE

“ I remember when I was a youth and Cleve and Brett Beasley took us camping in a big army truck. He was always nice to my dad before he passed away. He was someone you looked forward to seeing. He would always give you a big smile and a strong handshake. You will be missed!

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**Chris Evelo** - April 29, 2017 at 09:40 PM

JS

“ Cleve ALWAYS had something kind to say to me every Sunday. He was a wonderful friend and neighbor and I will never forget he and Laura having Ron and I over to dinner when we were a young couple, new to the neighborhood. I didn't know how good home grown potatoes could taste until that dinner!

*Atchley family, you are in our thoughts and prayers. Ron loved Cleve and is broken hearted for you as well.*

*Love you all,*

*Jackie Stone*

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**Jackie Stone** - April 29, 2017 at 09:01 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Merritt Cleve Atchley.



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April 29, 2017 at 05:56 PM