



## Clarence LeRoy Sumner Jr.

March 28, 1943 - November 29, 2015

Rudder Funeral Home, P.O.Box 525, Stevenson, AL 35772, 256-437-2971

Clarence LeRoy Sumner, Jr.

March 28, 1943 ~ November 29, 2015

Chattanooga, TN

Clarence LeRoy Sumner, Jr., age 72, of Chattanooga, TN, passed away unexpectedly on November 29, 2015, at his home.

He was born on March 28, 1943, in Spooner, Lake of the Woods, Minnesota, to the late Ora Lee and Clarence Sumner, Sr.

He was also known to many as C.L. or Boola. His interests included his love for his family, his dog, reading and traveling. C.L. always had such a very caring heart for helping others.

He was currently employed as a truck driver for National Boiler Company and previously employed at Power Equipment Company and T.J. Snow Company.

As a child, he was a member of the Bonny Oaks School, which he dearly loved, from 1955-1962, where he made many friends, specifically the "Barn Boys". While at Bonny Oaks, he met a very special family, John and Dot Steffner, who played an important part in his upbringing. He graduated from Tyner High School in 1962, and he was so very proud to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War (3 tours), as a Master Gunnery Sergeant.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother, Raymond Sumner.

He is survived by his son, Robert "Skipper" Sumner, daughter Coleen Crownover and son-in-law Jim Crownover, son Jason Young and daughter-in-law Jessica Young;

grandchildren Dylan and Brandon Sumner, Tori and Jillian Crownover, Justin, Ryan and Alyssa Young, and many, many friends. He has also been a foster father to several children over the years.

At his request, no service or visitation will be held. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Bonny Oaks Foundation, ATTN: Harry Jackson, Secy., 1778 Chadwick Court, Hixson, TN. 37343. [www.rudderfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rudderfuneralhomes.com)

# Comments

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“ I miss the phone calls and the family stories, as they made me closer to a family that is spread across the US. I am sure that you are exchanging stories with Raymond, Charles, Dicie, Nellie (my Mom), Sonjia and your Mom and Dad. Just knowing you were my Uncle makes me proud. Love and miss you.

**Betty Persky** - December 30, 2015 at 03:23 PM

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“ Dad, I am so gonna miss you. I wished I could talk one more time on the phone with you, get another hug or kiss from you, hear you tell me how proud you are of me and the girls. You were my biggest cheerleader. The things I learned from you. The times you held my hand through some of the hardest things growing up. You gave the best advice, led me in the right direction, but still let me make my own choices (even if you knew they were not the right ones). It still seems so unreal not having you hear with me. I love you and always will, Coleen.



**Coleen Crossover** - December 06, 2015 at 10:37 PM



“ One time yo054ur daddy told me about the situation in Japan when he helped the kids and made them a play ground and almost got court marshalled! he tried to adopt a child then but he had passed away! He showed it to me it was in his house! I dont know where? but please make sure it doesnt get lost! He had pictures and news paper clippings! He showed me one day and told me the story! But that story really touched my heart! so please make sure you find it! And my condolences I am truley sorry! He was just my freind but he was you dad! so I can only imagine how you are feeling and i am praying for you! My little girl is praying too! My mama told her the news and she cried! she only met him a few times but bless her heart she loved him just like I did! I love you and anything you need let me know! 423 313 2054! Even if you need me to help you clean up and get things together I will! I helped him dust when he had his Eye sergery! He really was like my best freind! and he was always there for me right when I needed him right on time eveytime! I am here if you need me ok! I know you dont know me but I heard so many stories about you and Skip and Jason and Tory and Jill he was so proud of his family!

**Lori Davis** - December 09, 2015 at 08:05 PM

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“ RIP Uncle Clarence, I am sure you are having a great time swapping stories with your parents and siblings-Charles, Raymond, Dicey, Norman, Nell and Sonja. You are loved and will be missed. Darlene

**Darlene Carroll** - December 06, 2015 at 03:07 PM

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“ Love you daddy. I know I was a pain, and didnt want to behave most of the time... but I still love you and miss you!

**John Westmoreland** - December 06, 2015 at 08:03 AM

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“ It broke my heart to hear that Boola had passed away...Boola was bigger than life and had a huge heart for his Bonny Oaks brothers and sisters.He will be truly missed.Love you Boola rest in peace.

**Mary Chambers Ellis** - December 05, 2015 at 09:59 PM

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“ I met Clarence (Bulla) in 1955 when I also came to live at Bonny Oaks School. I remember when we worked on the farm together, Clarence driving the tractor as the rest of us farm boys loaded the bales of hay and straw onto the flatbed trailer. Working hard was usually rewarded with several hours of swimming in the pool where Clarence surly held the record for the highest splash while performing a cannonball. We enjoyed sharing memories when we would meet at the reunions and the dedication of the statue. Oh what fun we had growing up learning to be responsible, hard working, and fun loving people. R.I.P until we meet again in our Father's house!

**David Yell** - December 05, 2015 at 04:20 PM

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“ Its with a great deal of sadness that we heard of the passing of Clarence "CL" Sumner. I remember CL at Bonny Oaks School. He was always working hard on the farm chores. CL seemed to have a purpose for everything he did. We all owe CL a debt of gratitude for his service to our country in the Marines. He sacrificed so that we could be a free nation. He was a good man and a great American. Our prayers to his family and friends.



**Jesse Presley** - December 05, 2015 at 03:17 PM

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“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



**Christine Haven** - December 05, 2015 at 11:52 AM

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“ I grew up with Clarence (Boola) at Bonny Oaks School. I remember when he would sometimes be chosen to lead our services at the Chapel. Clarence always remained a Leader in life. Clarence was a big fan of the bonnyoaks.org website and was one of the first to send in his personal pictures for it back in 2000. When I received them, he had written on the back of one of the pictures, "who's this little girl?". It was a 1959 picture of me at age 9 and Roland Rich, dressed in our Sunday best, standing together outside the Chapel. Clarence had taken that picture and, amazingly, held on to it for 40 years, a testament to his love and kinship for his Bonny Oaks brothers and sisters. Rest in Peace, Boola, my friend, we will all meet again one day, love to you always! Christine

**Christine Haven** - December 05, 2015 at 11:29 AM

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“ Christine Haven lit a candle in memory of Clarence LeRoy Sumner Jr.



**Christine Haven** - December 05, 2015 at 11:17 AM

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“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



**Christine Haven** - December 05, 2015 at 11:16 AM

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“ Where to even begin? I was very small (just turned 4 years old) when I went to Bonny Oaks (1952). I remember how Clarence would take my hand and walk with me to chapel every Sunday. I was one of his 'little girls'. I became reacquainted with him at the last reunion and saw him at the statue dedication in April. We kept in contact via phone and text messages and I was always interested in seeing where he was and where he was headed. He was a great man, a great friend and will be missed terribly until I see him again. I spoke to him for the last time right before Thanksgiving and he was sitting out a snow storm on a Walmart parking lot. He couldn't wait to get back 'on the road again'. My sincere and heartfelt sympathies for his family and friends. Please know he loved you all.



**Helen Veneziale** - December 05, 2015 at 11:00 AM

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“ Wanda McCutchen lit a candle in memory of Clarence LeRoy Sumner Jr.



**Wanda McCutchen** - December 04, 2015 at 10:10 PM