



Clyde Edward Butler Jr.

August 21, 2025

In Loving Memory of Clyde E. Butler Jr.

Architect, Veteran, and Beloved Family Man

Clyde E. Butler Jr., a visionary architect who helped shape the skyline and soul of New Orleans, LA passed away on August 21, 2025, at the age of 77.

Born in Tylertown, Mississippi in 1948 to Clyde E. Butler Sr. and Idena Davis-Butler, he carried the values of love, resilience, and service throughout his life. Clyde graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and honorably served in the U.S. Army. As a member of the 1st Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War, he faced the hardships of combat with courage and resilience, ultimately returning home safely to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Following his military service, Clyde pursued his passion for design and earned his degree in architecture from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His early career was marked by contributions to some of New Orleans' most iconic structures, including Le Méridien Hotel, Hilton Riverside, Westin Hotel, and the VA Hospital to name a few.

Clyde's legacy deepened during his tenure as Senior Vice President of Construction at the Audubon Nature Institute. His leadership brought to life

transformative projects such as the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, the IMAX Theater expansion, Woldenberg Riverfront Park, Audubon Golf Course, and the Audubon Clubhouse and a host of construction projects under the Audubon umbrella—each a testament to his commitment to enriching the city’s cultural and natural landscape.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Melissa Levy-Butler, who he loved dearly; his children Megan, Clyde III (Onyx), and Mallory, who he adored beyond measure; and his cherished grandchildren, Pharaoh and Messiah Butler, who he loved passionately. Clyde also leaves behind his loving siblings Joyce Cooper (Roland), Cassandra Butler, and Narekia Butler, a brother-in-law, Louis Tony Williams, three sisters-in-law, Adell Foxworth, Alberta and Marietta Levy, along with a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

Clyde’s warmth extended to all creatures great and small. He adored his furry companions, treating them as treasured family members. He is lovingly remembered by his grandcat, Drogon Butler, and grandpups, Lola and Louie Butler.

Those who knew Clyde will remember his love for cooking, gardening, tinkering, his joy in dancing, and above all, his deep devotion to family and friendship. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde Sr. and Idena; siblings Minnie Lou Williams, Jackal Butler, Dwight Butler, Clyde Ester Butler, Diane Nzinga, and Joan Butler; and his beloved grandpup, Symba Butler.

Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers and members of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church/First African Baptist Church, and Gretna United Methodist Church, as well as colleagues from Audubon Nature Institute, Martin Behrman Charter School, Young Audience Charter School, Progressive, City of Dallas, UL Research Institute are warmly invited to attend the Celebration of Life Services honoring Clyde’s life at Gretna United Methodist Church, 1309 Whitney Ave., Terrytown,

LA 70056 on Saturday, August 30, 2025. Visitation begins at 10:00 AM, followed by the service at 11:00 AM. Interment will follow at Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery, 1225 Whitney Ave., Terrytown, LA 70056. Arrangements entrusted to D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, share memories and condolences with the family.

Clyde E. Butler Jr. leaves behind a legacy of service, creativity, and love—a life well-lived and deeply felt.

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Cemetery

1225 Whitney Ave.
Gretna, LA 70056

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Gretna United Methodist Church
1309 Whitney Ave
Terrytown, LA 70056
(504) 366-6685

Funeral Service

AUG 30. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gretna United Methodist Church
1309 Whitney Ave
Terrytown, LA 70056
(504) 366-6685

Tribute Wall

AN

“ Sincere condolences to all Clyde’s family and loved ones. My husband John “Johnny” Ferguson always looked up to Clyde. He considered him a big brother. And John always bragged about the work Clyde did with the Audubon Institute...he was so very proud of him. May GOD give each of you comfort and strength through this difficult time.

Andrea Morrison Ferguson

Johnny’s Wife 🙏🙏🙏

Andrea - December 02, 2025 at 02:37 PM

MH

“ Dear Clyde, I met at time when I thought the impossible and you was HIM. I just wanted to work at the Aquarium and You was not only the lead but you allowed me to be a friend. Thanks for showing me the way. Rest In Paradise BIG BROTHER.

Mark Henderson - September 10, 2025 at 06:39 PM

GH

“ I interacted with Clyde quite often back when he with Audubon Institute - both through New Orleans Steamboat Company and French Quarter Festivals, Inc. What a stand-up guy! A great person - caring, considerate, fair, honest, hard-working and jovial. The world needs more people like him. May he be resting in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior.

Greg Hoffman

Gregory Hoffman - September 06, 2025 at 09:20 AM

MR

“ I met Clyde when I worked for Siemens and became involved with service for the Aquarium. Clyde was always professional and always focused on the job at hand. He displayed no ego and treated his staff, his service providers, and even salespeople as professionals. He suffered no fools, but he gave everyone the opportunity to succeed.

We became friends when we learned that we were both former architects. We shared many personal things over the years, and I always appreciated his friendship. When I left Siemens and was considering my career options, I reached out to Clyde as a mentor to see what he was going to do after Audubon. Despite his lofty achievements as an architect, corporate SVP, and one of the top leaders in the black business community, he told me he simply wanted to help people make sure their construction projects were done the right way. He knew he wouldn't make a lot of money, but he hated seeing people routinely have to settle for poor results. God knows Clyde could solve building problems. I don't know if Clyde was able to establish that business because it sounds like he was forever busy helping people for free, along with his own endless creative home projects.

I regret that I wasn't able to catch up with Clyde in the last couple of years – I even stopped at his house once to corral him, but Mallory told me he was out doing a project somewhere. I was planning to call on him soon when I sadly saw his obituary. Clyde was truly one of the best people I ever knew. He was a class act, and I thank God for his friendship.

Matt Ridley - September 02, 2025 at 12:32 PM

LG

“ My Buddy I'm going really miss you I've known you over 10 years then found you again 3 years you will be truly miss I will always remember our talks over coffee and all the good advice you gave to me about children God was waiting on you get your rest and I will keep you in my heart love you Shonda



LaShonda Glover-Noble - August 30, 2025 at 10:15 PM

FF

“ Fidu and family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Clyde Edward Butler Jr..



Fidu and family - August 30, 2025 at 08:23 AM

PF

“ Patricia A Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Clyde Butler



Patricia A Ferguson - August 30, 2025 at 08:04 AM

DW

“ To the Butler family, my family you all have my deepest heart felt condolences. I cannot express how sorry I am to be typing this message. You all know how much I love all of you and how much you all mean to me. Uncle Clyde was no exception! Uncle Clyde indeed was my uncle and I loved him greatly!! My heart is broken and he is sorely missed. Keeping you all in my prayers. Love Donna and family

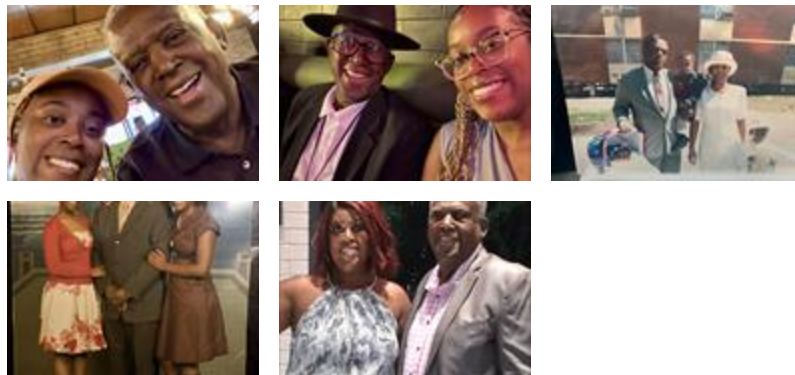
Donna Burns Winger - August 29, 2025 at 01:22 PM

MB

“ Daddy,

Words cannot express how much I love you. You were the best father and best friend a daughter could ask for. I'm so sad I have to do life without you but I cherish every memory we created together. You were always there when I needed you no matter what and we shared countless laughs. I miss talking on the phone with you everyday and I keep thinking I'll get a phone call from you. I pray that you are resting in peace and reunited with those that went before you. I'm sad you'll miss important moments in my life but I know your spirit is with me and you will be watching from a far. I am so glad you saw me finish my mba program and landed a job as a marketing specialists. You knew I could do it and I did it. Know that I will honor you by continuing to soar to new heights in my personal and professional career. You will never be forgotten and I can't wait until we meet again. I love you dearly.

Always and forever you babygirl Mallory



Mallory Butler - August 29, 2025 at 03:54 AM

BZ

“ To the Butler family- my sincere condolences for your loss. Clyde and I shared a year long bible study together and during that time we shared our life experiences- good and bad- with each other. Clyde loved and cherished his family. During our spiritual journey we shared, we talked about family matters, raising children and looking forward to grandchildren. I learned many thanks from Clyde and for that I am thankful our Lord put him at Gretna when he did. It seems peculiar that I write this on the eve of the 20th anniversary of Katrina and through that time of hardship, Clyde ended up at Gretna United Methodist after his experiences while he was displaced from his home. Once again, my condolences on the loss of Clyde. He will be missed by many.

Prayers - Bob Kimbro

Bob zkumbro - August 28, 2025 at 11:32 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Clyde Edward Butler Jr..



August 28, 2025 at 04:46 PM

MJ

“ Well, buddy, my heart hurts!!!! Thanks for ALL of the kindnesses, support encouragement and LESSONS that you showered me with for the past 35 years. You were "uniquely and wonderfully made," crafted by the hand of God! Running around the streets of Central City, we weren't ever supposed to "amount to anything", but God plucked you out for a purpose! To observe your strong presence and abounding expertise, wrapped in humility was a joy to watch. My biggest comfort is knowing your love for God and your strong faith; and in that, when you opened your eyes you saw the Lord. Not a doubt in my mind. Guess we'll have to spend that day together on the other side, buddy. Love you and wil NEVER forget you ~~~ HR1

Ms. Jones - August 27, 2025 at 04:42 PM