



## Clifford J. Henderson III

September 26, 1951 - September 9, 2016

Clifford J. "CJ" Henderson III, 64, of Benicia passed away suddenly on Friday from heart complications. Clifford had several nicknames including "CJ" "Whale" "Bud" and "Popi". He was a great man who was cherished by his family, friends, and community.

He was born in Vallejo and Benicia was always his home for more than 50 years. He was the owner of Henderson Brothers Electric Company for over 30 years. Clifford was a standout athlete at Benicia High School in both baseball and football, graduating in 1969, and a member of the Benicia High School Hall of Fame. Clifford played catcher for the Benicia Old Timers Baseball team for 32 years and was a member of the Nor-Cal Old Timers Hall of Fame. Clifford coached Little League Baseball and PAL Soccer; he loved his family and friends, baseball, horseback riding, boogie boarding, fishing, kayaking, camping, and spending time at their place in Jenner, on the California coast. He was always happy to help with electrical favors for his family and friends. He volunteered as a coach in the Challenger Baseball League and at The Cornerstone Equestrian Center for special needs children. Clifford was full of agape love, always volunteering, full of charity, a giver from the heart, and never ever expecting anything in return. Family and community were everything to Clifford. Although his physical presence will be missed greatly by many, his love and spirit will live on forever with us all.

Clifford is preceded in death by his father, Clifford J. Henderson Jr.

Clifford is survived by Amy Smith, his wife and best friend for 35 years; son

Clifford J. "CJ" Henderson IV; his grandson Clifford J. "CJ" Henderson V; his mother Lois Henderson; his brothers Phillip (Melinda) Henderson, Max (Cynthia) Henderson & Eric (Lisa) Henderson; his sister Diana Henderson; his nieces and nephews Mona, Crystal, Summer, Melanie, Laken, Hans, Seth, Katelyn, Erika, Sammy, Amelia, & Gareth; and his grand-nieces and grand-nephews Sierra, Dakota, Savanna, Baylor, Blake, A.J., J.J. Cheyenne, Holly, and S.J.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, September 13 from 2-8PM at Passalacqua Funeral Chapel, 901 West 2nd St., Benicia. Visitation will be held Wednesday, September 14 from 2:30 -3:30 with Funeral Services beginning at 4PM both held at The Clock Tower, 1189 Washington St., Benicia. Burial will be private on Thursday. Family welcomes donations to the Clifford J. Henderson III Baseball Scholarship Fund at the Benicia High School.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **13.** 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

Passalacqua Funeral Chapel  
901 W Second Street  
Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 745-3130  
info@passalacquafuneralchapel.com  
<https://www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com>

## Visitation

SEP **14.** 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (PT)

Benicia Clock Tower  
1189 Washington St  
Benicia, CA 94510-3239  
(707) 746-4285

# Tribute Wall



“ Clifford J. Henderson III

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ I was never a great ball player like Clifford and some of his team mates. I was completely thrilled, however, to be in the dugout. What a thrill it was to be with the guys, 9, 10 or 12 years older than I. Clifford always had time to speak to me, no matter how the game was going.

*After moving from Benicia, I was not able to visit as often as I would have liked. Several years ago, at an Old Timers game, I got to see Clifford - still as I remembered him from 40 and 50 years ago - in his catcher's gear! As if I was as good a friend as any of his contemporaries, when we saw each other for the first time in years, I received a chest-to-chest, full-on whale hug. At that moment, he made me feel as if I were as good a friend as any he had.*

*I have two adult children of my own now. Even they knew Clifford ..... because I told them about him many times while they were growing up. They knew about this guy who had played baseball with their uncle on their grandfather's teams, and spent, literally now, the rest of his life playing the game. I consider him a folk hero, and one that none of us will forget.*

*My love and deepest regrets are extended to the entire Henderson family. Many share in your present grief, but will enjoy many, many years of remembering and reminiscing about a truly great man and friend to countless numbers of people.*

*-The bat boy, Topper Killough*

Topper Killough - September 16, 2016 at 02:23 PM

DG

“ When you lace up the cleats and get ready to play the game we all love there is that one guy that steps up to the plate and as a catcher myself, I say silently "doesn't matter what pitch I call Cliffy is going to hit it" and surely he did.

*On behalf of the VOT players we send our deepest condolences to the Henderson family. Baseball in Benicia will never be same without our friend. We will truly miss him.*

*Don E Garcia  
Vallejo Oldtimers*

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**Don E Garcia** - September 14, 2016 at 03:46 PM

DF

“ So shocked and sad to hear about Cliff. My prayers and thoughts are with all of the Henderson family members. He's gone way too soon such a nice guy class of 69 sincerely  
Debbie



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**Debbie Fonseca** - September 13, 2016 at 06:24 PM



“ Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clifford J. Henderson III.



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September 13, 2016 at 06:16 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clifford J. Henderson III.*



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September 13, 2016 at 03:34 PM



“ *Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Clifford J. Henderson III.*



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September 13, 2016 at 03:23 PM



“ *534 files added to the album*



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**Passalacqua Funeral Chapel** - September 13, 2016 at 03:01 PM

DF

“ *Debbie Fonseca lit a candle in memory of Clifford J. Henderson III*



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**Debbie Fonseca** - September 13, 2016 at 02:58 PM

GS

“ *We were delighted that Cliff and Amy could be with us for Shannon and Artie's wedding. This picture of him looking on tells us he had a great time! We will hold fond memories of him. Shari, Garen, Brandon and Shannon*



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**Garen Staglin** - September 13, 2016 at 02:42 PM

JB

“ *Johnny And Bobbi lit a candle in memory of Clifford J. Henderson III*



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**Johnny and Bobbi** - September 13, 2016 at 02:40 PM

SS

“ *Shari, Garen, Brandon, Nancy, Shannon and Artie and Sicily purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Clifford J. Henderson III.*



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**Shari, Garen, Brandon, Nancy, Shannon and Artie and Sicily**  
- September 13, 2016 at 12:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Clifford J. Henderson III.*



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September 13, 2016 at 11:03 AM

RK

“ *What a catcher!!! Growing up at the fields watching you play with my brother and for my father are cherished memories.*

*Radonna Killough*

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**Radonna Killough** - September 13, 2016 at 12:09 AM

MD

“ Love and prayers go to all of you.. Amy, Cliff, CJ.. my darling little great grandson.. I know the loss is great. But remember he will always be with you. CJ I know you loved your Grandpa so much.. and he loved you to.. he will always be with you, in your loving memories of him. Be the best little guy ever for him, he will be so proud of you sweet boy.. You have your daddy to help keep his memory bright in you life.. keep fishing,, your Uncles will help you remember and you can teach them tricks that you popi taught you.. God Bless you sweetheart.. and your daddy and his family too.. Love your Grandma Great.. Duncan.. Amy and Cliff God bless you at this time.. I send my love and prayers to you both.. DeAnne

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**Margaret DeAnne Duncan** - September 12, 2016 at 11:05 PM



“ 1 file added to the album



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**Passalacqua Funeral Chapel** - September 12, 2016 at 04:23 PM

MD

*I will always have you in my heart my friend. Loved all the times we got to spend talking at the ballpark and with the family. Your heart was so Big it could not keep up with you. May you Rest in Peace Whale. You will be a Great Angel.*

*Love to you and the family will see you again buddy.*

*Mike, Donna, Angela, and Cianna Drennon*

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**Mike Drennon** - September 12, 2016 at 11:21 PM

RC

*You will be truly missed my friend,I didn't get to see u very often but when I did you always made it feel like we had just seen each other the day before! I will miss ya Big Guy. My sincere condolences to the Henderson family.You are all in my prayers.*

*Rocky Core*

**Rocky Core** - September 12, 2016 at 11:49 PM

RL

“ *Red Sox, Toppers, Photos, Industries, and Oldtimers, rest in peace my friend and teammate....BHS 69.....love ya*

**Randy Little** - September 12, 2016 at 01:41 PM

FC

“ *Fred Carll lit a candle in memory of Clifford J. Henderson III*



**Fred Carll** - September 12, 2016 at 12:24 PM

SA

“ *Sally lit a candle in memory of Clifford J. Henderson III*



**sally** - September 12, 2016 at 11:26 AM

TF

“ Tina Flaherty lit a candle in memory of Clifford J. Henderson III



Tina Flaherty - September 11, 2016 at 08:36 PM

JS

“ You took this man who was lost and gave him a direction in which to strive for. Who knows where I would be without your intervention in my life Clifford. Thank you for your unselfishness and love. To the Henderson family you have my sympathy and prayers. He was the best.

Always your friend

Jeff Sousa

jeffrey sousa - September 11, 2016 at 07:03 PM

JE

“ John Egan lit a candle in memory of Clifford J. Henderson III



John Egan - September 10, 2016 at 11:10 AM

DB

“ David Batchelor lit a candle in memory of Clifford J. Henderson III



David Batchelor - September 10, 2016 at 10:57 AM