



Claibourne W. Bass

December 14, 1939 - November 13, 2018

Claibourne Watkins Bass, 78, passed away November 13 in Fayetteville. He was born December 14, 1939 in Little Rock, Arkansas to Walter Richard Bass and Mildred Walker Bass. He graduated from Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Clay joined the U.S. Air Force in March of 1962, and he served during the Cuban missile crisis at Little Rock AFB.

As a young man Clay was involved with the Boy Scouts of America, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in 1956. He also served as Troop leader of Boy Scout Troop 1 in the Western Boy Scout Council in Ft. Smith in 1970 and was leader of Troop 8 from 1971-1972.

He graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1968, earning a BS in Industrial Management. In 1972, Clay moved to Fayetteville and bought The Highroller Cyclery, which he operated as owner/manager until 1992. He sold that business in 2007 and retired to a full life of managing his rental property with his wife, Cathy. Clay was happiest when he was in his shop helping a friend with a repair or starting a new project.

Clay is survived by his wife Catherine W. Bass; his son Jon Bass of Portland, Oregon; his brother Hugh Bass (Rita) of Springfield, Illinois and Punta Gorda, Florida; three step-children, Amanda Tieaskie (Jeff), Max Moore (Kelly), Wendy Dunn (Whitley) all of Fayetteville; nine grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

He is preceded in death by four siblings, Walter R. Bass, Jr. of Kansas City, Missouri; Anne Bass Fulk, Cooper Bass and Robert Bass, all of Little Rock.

A private burial will be held at the Fayetteville National Cemetery. A memorial service is planned for a later date.

Comments



“ 20 November 2018
Dear Cathy -

I was sorry to read of your husband's death. Clay and the Highroller Cyclery were important in my life.

I moved to Fayetteville and joined the UA faculty in 1964. In about 1972 I bought my first 10-speed bike from a shop up in Springfield Mo because one could not buy a bicycle in Fayetteville at that time. As I recall, Clay opened Highroller shortly after that time, which made it possible for a mechanical clutz such as myself to have my bike serviced. Because of Clay and Highroller, I joined a local bicycling club. The group, including Clay, went on two or three trips down to Devil's Den state park (taking the road to Hogeys and then through Starky and then down the long hill into Devil's Den), where we camped overnight and came back the next day. On one trip, just Clay and I biked back (I think the others drove back--can't remember). During that return trip, there was an incident with a dog: The dog ran out from a house, Clay tried to ward the dog off and summersaulted over his handlebars while doing so. Thankfully, Clay wasn't hurt and climbed back on his bike. I've been wary of dogs ever since.

Clay, his shop, and his enthusiasm for bicycling were a real asset to Fayetteville and a boon to my life. Cycling has been important for me beginning in grade school--2nd grade as I recall. I still ride a lot, and still patronize Highroller Cyclery. My wife Marie and I bicycle together frequently, especially during trips to Europe. For example, we bicycled for a dozen days through Croatia last summer. I'm sorry he's gone, and so sorry for your great loss Kathy. Please continue your visits to the square on Saturday morning--I always love to see old friends there.

Peace & love - Art
Art Hobson
ahobson@uark.edu
525 N. Olive Avenue
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Art Hobson - November 21 at 11:05 AM



“ Oh my goodness. We will miss you Clay Bass. You were one my husband's first employers at the Highroller Cyclery. The Highroller Cyclery was the center of our life. The NWA Bicycle Club meetings where we planned races and century rides. You were a mentor and a dear friend. You will live in our memories and will forever be a part of us.

Carol and Mark Widder

Carol Widder - November 20 at 10:16 AM



“ Sonny and I want Cathy and the family to know how much we thought of Clay. We know how happy he and Cathy were and such a team...While we are so saddened for his passing and for you Cathy losing your soul mate...we are thankful that he did not have to tarry long. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love from old friends, Carolyn and Sonny Dodds

Carolyn & Sonny Dodds - November 19 at 11:24 PM



“ Greetings Cathy,
We are holding you and your family in our thoughts & prayers during this time. I'm thankful we got to know you and Clay.
Wishing you peace. Cindi & Mark Cartwright

Cynthia Harris - November 19 at 02:09 PM



“ Cathy, Bob and I are so sorry to learn of Clay's death. In the few years we knew him, we enjoyed his passion for helping. I first met him at the botanical garden clearing brush near the lake. He was always busy. He took Bob and me on a "tour" of his basement workshop and I was blown away! What a sweet man. We will miss him, too.

Linda McMath - November 19 at 09:26 AM



“ How can you capture many years of friendship in a few words? Can never forget his beautiful mind, warm smiles, quick wit....and so much more. We remember many shared travels together in the U.S. and overseas; elegant holiday parties at their home; "Shade Tree Mechanic" jobs that Clay and Jim shared -- oh so many memories. Love to Cathy and all the family. With deepest sympathy, Jim and Joan Wimberly

Jim & Joan Wimberly - November 13 at 07:08 PM