



## Clyde Cornell Goodwin Jr.

October 24, 1947 - February 10, 2024

Clyde Goodwin, a bright light on Earth, went to shine from Earth to Heaven on February 10, 2024. Clyde made his transition surrounded by the love of family and loved ones. Although known for his excellent work as a Senior Partner in the Law Firm of Goodwin, Gillis and Heck and as a successful Real Estate Broker, Clyde will be remembered for the joy and happiness that he brought to people every day. He would go out of his way to get something done for someone or to make something happen that would brighten someone's day. He was a joy to be around and to have around. He generously volunteered his time to serve on Boards for nonprofit groups and Civic organizations. Clyde dearly loved his family and his family dearly loved and cherished him. He considered it his Number 1 Goal to be a good Father. He excelled at that and is survived by his son, Gabriel Goodwin and Sean Heck. His second greatest goal was to be a great Grandfather. He loved being a Grandparent and loved every moment he spent with his beloved Granddaughters, Aria and Bryn and his beloved Grandson, Braelen. There was always laughter and fun when Grandpa Clyde was around. Clyde was loved unconditionally by his life partner of many decades, Erma Gillis and by her family and friends. Clyde was always there for Erma's family and friends in good times and challenging times. Clyde was supported and loved through his toughest hours and during his transition by this large, loving group of family and friends including Erma, Gabe, Sean, Don, Marty, Monica, Graham and Kate and by his exceptional Niece, Rhiannon Freiberg, P.A., who assisted the family and stayed with Clyde

many days and nights; additionally, Clyde and his family were supported by very special friends, Ron and Peg Schneider of Big Rapids, MI. Clyde is survived by many loving Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, Brothers in Law, Sisters in Law and Daughters in Law. They all loved him and he knew that. Clyde would also want to thank his very special friend, Pam Lai, who he considered to be his right hand woman that supported him at work. We were all very blessed to have shared Clyde's life. He was a very good man and will be missed by many good friends and his large extended family. Arrangements entrusted with Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road, Westland, MI 48185. Memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Humane, 30300 Telegraph Road Ste. 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4509, and American Cancer Society, 20450 Civic Center Drive, Southfield, MI 48076. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ I had the sincere pleasure of working with Clyde on the opposite end of a couple real estate transactions. I am late to learn of his passing. But, delighted to see that his gentle yet commanding spirit was appreciated by so many. My most sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues on his passing. May they find peace and comfort in knowing that he was appreciated and celebrated in all walks of his life.

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**Lindsey Shobe** - April 24, 2024 at 09:33 PM

AM

“ Remembering Clyde always coming and my office and smiling. He was the most gentle man quiet man. My deepest condolences to Erma and all of their family💜

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**Alicia McGhee** - March 26, 2024 at 11:29 PM

MP

“ I will always remember Clyde Goodwin, who practiced law at Juvenile/Third Circuit Court, during the many years that was there. He was renowned for his elegant presence, his kind demeanor, his advocacy for his clients - and his partnership with his beloved, Erma Heck.

*My condolences to her and to your families. He was a prince among men.*

*Marsha Philpot (former AA to Hon. Virgil C. Smith, retired)*

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**Marsha Philpot** - March 26, 2024 at 06:48 PM

SH

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family of Clyde. I had the honor of knowing him from Unisys days back in 1989-1990. He was my boss and our offices were next to each other during that period. Clyde frequently discussed with me Gabe and Erma in a positive way and was always so proud. He frequently was able to enter my office and with a loud clap, surprise me. Of course, I was able to retaliate some. We had Clyde and Erma over to our house in West Bloomfield and they both were so kind and attentive. The photo is from 1992. I have always fondly remembered Clyde over the years and he will always be remembered. Steve Hay*



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**Steve Hay** - March 26, 2024 at 01:11 PM

PC

“ *Our deepest condolences to the family of Clyde, especially Emma. Jim and I are better people knowing Clyde and being blessed with his smile, charm and kindness. We will always remember his soft voice, welcoming hug and his ability to "see" you. His smile and glowing, happy eyes always made you feel like you were the only one in the room. His stellar reputation as a gentleman lawyer who has passionately represented so many will live on. Those who knew him, loved him and especially were lucky to have his professional counsel have been given a special gift that they will always remember. All our love and wishes for peace and love during this time of unbearable grief Patti Kukula Chylinski and Jim Chylinski*

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**Patti Kukula Chylinski** - March 18, 2024 at 07:56 AM

LM

“ *My deepest sympathy to Erma and her family,*

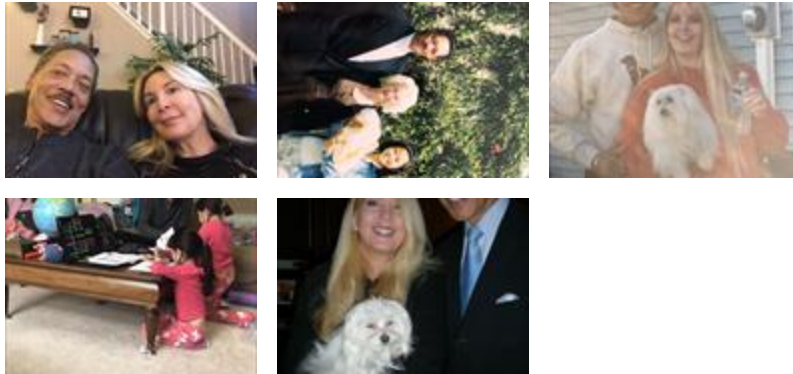
*I'm deeply saddened by the news of Clyde's passing. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have seen him this past year. Reflecting on his precious life, I'm reminded of how professional and kind he was. Rest in peace, dear friend.*

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**Lynn Marine-Adams** - March 15, 2024 at 12:31 PM

DG

“ *8 files added to the album Tribute Wall*



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**Donald C Gillis** - March 02, 2024 at 07:16 PM

VF

“ *So sorry to hear of Clyde's passing. Erma, Clyde, and Gabriel, we remember you all kindly from times at the Gillis reunions in Cape Breton. Such a beautiful obituary and we send our sincere condolences for your loss.*

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**Virginia,AJ and family.** - March 01, 2024 at 07:03 PM

BG

“ Dear Erma, Gabe and Sean, Clyde was always a wonderful person to speak to and keep company with during your trips to Cape Breton. ‘ So sorry for your loss.

*Burton Gillis*

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**Burton Gillis** - March 01, 2024 at 06:24 PM

AW

“ My dear cousin, a true friend and loving soul. I will miss your joyful spirit and passion for life. We shared a number of fun time growing up together and for that, I’m truly grateful. May God’s grace grant you peace. Love, Audrea Woodruff.

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**audrea woodruff** - February 28, 2024 at 10:27 PM

EG

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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**Erma Gillis** - February 28, 2024 at 09:18 AM

ER

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Erma** - February 22, 2024 at 04:33 PM

BM

*Dear Erma, Sean, and Gabriel,  
I am so sorry to hear of Clyde's passing. I remember his beautiful smile  
at the Gillis' reunions. You could feel his kind spirit!!  
May he Rest In Peace.*

*Brenda MacDonald*

**Brenda MacDonald** - March 02, 2024 at 07:45 AM

TG

“ *Clyde was an amazing man with a gentle, but commanding spirit!  
His smile and wit will be miss. Will cherish the memories! Thank you  
for sharing Clyde with us! ---Florida and Tammy Golden*

**Tammy Golden** - February 21, 2024 at 03:48 PM

EJ

*Clyde Goodwin was an intelligent and caring man who gave  
unwavering support to his clients.  
Our family will remember Clyde as a thoughtful and great man.  
Erma, we pray God will give you Strength on this journey...  
Eddie and Juliette Jackson*

**Eddie and Juliette Jackson** - February 21, 2024 at 07:51 PM

MG

“ To my dearest Uncle Clyde, to know you is to love you. The world just lost a beautiful soul and the best prankster. I feel sorry for anyone who didn't get the opportunity to meet you but better yet love you, because anyone that did get that opportunity knows what a blessing it is. There are far too many favorite memories to write about, but I know someday we will make so many more. I love you and can't wait to see you again. - Mai Mai 📧❤️

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**Mai Mai Gillis** - February 20, 2024 at 07:13 PM

DW

“ I will miss you cousin Clydie. I cherish my childhood memories of you. Your unforgettable smile and loving spirt will remain in my heart forever. I will miss sharing pictures of our grandchildren with you.

*I, Larry, our children Justin and Brittany are devastated to learn of your passing. It pleases us to know you are with the Lord and our love ones who transitioned before you.*

*Erma, we send our condolences to you and your family. We want you to know we are here for you and we love you.*

*Cousin Donna*

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**Donna Woodruff-Lewis** - February 20, 2024 at 05:43 PM

MJ

“ Friend, They don't come any better. Caring, one more caring. Hard working never Stopped. Fellow Animal lover, the Best. For Jokester one of the best, I hope and pray Gabe and Braelynn, continue with this wonderful family tradition. And on my Father's behalf, "The Sharpest Man he ever met". Loved you as a brother Clyde, your Eloquent Presence, I will dearly miss. God Blessed us with you.

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**Marty Jr** - February 19, 2024 at 07:59 PM

DR

“ We are deeply saddened by the passing of this wonderful man. Clyde has been like part of our family for many years and we are blessed to have known him. Our hearts are heavy and he will be missed!

To Erma, Gabe, Brittani, Sean, Greta and the entire family, please know that we are here for you during this difficult time and sending our prayers and love.

Dwight & Lisa Rogers

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Dwight L Rogers - February 19, 2024 at 07:48 PM

VP

“ It was a sad day when my best friend Erma advised me of the transition of our beloved Clyde. Clyde was like a brother to our entire family. He spent his life being the loving jokester to many of us. I was elated when his dear granddaughters were able to get his back for all of us. His granddaughters and grandson were the apple of his eyes. Each time I spoke with him, he could not wait to update me on something sassy, smart, or funny. And oh my Dear Erma, Erma and Clyde were as synonymous as Bonnie and Clyde. I pray that the great memories will help each of us, especially my Dear Erma, his children, and his grandchildren to ease the pain. I love all of you.

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vivian pickard - February 19, 2024 at 07:47 PM

MG

“ Strong, confident, caring, straight forward= Clyde. I will never forget how much these unvaluable qualities define you. God bless you wherever you are. Monica G

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Monica G - February 19, 2024 at 07:41 PM

BG

“ Dear Family,

*Stanley and I are deeply saddened by and incredibly sorry for your loss. There simply aren't enough words in the English language to express what Cousin Clyde meant to the family, but please know that he was deeply loved and will be immensely missed. You and the family are in our continued prayers and we will always be here to support. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you need anything.*

*Love always,  
Cousin Brittany Lewis Gitau and Family*

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**Brittany Gitau** - February 19, 2024 at 08:54 AM

SG

“ *I have had the pleasure of knowing Clyde since he became license to practice law in the 80's. I also had the pleasure of having him practice in front of me at Juvenile Court. Clyde was always kind, gracious, and a very effective attorney. I appreciated having him practice before me. He was also a great friend. Erma you and your family are in my prayers.*

*With warm Regards,  
Judge Sheila Ann Gibson*

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**Sheila Ann Gibson** - February 18, 2024 at 07:10 PM

AN

“ *Clyde was called my third dad sometimes, thanks to a funny story that happened randomly. He was a smart and kind person that always wanted to make others smile and laugh. I always felt comfortable joking around with him and will miss the warmth and loving joy he brought to our family.*

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**Andrea** - February 18, 2024 at 05:52 PM

DG

“ Clyde was one of the finest men I have ever known and was proud to have him as our brother-in-law. He was a family man with a wicked sense of humor and wit. There are untold stories of his antics with "Big-D." But the relationship he had with mom (Nan) and dad were as deep as this world allows. Clyde was a good man, with a great heart, and a stabilizing force in our family. I am sure the love he showered on the grandkids, nieces, and nephews will be felt all the days of their lives. God love ya, Clyde. Don Gillis

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Donald C Gillis - February 18, 2024 at 02:38 PM

MM

“ Dearest Erma, Gabe, Sean and family,

Please know that Bill and I (as well as Alex, Tammie and Debbie) thought the world of Clyde. Bill and I loved him. If Bill were here, of course, he would say the same about Clyde.

Clyde was such a dear, good, good man who loved his family and friends--and, of course, he was a wonderful attorney with so much integrity. Sad to say, integrity is often lacking in today's world.

I will never forget the wonderful time that we all had in San Diego. (And, Clyde was such a "take-charge" guy there)!

Clyde's grandchildren are very fortunate to have had this wonderful man as their grandfather. Dear Clyde's grandchildren, while you're very young, I do hope that you realize what a special person he was as the years go by, and honor his memory.

Love to you all,

Mary McNichols

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Mary A McNichols - February 18, 2024 at 11:38 AM

BR

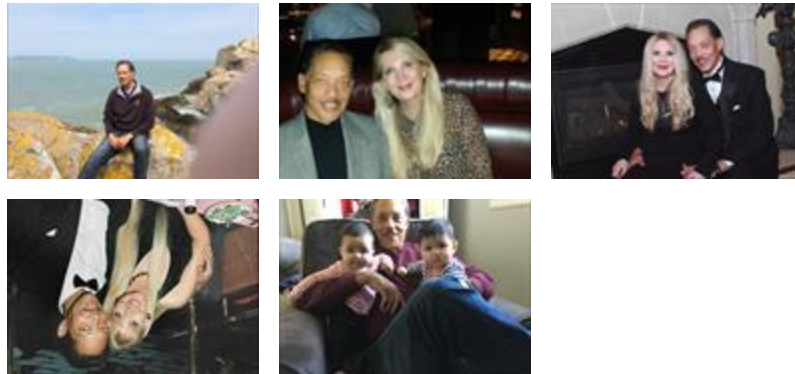
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Brittani - February 17, 2024 at 04:55 PM

BR

“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Brittani - February 17, 2024 at 04:50 PM

JL

“ Here is the message:  
To the Goodwin family,  
May Clyde rest in peace while sleeping with the angels.  
Judge Leonia Lloyd

Judge Leonia Lloyd - February 17, 2024 at 07:37 AM

LG

“ My first memory of my Uncle Clyde would be the time he threw me into the pool thinking that I knew how to swim and I thought I was going to drown but what you must know is that from that day forward I knew how to swim! My favorite memory is the joy that my mother displayed after her and Uncle Clyde came back from the Bahamas! All moments shared with my Uncle were special to me. I could go on and on about my love and appreciation for him but we don't have enough time for that so let me just say "Uncle Clyde thank you for all of your love, advice and help that you have given me over the years! Rest in Power until we meet again and know that I will still call on you from time to time just to say I love and appreciate you! You taught me that what people think of me only defines me as they see me no way does it determine who I am or whom I become.

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**Loretta Grayson** - February 15, 2024 at 07:37 PM

GB

“ I had the pleasure to know Clyde for more than 30 years. He always had a quick witted comment for me. :)  
A good man that will be sorely missed. My condolences to Erma and family.  
With love,  
Greg

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**Greg Brautigan** - February 13, 2024 at 05:31 PM

PW

“ Clyde was such a loving and kind gentle soft spoken man with a fun sense of humor. He will be a great loss 🙏 My thoughts and prayers are with My Dear cousin Erma his family and friends ❤️ Love  
Pamela Gillis Winkler

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**Pamela Gillis Winkler** - February 13, 2024 at 10:57 AM