

Clay Alan Stewart was born March 22, 1951 in Cedar City, Utah while his father was flying B26 bombers in Korea.

Clay graduated from Clearfield High School in Utah in 1969. He was captain of the football team, president of the senior class, and an Eagle Scout.

Clay graduated first in his class from USAFA with a degree in Political Science. He earned an MA in International Relations from the University of Pittsburgh, and later did Masters and PhD studies in Public Policy at Harvard.



Clay married Nancy Wellborn on May 11, 1974. They had four children (Ryan, Summer, Colin, and Jesse) and traveled the world together, guided by Fodor's \$5 a Day travel books. They drove from Turkey to Israel with two toddlers in a VW camper van, traveled the coast of (former) Yugoslavia as a family, and chiseled off pieces of the Berlin wall together in 1989.

Clay knew a lot about a lot and never stopped learning. He rebuilt the engine on an old Willies Jeep, AND it started the first time! He loved history, especially Middle Eastern history and the history of Christianity. He studied building construction, leadership, sports, business, politics, and geography. He loved to watch Jeopardy and read Wikipedia.

Clay retired as Commander of the USSTRATCOM Joint Intelligence Center. His quotes from a typical day at the office: "I prefer to only start a project and then hand it off; I like to throw a grenade and see what happens; When filing, I only use the vertical stacking system."

Clay and Nancy retired to Leadville, Colorado, to enjoy life in small town America. They traveled often to Mexico to thaw out from the mountain cold. Clay loved being retired, bragging about how seriously he took "doing nothing." He traded in his Air Force uniform for a pair of swim trunks, listening to Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, or U2 in the hot tub on cold winter days. He never owned another pair of black socks!

While Clay prided himself on "doing nothing," he humbly volunteered in the Leadville community, serving on the Hospital Board, Airport Advisory Board, and as president of the snowmobile club.

Clay could often be seen in a snow groomer in the outskirts of Leadville. He took a snow grooming class at Colorado Mountain College, acquired a grant to buy a groomer, and began developing and grooming trails. Clay was integral in trail development, leaving a legacy of trails enjoyed by many winter adventurers.

He loved his family. He was a bottomless well of wise (always deeply thought out) advice, sought often by his family, friends, and community. He loved God and his fellow man. He became a kind father figure to many. His 10 grandchildren (Nola, Levi, Ruby, Cecily, Isla, Lucia, Desmond, Bowie, Quinn, River, and one more inbound in 2017) affectionately called him Baba, Batman, or Bear. He loved to teach them life lessons and how to have real (sometimes dangerous) adventures. He taught them how to safely drive ATVs and one lucky grandson learned to drive a snowmobile. He spent entire days outside with them, building tree houses and using the experience to teach them lessons about leadership, planning, and hard work. His favorite lesson was "YOU CAN DO HARD THINGS."

Clay passed away from a hemorrhagic stroke on May 5, 2016 in Denver, Colorado with his family by his side. The team of physicians who treated Clay had never seen a stroke like his, and planned to study it and use it to teach fellow physicians. Clay would be grateful for this opportunity to teach one final lesson.