



Ronald Thomas Clees

September 18, 1940 - April 18, 2026

Ronald Thomas Clees, 85, of Bloomington, Indiana, passed away peacefully on April 16, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Ron was born on September 18th, 1940, in Montoursville, Pennsylvania, to Lester Thomas Clees and Cora Morrison Clees. He was raised in the farming community of Farragut, Pennsylvania, where he attended a one-room schoolhouse and helped with the family dairy, delivering milk and growing Christmas trees as a boy- early experiences that shaped his lifelong work ethic and appreciation for nature and a simple, meaningful living.

At the age of 12, Ron met the love of his life, Joanna Bostley, when they began 7th grade together. From that moment on, they were inseparable, building a remarkable life together over 67 years of marriage. Their partnership was marked by deep devotion, shared adventure, and enduring friendship.

Ron pursued higher education with dedication, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Lycoming College, and a master's degree in education from Indiana University. His career embodied his passion for teaching and learning. He began as a history teacher at Eastern High School in Washington D.C., later serving as a sales and training executive for Johnson & Johnson (commuting to work daily on his bicycle) and eventually returning to education as an environmental educator with Joanna at centers throughout the country. He is survived by his beloved wife, Joanna; his children, Joseph Clees, Suzanne Wilson, Laura Clees, and Andrew Clees; and his cherished

grandchildren, Joshua Hancock, Rory Hancock, Rachel Euglow, Harper Clees- Baron, and Carter Clees; and three great-grandchildren.

Ron found joy in gardening, hiking, photography, and traveling and teaching alongside Joanna. He will be remembered for his endless kindness, curiosity, and dedication to both family and education.

A life well lived, Ron's legacy endures in the many lives he touched-as a husband, father, grandfather, teacher, and friend.