



## Clayton Edward Stallings

April 4, 1958 - October 10, 2025

Clayton Edward Stallings, 67, of Nolensville, passed away October 10, 2025.

Clay was born to Ralph and JoAnn Stallings on April 4, 1958, in Roseville, CA. He graduated from Casa Robles High School in 1976. From a young age, he was active in Citrus Heights Little League, his dad being his coach, and his loudest cheerleader being his mom. His love of sports carried on through high school, where he played football and baseball. He and his parents would travel to Meeks Bay, Lake Tahoe every year for summer vacation. The first thing he would do is find a new friend to catch crawdads with to sell for a little arcade money. This was a very cherished memory.

Clay's most recent job was with Acceptance Insurance, where he was the Vice President, Learning and Development for 13 years. He loved his role, as it was helping and teaching people. Those who worked with him referred to him as The Boss Man, The Sir.

Being very personable, Clay could make friends anywhere he went. He loved spending time with his daughters, whether it be building something or giving advice. He enjoyed playing golf, traveling, yard work, reading, history and learning, touring Victorian homes, researching genealogy, and just piddling around the house. Clay, lovingly known as "Poppy" to his grandchildren, enjoyed supporting them in all of their interests. He loved sports, his favorite

teams being the SF 49ers and SF Giants. Clay also loved animals; he was especially fond of dogs.

Clay will be remembered as a inspirational and selfless man who always made sure others were taken care of and never lost his infectious optimism.

Clay is preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and JoAnn Stallings; And sister, Marciel Leach.

He is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Diane Provencio Stallings; Daughters, Veronica Stallings-Alvarado (Eddy) and Sydni Stallings (Michael Piercey); Grandchildren, Ophelia, Sophie, Emma, and Eric; Sister, Marlene Ellithorpe (Mike), of California; His faithful dog, Samson Samuel Stallings; His grand-dogs and grand-cats; And many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

No services are scheduled at this time. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Clay's honor to the Wounded Warrior Project, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, or Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary.

# Tribute Wall

SK

“ I was fortunate to have known Clay not only as my leader, but as a mentor and friend. He was the kind of person who led with grace, patience, and genuine kindness. When I made mistakes, he never made me feel small—he taught me, guided me, and helped me grow. He had a remarkable way of showing that our words matter, and he helped me understand how to use mine more thoughtfully.

Clay carried himself with optimism and quiet strength. His positivity, even when we knew he was in pain, was a true reflection of his character. I will always be grateful for his wisdom, his friendship, and the example he set for those around him. He inspired me—and so many others—to lead with both heart and humility.

He will be deeply missed, but his lessons and his light will continue to guide us.

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**Susan Keehley** - November 08, 2025 at 04:45 PM

JT

“ I had the privilege of working with Clay for several years as he completed his work with Acceptance. What a kind man with a consistently optimistic outlook. He NEVER complained. He cared greatly for others and for his role in Learning and Development. I am a much better person having spent time with him.

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**Jeff Thrutchley** - October 22, 2025 at 02:13 PM

KH

“Clay was the strongest person I’ve ever known—physically, mentally, and emotionally. He defined resilience. Clay loved his family deeply, both at home and at work, and he showed up for both every single day.

*When I first met Clay, I carried the bias that I would need to replace the leader of learning and development - him. He proved me wrong immediately. He earned trust through action and delivered through execution - every day.*

*He lived the principles of Extreme Ownership in every sense—never deflecting, never blaming, always accountable. Clay made everyone around him better, not because he tried to, but because that’s simply who he was.*

*All of this to say - Clay was a loved person - By everyone he encountered.*

*We miss you, Clay!*



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Kenneth Hampton - October 21, 2025 at 03:14 PM

HT

“ Clay was admired for his strength and his passion for helping others grow. I had the privilege of working with him at Acceptance Insurance, and he was always the first to step in, learn something new, and share his knowledge with others. His drive to support and encourage everyone around him was truly inspiring. Seeing him at meetings, even while sick, always engaged and ready to help, spoke volumes about his heart. He will be deeply missed and always remembered with respect and gratitude.

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**Heather thrift** - October 21, 2025 at 01:28 PM

KH

*Well said, Heather.*

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**Kenneth Hampton** - October 21, 2025 at 04:22 PM

CE

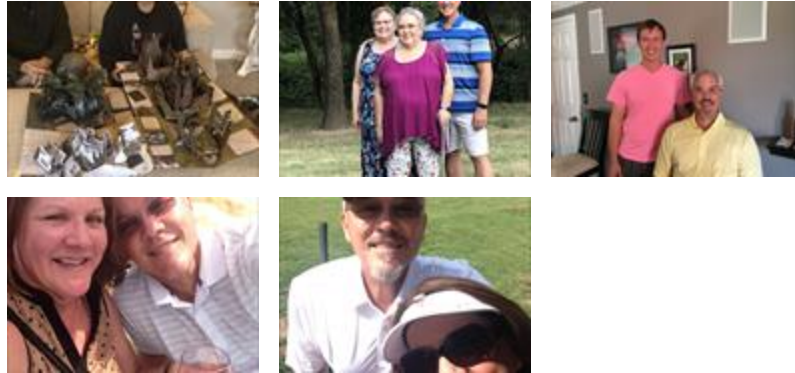
“ I had the honor of working with Clay from 2002 at Hancock Fabrics until he retired at Acceptance Insurance. Clay was an awesome man and impacted so many people. He would pick at me about our transition to Nashville. In Tupelo, I lived in a neighborhood, and Clay had a small farm. When our families moved to Nashville, he chose a neighborhood, and I chose the farm. During the summer he would always ask me if I had fun mowing all weekend. Clay loved life and was one of the toughest people I have ever met. Rest in peace my friend. So many of us are better for having the time we did with you.

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**Chris Elledge** - October 21, 2025 at 12:32 PM

DI

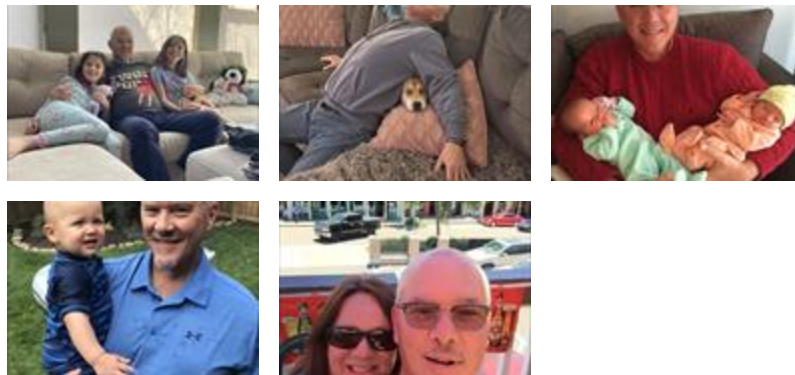
“ 37 files added to the tribute wall



Diane - October 13, 2025 at 07:23 PM

VS

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Veronica Stallings-Alvarado - October 13, 2025 at 02:26 PM

CC

*Clay, rest in paradise Boss Man. Forever grateful for your leadership, friendship, support and words of wisdoms. One of the best humans I ever met, learned so much from you!*

Cam Chittaphong - October 14, 2025 at 02:43 PM

LS

“ Clay, may you rest peacefully in God's loving arms, reunited with Marciel, Uncle Ralph & Aunt JoAnn. I will miss you terribly, always a smile and cheerful cousin, whose memory will last a lifetime. One of my fondest memories is spending the day with you skiing at Sierra Ski Ranch. We were just teenagers and I was so excited to spend the day with my cousin Clay. I was horrible, however you were so patient encouraging me & teaching me to ski. Love you cousin, always and forever. God bless you! 🙏

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**Lynné Stiles** - October 13, 2025 at 01:45 PM

LK

*I appreciate our working and personal relationships over the years. A sharp businessman and mentor to many but, more important, a good and decent man. Larry Kirk*

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**Larry G. Kirk** - October 14, 2025 at 01:48 PM