



Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe

March 7, 1944 - May 30, 2025

Lonnie Clarence Towe was born March 7, 1944, to Clarence Stephen and Irene Haynes Towe. He was the brother of the late Teresa Towe Keese.

Clarence loved his family, his friends, his plants, and the students of Oconee County.

He is survived by spouse of 56 years, Louise Lee Towe, his children, Jarrett Lee and Sarah Ross Towe, and grandchildren, Jarrett Ross Towe and Alex Leigh Towe, all of Easley, SC.

After graduating in the class of 1962 from Walhalla High School, he graduated from Anderson College, East Tennessee State University, Western Carolina University, and in 1990 earned a PHD from Clemson University.

His career with the School District of Oconee County included being a teacher, principal, Attendance Supervisor, Director of Federal Programs, and was an Assistant Superintendent of Education when he retired in 2002.

Driving the roads on treacherous winter mornings to determine the safety for Oconee's school children was something that he considered to be one of the most important aspects of his job.

"In the Mountains we Forget to Count the Days" was his mantra while trout

fishing, looking for native azaleas, or simply hiking with friends.

In 2004 he authored "American Azaleas" (Timber Press). In 2006, he was the keynote speaker at the International Rhododendron Society Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. A photo of his hybridized "White Lightning" native azalea was featured on the cover of the Winter 1994 American Rhododendron Society Journal.

His fascination with wood led him to teach himself to turn bowls that were freely given to friends and family. His artistic flair led him to design and build the family home which has been the site of many joyous family activities for 53 years. Among his favorite family times were the many beach vacations enjoyed by the entire extended family during which his favorite activity was snapping photos rather than being on the beach.

Clarence was raised in the Baptist Church and was a past member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church where he served as treasurer and Scenic Heights Baptist Church.

He stayed very interested in the lives of former students and family members, keeping up with their educational successes.

Surviving him are extended family members: the Crawford Keese family, and Kenneth, Judy, Jeff, Sherri, Steve, Lisa, Chris, Sheila, Chad, Christi, Mackenzie, Palmer, Jon, Ella Gray, Maclaine, James, Dustin, Cadence, Hunter, and he was looking forward to meeting Adeline.

Clarence was diagnosed with Lymphoma, on March 7, his 81st birthday.

He was predeceased by in-laws Ervin and Pauline R. Lee, Judy, Edward, Bobby, Rachel, Bill, Jim, Matthew and Leon.

He is greatly missed.

Following Clarence's wishes, no formal services will be held.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating in Clarence's memory to

WHS FFA Horticulture Dept

Jennifer Crawford

4701 N. Highway 11

Walhalla, SC 29691

Condolences can be sent to PO Box 212, Walhalla, SC 29691 or on line at
Davenport's.

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Carlo Borsarini lit a candle in memory of Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Carlo Borsarini - September 17, 2025 at 01:52 AM

MW

“ Michael White lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Michael White - July 05, 2025 at 04:53 PM

PG

“ A great teacher , but an even better man!
Prayers for the family.



Phil Garrett - June 06, 2025 at 05:07 PM

BM

“ I was one of his first students at Tamassee Salem HIGH SCHOOL.
He was a wonderful teacher and cared about us. He was always ready to help you understand. I have fond memories of him.

Brenda Grant McIntosh - June 06, 2025 at 09:28 AM

SH

“ Our sincere condolences to you and your family. May God’s love comfort and bless each of you.

*With our love and prayers,
Doug and Susan Hollifield*



Susan Hollifield - June 05, 2025 at 07:55 PM

HC

“ Hovie and Martha Fowler Crenshaw . Went to school With Clarence. So sorry to Hear this news. Louise he can't Come back but you can go to Him.



Hovie and Martha F. Crenshaw - June 05, 2025 at 04:20 PM

BB

“ Louise and family, I am so sorry to hear of Clarence's passing. Keeping you in my prayers during this difficult time.

Becky Lee Bowser - June 05, 2025 at 02:59 PM

SH

“ Steve and Sheree Hamby lit a candle in memory of Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Steve and Sheree Hamby - June 05, 2025 at 01:47 PM

AM

“ Louse, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. In his many positions with the SDOC, Clarence always served and led with the best interests of the students first and foremost. I greatly respected him and his opinions.

Ann Miller - June 04, 2025 at 11:13 PM

MS

“ Sorry for loss.
Mr. Towe was my science teacher the school year 1971-72. I had much respect for him. He had a gentle-spirited approach to teaching.
Mitchell Stephens

Mitchel Stephens - June 04, 2025 at 03:26 PM

SA

“ Sherry Abbott lit a candle in memory of Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Sherry Abbott - June 04, 2025 at 02:51 PM

DS

“ Diann Smith lit a candle in memory of Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Diann Smith - June 04, 2025 at 12:55 PM

MP

“ Louise and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Clarence was a kind man with many talents. It was a pleasure and privilege to work for him at SDOC. He will be missed by many.



Maxine Pettit - June 04, 2025 at 07:58 AM

WB

“ Wayne F. Barton lit a candle in memory of Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Wayne F. Barton - June 04, 2025 at 12:28 AM

BL

“ Burgess (Bird) Laye lit a candle in memory of Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Burgess (Bird) Laye - June 03, 2025 at 11:20 PM

DE

“ Danny & Sherry Edwards lit a candle in memory of Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Danny & Sherry Edwards - June 03, 2025 at 08:23 PM

NB

“ *Neal and Sue Brown*



Neal and Sue Brown - June 03, 2025 at 07:23 PM

HD

“ *Louise, so sorry to hear about Clarence
You and your family will certainly be in my
prayers*



H. Wayne Deaton - June 03, 2025 at 05:09 PM

RH

“ *Robert and Ann Herron lit a candle in memory
of Mr. Lonnie Clarence Towe.*



Robert and Ann Herron - June 03, 2025 at 04:22 PM

BD

“ *Louise and family, Jerry and I are saddened
to see this news! We will be praying for
comfort and strength for you and your
beautiful extended family as you adjust over
the next weeks and months.*



Becky Dyar - June 03, 2025 at 01:07 PM

TM

“ Tom & Mary Mann lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Tom & Mary Mann - June 03, 2025 at 12:53 PM

GL

“ so sorry-- he was a nice man-- will be missed--
- Gregg and Cathy link



Gregg / Cathy Link - June 03, 2025 at 10:18 AM

SN

“ Susan D. Neal lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Susan D. Neal - June 03, 2025 at 10:14 AM

JC

“ Clarence Jr, Teresa, my sister Mary and I grew up in a little white church when it was Pleasant Hill Baptist. Our families were close friends and we spent a lot of time going on picnics and visiting each other's homes. We had our little group that always sat together in church. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.



Janice Bryant Cobb - June 03, 2025 at 09:09 AM

JS

“ So sorry Louise. Remembering you and family in our prayers. Gary and Judy Shook



Judy Shook - June 03, 2025 at 08:56 AM

FB

“ Frankie Burrell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Frankie Burrell - June 03, 2025 at 03:15 AM

WL

“ Warren (Shag) & Lynnette lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Warren (Shag) & Lynnette - June 02, 2025 at 10:13 PM

AC

“ Louise, so sorry for your loss of Clarence!!! Fifty-six years together is amazing! Whatever position he had with the school district, he gave it his whole heart! Happy that in his retirement that he had so many hobbies! Wow! He authored a book and created a new azalea! Very smart and creative man! Sending prayers for you, Jared, Sarah, his grands and all who loved him. 🙏🙏🙏

Anne Cannon - June 02, 2025 at 09:29 PM

LL

“ Leonard Loudermilk lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Leonard Loudermilk - June 02, 2025 at 09:18 PM

DS

“ Dave & Donna Stephens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Dave & Donna Stephens - June 02, 2025 at 08:19 PM

JB

“ Joyce Brewer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



joyce Brewer - June 02, 2025 at 07:58 PM

DA

“ Don & Darlene Albertson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Don & Darlene Albertson - June 02, 2025 at 07:52 PM

DB

“ Dan And Barbara Justice Bibb lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Dan and Barbara Justice Bibb - June 02, 2025 at 07:16 PM

LC

“ 🙏💔🙏 Linda Chapman



linda chapman - June 02, 2025 at 06:11 PM

LC

“ I am so sorry to hear this. You are in my prayers!

Lori Chappelle - June 02, 2025 at 05:46 PM

OM

“ Sending prayers for the family. Clarence was a super nice man and will be missed.

Ouida McDow - June 02, 2025 at 05:37 PM

JH

“ Judy Hines lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Judy Hines - June 02, 2025 at 05:11 PM

JM

“ Jim & Becky Manley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Jim & Becky Manley - June 02, 2025 at 04:40 PM

KF

“ Kathy Fitzgerald sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Kathy Fitzgerald - June 02, 2025 at 04:35 PM

AA

“ Thinking of your family and close friends during this time.



Alton and Kathy Alexander - June 02, 2025 at 03:53 PM

DM

“ Debbie Edwards Morehead lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Debbie Edwards Morehead - June 02, 2025 at 03:25 PM

BB

“ *Barbara Cantrell Burrell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe*



Barbara Cantrell Burrell - June 02, 2025 at 03:21 PM

LH

“ *Mr. Towe was my favorite teacher. He made learning fun. No question was a dumb question. Later I worked with him at SDOC and learned to call him friend. After he retired, I loved seeing him at the “table of knowledge” at Martha’s on Main. He will be missed!*



Lynn H - June 02, 2025 at 03:14 PM

LP

Mr Towe taught me in high school at Tamassee Salem. He was such a nice man. I'm so sorry for your lose. Linda Tilson Pearson

Linda Tilson Pearson - June 02, 2025 at 04:25 PM

KL

“ *I am so so for your family's loss. Sending prayers 🙏*



kim lusk - June 02, 2025 at 03:00 PM

IR

“ *Dink&Iris Duncan lit a candle for Mr.Lonnie Clarence Towe*



irisduncan - June 02, 2025 at 02:41 PM

CS

“ *Thoughts and prayers.*
Carol Shealy



Carol Shealy - June 02, 2025 at 02:26 PM

GT

“ *Ginger Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe*



Ginger Thomas - June 02, 2025 at 02:20 PM

JK

“ *It was my privilege to know Clarence for most of my life. I was fortunate to work with him at the School District of Oconee County. During that time, I found that no matter what educational project he was involved in, Clarence added a level of brilliance and creativity that resulted in a much-improved project or product. My deepest sympathy to Louise, Jarrett, and Sarah.*

John Kelley - June 02, 2025 at 02:12 PM

DH

“ Dan Harden lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Dan Harden - June 02, 2025 at 02:05 PM

SM

“ Sherry Rogers Moore sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe



Sherry Rogers Moore - June 02, 2025 at 01:49 PM

KC

“ Louise was actually in my thoughts yesterday and it was very good. Although it has been years since I've seen either her or Clarence.

I read this beautiful obit with its sad news right before spending some time along the Eastatoe River just now. I kept these amazing stories of Clarence close -his amazing journey with nature since his retirement- as I experienced the beauty of the river. I wish we had crossed paths on one of our beautiful trails. I like it out there too.

*Love, peace,
Kathy Crain*

Kathy Crain - June 02, 2025 at 01:49 PM

SK

“ *Sheila Kelly lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe*



Sheila Kelly - June 02, 2025 at 01:05 PM

RA

“ *Rod & Katherine Albertson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lonnie "Clarence" Towe*



Rod & Katherine Albertson - June 02, 2025 at 12:40 PM

KO

“ *Kathy and Randy Owens lit a candle in memory of Lonnie "Clarence" Towe*



Kathy and Randy Owens - June 02, 2025 at 11:04 AM

SH

“ *Prayers for the families Steve & Debbie*



Steve Harvey - June 02, 2025 at 10:33 AM

PB

“ Louise, I am so very sorry. Please accept our prayers and our love, to you, Jared and all the others who loved Clarence.
Greg, Patsy and Laura Bright



Patricia Bright - June 02, 2025 at 10:28 AM

RT

“ Randy Tilson lit a candle in memory of Lonnie
"Clarence" Towe



Randy Tilson - June 02, 2025 at 10:21 AM