



Clay Christopher Carroll

September 22, 2018

Clay Christopher Carroll, 41, of Fayetteville, WV and Boise, ID, made his last run on the Upper Gauley River and told his last wildly inappropriate joke on September 22, 2018. Clay was born July 21, 1977 in Charleston, WV, the first child of Tim and Beth Carroll. Clay was the oldest of seven siblings and, though he never truly got over not being an only child, he had a fierce love of his big family.

Clay was a 1995 graduate of Winfield High School. He was a happy-go-lucky free spirit who loved big water and big snow-covered mountains. Clay never met a stranger and collected friends wherever he went. He could sleep anywhere and, if you are reading this, it's likely he spent a night on your couch at some point. Clay was never at a loss for words and didn't believe in letting the truth get in the way of a good story. If something broke, Clay could fix it with duct tape, ratchet straps, and an advanced system of ropes and pulleys.

During a rafting trip as a teenager, Clay fell in love with the thrill and adrenaline rush of whitewater and was instantly hooked. It didn't take long until he had mastered the river and loudly and somewhat wildly, demonstrated his proficiency with a paddle. Clay was rarely rattled when things went bad and quickly became the go-to guy when other boaters ran into trouble. Always ready for a new adventure, he started looking for new challenges to test his river skill set. Creature Craft fit the ticket. These unique rafts made it possible

for boaters to run rivers formerly considered to be unrunnable. Again, Clay was hooked. Within months of discovering the new rafts, Clay used his charm and skill to earn a spot on the Creature Craft Team where he began conquering rivers that other boaters only dreamed of standing next to, let alone run a boat down. Clay was a giant in the paddling community, the Mt. Everest of the Gauley River. Known as the "Whitewater Whisperer," he turned river guiding into an art form and his friends swear that he could stick his paddle into a ripple and make a boat dance.

Clay is survived by his parents, Beth and Tim Carroll of Lewisburg; Brady Johnson-Davidson; siblings, Kaity Scruggs (Brad) of Charlotte, NC, Noah (Sarah) of Hurricane, Caleb (Katie) of Midland, TX, Betsy Canterbury (Alex) of Bryan, TX, Maddee Gwinn (Timmy) of Lewisburg, Walker of Lewisburg; nephew and nieces, Aiden, Charlotte and Allegheny; a host of extended family and beloved friends; and floaters, boaters, and freeloaders everywhere. In addition to his family and friends, Clay also leaves behind a vast collection of vehicles in various states of roadworthiness, river gear strung out across multiple area codes, and an Energizer-size hole in our hearts.

A celebration of Clay's life will be held on Thursday, September 27 from 6-8pm at the Valley Park Community Center in Hurricane; his family will welcome visitors beginning at 5pm.

In keeping with Clay's wishes, family and friends are invited to spend the day on his river on Saturday, September 29 for an All- Day-Clay Fest. Since you can't go all day if you don't start early, meet us at 8:30am at the put-in of the Upper Gauley at the base of the Summersville Dam to send Clay down the river. The celebration will continue at the Cantrell Ultimate Rafting base camp in Fayetteville, beginning at 5pm and lasting...all day.

Arrangements are being handled by Chapman Funeral Home. In lieu of

flowers, Clay's family suggests calling up an old friend and meeting them for a beer or doing something you've always meant to do.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **27**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Valley Park Conference Center
1 Valley Park Drive
Hurricane, WV 25526

Tribute Wall



“ *Clay Christopher Carroll*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *I'm so saddened to have heard of the passing of Clay. We would usually see each other in the on the river in the spring. Truly a great person, who was so eager to share his knowledge of rivers, and for that I am grateful. I'll be thinking of him this season out on the river. My deepest condolences to his family.*

Gabby C - March 11, 2019 at 01:46 PM



“ *Tim and family, we are so sorry to hear of your loss. Our prayer is that you cling to the joy that he gave you and may God comfort you in the time ahead.*

Bill and Kathy Ashworth

Katherine Ashworth - October 03, 2018 at 11:56 AM



“ *Noah and family,
Please accept my deepest sympathy in the loss of your brother and loved one. Thoughts and prayers to all and God Bless.*



Sandy Pridemore - October 01, 2018 at 09:50 PM

TR

“ I went to my senior prom with Clay and have such great memories of high school days together. I'm remembering going on a white water trip with him when he was 14—maybe one of his earliest. So sad to hear of his passing and sending love to all his family!

Tina (Hinckley) Rhodes - September 28, 2018 at 03:44 PM

LE

“ My love and prayers to all of you. Nesi Hickman

Lenese - September 27, 2018 at 10:27 AM

LD

“ LINDA DUNCAN lit a candle in memory of Clay Christopher Carroll



LINDA DUNCAN - September 27, 2018 at 09:00 AM

LD

Carroll Family, I'm so sorry for your loss. I just can't put into words the sorrow I feel for your entire family. My prayers and love are with you.

LINDA DUNCAN - September 27, 2018 at 03:58 PM

JE

“ My deepest sympathies. He was so dynamic and had a beautiful soul. He never knew it, but he saved my soul as well and I am ever grateful.

Jennifer Elkins-Spangler - September 27, 2018 at 07:22 AM

EH

“ Erica H lit a candle in memory of Clay Christopher Carroll



Erica H - September 26, 2018 at 09:14 PM

EH

“ I have not seen Clay in a few years but I followed him on FaceBook. He was incredible. He loved adventure and he never had an ugly remark for anyone. I met Clay when I was a river guide. One time we were training on the Upper Gauley with Paul Blevins and we swam a bit that day, we swam over Sweet's Falls, we surfed and got dumped in Fuzzy Box of Kittens.... they thought it was fun to swim and flip the raft but not me. I vowed that I would not ride with them again....but guess what....I did all because Clay was so much fun to be around. I knew he would never get us in a spot that was dangerous to be in. He just wanted to have fun. This has hit a lot of us hard, but I cannot imagine the pain of being there in person. We will miss him. prayers to the family and his river family. Thank you for letting us share our memories. Love to all.

Erica H - September 26, 2018 at 09:13 PM

MJ

“ Mary K. Jervis. lit a candle in memory of Clay Christopher Carroll



Mary K. Jervis. - September 26, 2018 at 09:02 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Clay Christopher Carroll.



September 26, 2018 at 08:23 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Clay Christopher Carroll.



September 26, 2018 at 05:57 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden* was purchased for the family of Clay Christopher Carroll.



September 26, 2018 at 05:25 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Clay Christopher Carroll.



September 26, 2018 at 04:59 PM