

**Clifford Leroy Netherton**  
**May 24, 1910 – December 5, 2010**

Clifford L. “Cliff” Netherton, 100, a teacher, coach, outdoorsman, tournament caster and author, died December 5 at his home in Great Falls, VA of heart disease.

From 1942 until 1967, Cliff taught physical education and coached in the D.C. Public Schools, first at Woodrow Wilson High School until 1953 and then at Anacostia High School until his retirement from the D.C. School System. His tenure at WWHS was interrupted by 2 ½ years service in the U. S. Navy during W.W. II during which he served in the Gene Tunney Fitness Program for Naval Personnel as a physical fitness instructor. He held the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He also served as intramural director one year at Woodrow Wilson High School and also coached track at Anacostia High School. His baseball team enjoyed winning seasons and Anacostia teams were Interhigh Champions in 1955, 1956, 1958 and 1959. Many of his former players went on to play in college and at a professional level in both minor and major leagues.

After retiring from the D.C. Public Schools, Cliff served as Chairman of the Physical Education Program at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria and Annandale, VA. He was instrumental in designing the physical education program for the then new and developing college. The program was built on the concept of individual fitness and lifelong skills and activities. He retired from full time teaching in 1972.

Throughout his professional career, fishing and casting were a major activity for him. He taught individuals, not only in school groups, but in fishing schools, special fishing clinics, Boy Scout jamborees and instructors’ workshops. Cliff directed the angling and casting segment of the National Outdoor Education Project of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation funded by the American Fishing Tackle manufacturers, from the inception of the Project in 1955 until its termination some twenty years later. In that capacity he designed and presented many casting clinics and workshops focused on preparing teachers to teach the skills of casting and fishing in schools and colleges in an outdoor education program. To facilitate and support the instructional work, Cliff wrote Angling and Casting, A Manual for Self and Class Instruction, published in 1977 by A.S. Barnes and Co., Inc.

From his boyhood years, Cliff learned the joys of both hunting and fishing. He was introduced to the Sport of Casting while serving in the Navy and maintained his involvement in the sport throughout his life with many accomplishments and contributions through the American Casting Association(ACA). Cliff served as ACA President and fulfilled many roles for the organization through the years. Outstanding among this service was his Chairmanship of the committee that founded the International Casting Federation(ICF) in the mid-1950s and his efforts that resulted in the Sport of Casting being recognized by the International Olympic Committee in 1958. During his work with the International arena, Cliff earned recognition and membership for the ICF as the world governing body for the casting sport in the General Assembly of International Sport Federations. Through this membership, Cliff later followed the development of the World Games (for non-Olympic sports) and made all the right moves to insure that casting would become one of the founding participating sports at the first World Games in Santa Clara, CA in 1981. Cliff represented the Sport of Casting as a

member of the U.S. Olympic Committee. On the individual side, Cliff competed in numerous National Tournaments and in three World Championships as a member of the All American Team. Along with his close work with the Sport of Casting, Cliff authored two volumes of the history of the sport: History of the Sport of Casting, Early Times (1981) and History of the Sport of Casting, Golden Years(1983). Both volumes published by the American Casting Education Foundation, Inc. In 1973, Cliff was elected to the ACA Hall of Fame.

Clifford Leroy Netherton was born on a farm in Ford County, Illinois near the town of Roberts. He was a 1928 graduate of Roberts High School and then attended the Galleger Business School in Kankakee, Illinois where he pursued a two-year program in bookkeeping and business administration. While attending Gallagers he also excelled in basketball. As a player in the Kankakee Industrial League, he was named to the All Star Team as Sportsman of the Year in 1928-29. Being at the height of the Great Depression and finding no employment upon graduating from Gallagers, Cliff was able to enroll at Illinois State Normal University in the fall of 1932 on a work-study program. At ISNU he majored in physical education and coaching and earned a letter in football and was a four-year squad member on the baseball team. After graduating from ISNU in 1936, Cliff taught in Minonk, Illinois for six years before taking the Federal Civil Service exam for a full time teaching position in the District of Columbia. He later earned a Masters Degree at the University of Illinois.

Upon moving to Great Falls, VA in 1954, Cliff joined in the activities of the community. Early on he was a member of the Great Falls Grange and a founding member of the River Bend Country Club. He was a member of the Great Falls Citizens Association and the Great Falls Historical Society. For years he participated in the local Izaak Walton League chapters and the local Trout Unlimited organization. Cliff has held a fifty-one year membership in the Outdoor Writers Association of America and held other current memberships in the National Fishing Lure Collectors Clubs, North American Society of Sport History and Society for American Baseball Research. He is also a member of the Great Falls United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Jean C. McIntyre Netherton of Great Falls, VA; one niece, Joanne Allen, of Loda, Ill., a grand niece, Candace Kietzman, of Loda, Ill., and a grand nephew, Roger Allen of Cameron, Ill.