



Clinton Tyler Purtell

October 2, 1975 - March 9, 2026

Dr. Clinton Tyler Purtell, age 50 of Stillwater, Oklahoma, passed away unexpectedly on March 9, 2026. He was born on October 2, 1975 in McAlester, Oklahoma. Both of Clinton's parents were pastors which led to traveling statewide in his youth. They were called to serve a church in Lexington, Oklahoma which is where he finished high school, graduating in 1994, and met the love of his life, Amber Leigh Grider. The young couple fell in love and were wed on June 27, 1998. Clinton was the first student in the state of Oklahoma to do dual-credit enrollment. Clinton began his journey in higher education at Oklahoma City University where he studied international business and earned his Bachelors in 1997. He earned his Masters degree in 2001 at Belmont in Nashville, Tennessee. Following his Masters, he earned certificates through the Northwestern Kellogg Program in 2011. In 2020, Clinton finished his PhD at Oklahoma State University. He worked at the University of North Texas in several capacities, including serving as the Director of the McNalt Institute of Logistics Research, and as a Professor of Professional Practices. While at UNT he founded and directed the ACE flight camp, a hands-on opportunity for young people to see cutting edge aeronautics in person and witness them in action. In recent years, he joined the faculty at OSU and his family made the move to Stillwater. There he continued teaching on subjects such as supply chain management, and working closely on projects with military and NASA applications. He founded the Supply Chain Club at Oklahoma State University. He was very proud of his

officers, students, and the program itself. He was a great researcher and publisher. He published *Phantoms*, *BATNAs* and *Negotiation Power, the Pitch*, and many, many more. He was on the board of the PhD Project (1994), helping with mentoring and supporting students of minority. He also had many awards including Outstanding Professional Track Researcher (UNT), Faculty of the Year (UNT), Executive Scholar (Northwestern University), OSLEP Scholar (OU), Graduate Scholar (National Center for American Indian Economic Development), and many, many more. He lectured at numerous international institutions including Harvard, Oxford, and INSTEAD. He also traveled to and conducted business and managed various company divisions in more than 30 countries across the globe.

Away from the academic world, his greatest joy was his family. He loved his family, and would do anything for them. He cherished his children and supported them in all their endeavors, which often meant most of his free time was spent traveling to and from softball, baseball, and football games, and even coaching his son's little league football team, the Vikings. He loved coaching his son and his son's friends in the Vikings FFL football team.

Traveling was a beloved family tradition, they all looked forward to a summer vacation in Gulf Shores, Hot Springs, Cape Cod, Broken Bow, a cruise to Mexico, and many, many more adventures. He loved to host family game nights and movie nights every week. He loved to hunt and enjoyed spending time outdoors with his son, Chip, and father-in-law, Harry Grider. While living in Texas, he was very involved in the First Frisco Global Methodist Church, where he loved helping with the Revive Camp in south Texas hosted by the church that he would attend with his son. His family described him as an intelligent man who always "just knew." He enjoyed country music, country tribute acts, old school rock, old school rap, and new school rap, always appreciated a fine cigar, stargazing, and liked surprising people with his ability to speak Mandarin, and occasionally French. A big tradition every Halloween was dressing up, where Clinton went above and beyond on costumes with his family. Dr. Purtell was a beloved husband, father, friend, and educator who will

be dearly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Marsha and Vaughn Clinton Purtell, and his grandparents, Frank and Marcella Regan.

He is survived by his wife Amber Purtell of Stillwater, his children Brooklyn Purtell of Bartlesville, Jacquelyn "Jackie" Purtell of Oklahoma City, and Clinton "Chip" Purtell of Stillwater. He also leaves behind his parents-in-law, Harry and Kathy Grider of Lexington, sister and brother-in-law Scott and Ashley Lacefield and their children Tegan and Jenny of Lubbock, Texas, and numerous cousins, aunts, and uncles.

Flowers can be sent to the Wilson-Little Funeral Home. Dr. Clinton Purtell had set up a scholarship in honor of his parents Vaughn and Marsha Purtell named "Purtell Family Endowed Scholarship" at Oklahoma City University to help children of deceased military veterans who are first-generation, low-income, or demonstrating financial need, and students who are servant-leaders. Those who wish, can donate to this scholarship to help these students.

Link: <https://www.okcu.edu/about/give>

Select "Purtell Family Endowed Scholarship"

Funeral Services are scheduled for 10 o'clock Tuesday March 17, 2026 at Lexington First Baptist Church, Lexington, Oklahoma with burial to follow at Lexington Cemetery. Visitation hours will take place 5-7 o'clock in the evening Monday March 16, 2026 at Wilson-Little Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Lexington Cemetery

Lexington, OK 73051

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wilson-Little ~ Purcell
127 S. Canadian
Purcell, OK 73080
(405) 527-6543

Funeral Service

MAR 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

Lexington First Baptist Church
900 E. Broadway St.
Lexington, OK 73051

Tribute Wall

KR

“ *Clint was an amazing person. He always had a smile. I met Clint while working for Essilor nearly 17 years ago. Clint was the head of the Procurement Department while I worked for the Internal Audit. My new Internal Audit Director tasked me to design a Purchasing Policy that could be applied across Essilor of North America. First person who came to my mind to help me on this project was Clint. I knew him before since my previous Director Chris Desjardins and Clint often went on lunches to Las Colinas. Clint loved Thai. Clint helped me a lot in developing the procurement policy. The policy was well received by the parent company in Paris. Clint was always helpful. We will miss him very much. I am happy he knows the Lord and he is at peace with Him.*

Kris Rao - March 18 at 05:34 PM

CD

“ *My deepest condolences to Clint's family and loved ones.*

Ours was a relationship grounded in professional respect, where Clint shone with confidence and character. He had a deep appreciation for people and bettered the lives of those around him. I am glad to have counted him as a friend.



Chris Desjardins - March 17 at 12:03 AM

KB

“ Clint impacted our family in so many positive ways. He was always there to answer the phone when we called or respond to an email... he made time for those he cared about and loved. I admire that about it him so very much. I am sorry you all are suffering this and have been diligently praying for your comfort. ~Kimbers Bogard



Kimbers Bogard - March 16 at 06:09 PM

DM

“ To Clint's family, I am so blessed to have known Clint. I am grateful for the life, his testimony of faith, and his collegial and kind nature. The smile in the picture says it all. After being so grateful of him surviving COVID to have this sad news, I'm at a loss other than the comfort he is with the Savior, and available in our hearts at any time we desire. I pray for your comfort during this unexpected loss your family's lives.



Dr. Tina Mims - March 15 at 05:50 PM

PD

“ Dear Jackie, I was so sorry to read this news. What a delight you were to teach at Legacy, and what a tribute your life is to your dad. May the Lord be near to you. Sending a big Texas hug, with much love, from Mrs. Paige Drygas.

Paige Drygas - March 15 at 04:04 PM

DB

“ *Clint is my dear friend that I met almost 20yrs ago. I have been devastated to hear of his sudden passing.*

Clint, for me, is one of those rare examples of men that showed both fierce dedication and deep empathy in all aspects of his life. I saw firsthand how Clint successfully balanced his love and passion for his family, his faith, his friends, and his profession.

When I think of adjectives or roles that describe Clint, they include words like admiration, respect, grace, dedication, husband, father, educator, coach, and leader. Clint had a unique gift of meeting people where they were and offering support, distraction, or a smile... all without hesitation. I will be forever thankful to Clint for his friendship, smiles, and support he graciously extended my way.

It is a rare thing for someone so young to have impacted so many in such a positive way. I will deeply miss my friend.

Sending my love and prayers to Clint, Amber and the kids.

Derek Bogard

Derek Bogard - March 14 at 10:51 PM

DS

“ My deepest condolences to the family and friends of Clint. I had the honor of getting to know Clint through a mutual friend, as I was following a similar path that he had already paved, moving from working in the private sector to going back to school to get his PhD and transitioning to academia. I would visit Clint for lunch occasionally as I was driving from Austin to Stillwater, and it was always a highlight to get an hour or so with him. Whenever I thought about the next phase of my career, Clint's path was always my guiding light. The last time I spoke with Clint was at a Friday evening reception in the State Room at the Atherton Hotel at Oklahoma State. He was so happy to be back at OSU and proud to return to a school he loved dearly.

I am so sad to hear about his loss and that I will not get to celebrate finishing my PhD with him. However, I hope his family and friends know how much of an impact he had on the people around him. He was truly one of the good guys, and while he is now gone, he will never be forgotten.

He and his family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Darren Smith - March 13 at 11:05 AM

MW

“ I never met Dr. Purtell, but my son, Ben Witt, was in his supply chain club and thought the world of him. To say Dr. Purtell made a profound difference in the life of my son is a huge understatement. I have been saddened all week to hear of this loss to the OSU community and his family. You have been in my prayers. I will forever be grateful for the time that my son had with him and the impact he had on his life. I tell my son to honor him by living what he was taught by Dr. Purtell forward. Well done good and faithful servant.

Mary Beth Witt - March 12 at 10:50 PM

KA

“ I remember when I met Dr.Purtell, he was someone I was Initially a little intimated by. The first time I talked to him was a question I had regarding presentation styles during one of the courses he taught at UNT. Since that day, he became my mentor. He helped me get my first internship, he gave me the opportunity to work on my first consulting project, and he guided me throughout my career and helped me get to where I am today. His name and his legacy will live on. May god bless him and his family. May he rest in peace.

Kush Aggarwal - March 12 at 09:48 PM

BM

“ Today I learned that my friend Clint Purtell passed away, and my heart is heavy.

Clint and I spent time working together on contracts supporting Southwest Airlines. Like a lot of good work at Southwest, it wasn't just about the projects—it was about the people doing them. Clint brought that Southwest spirit with him every day: roll up your sleeves, solve the problem, and take care of the folks around you.

Some of my favorite memories of Clint weren't in meetings at all. They were our lunchtime motorcycle rides—helmets on, engines fired up, heading out in search of whatever local spot looked worth the ride that day. For a little while, we traded conference calls for throttle and fresh air, and those miles together were always the best part of the day.

Clint rode through life the same way—steady, genuine, and enjoying the road and the people alongside him.

I'm grateful for the work we did together, the laughs we shared, and the miles we rode.

Ride free, my friend.

Bill Macey - March 12 at 03:58 PM

JG

“ On behalf of the OCU Board of Trustees, I speak from a heart of gratitude for the life of Clint Purtell. He was such an engaged Trustee because he knew the importance of higher education and also because OCU meant so much to him as an alum. Clint was a gift -- to OCU and to everyone who knew him. He was a remarkable husband and dad and he was so proud of his family. Clint was raised in a Christian family and he made God proud all the time. It's so sad that he's gone, but his light will live through those he loved. I'm just thankful that I got to know him. Jane Jayroe Gamble

Jane Jayroe Gamble - March 12 at 03:04 PM