



Mr. Russell E. Cross Obituary

December 14, 1922 - September 12, 2013

Mr. Russell Eugene Cross, 90, formerly of Albany, GA, died Thursday, September 12, at his residence in Americus, GA. Graveside funeral services will be Monday, September 16, 2:00 p.m., at Crown Hill Cemetery. Dr. Don Adams will officiate. The family will greet friends after the service.

Mr. Cross was predeceased by his parents and younger brother, William Roger Cross, and by his wife of sixty-five years, Mary Hemrick Cross, who taught for thirty-eight years in the Dougherty County School System.

Mr. Cross was born December 14, 1922, in Macon, GA. He was the son of James Daniel Cross and Hazel Alfred Stirk Cross.

His family moved to Jesup, GA, in 1927, where he was active in Boy Scouts and "all the churches in town". He played football and basketball and enjoyed hunting in the Altamaha Swamp and caddying at the Jekyll Island Club. The family moved to Pelham, GA, and Mr. Cross graduated at the top of his class at Pelham High School in 1940. He attended Marion Military Institute, and graduated from Young Harris College.

He joined the U.S. Navy in September, 1943, and served in the 3rd, 5th, and 7th Pacific fleets as a navigator on the U.S.S. Wilkes-Barre, a Cleveland class cruiser, which, most notably, fought at the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and rescued the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Bunker Hill after it had been hit by a kamikaze. On September 2, 1945, Mr. Cross witnessed the Japanese surrender on the deck of the battleship U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

After WWII, he graduated from the University of Georgia with a BBS degree

from the Business School, and moved to Albany in 1948.

The Crosses were members of First United Methodist Church, and charter members of the Fellowship Sunday School Class. Mr. Cross served on First Methodist Church's Board of Stewards, and he was active in V.F.W., the American Legion, the Civitan Club, and the Kiwanis Club, where he served many years as treasurer. He enjoyed playing golf at Radium Springs Country Club and maintained a single digit handicap.

Mr. Cross was business and finance manager for various businesses, the last before retirement being Sylvester Textile Company.

In 2003, the Crosses moved to Magnolia Manor in Americus, where Mr. Cross hosted the "Coffee Club" twice a week and enjoyed playing his harmonica for friends, for sing-alongs, and for many special occasions.

Mr. Cross is survived by his daughter, Jeanie Cross Allen and her husband Richard Eve Allen, Augusta, GA, his granddaughter Katherine Cross Smith, Manhattan, NY; his grandson Randolph Relihan Smith, Jr. and his wife Monica Navarro Smith and their children Randolph Smith, III, Daniel Smith, Maxine Smith, and Louis Smith, Atlanta, GA; his step-grandson Richard Elliott Allen and his wife Sallie Reynolds Allen and their children Wren Allen and Lucie Allen, San Diego, CA; and step-granddaughter Eve Allen Cronje and her husband Adrian Cronje and their children Gibson Cronje and Philip Cronje, Atlanta, GA.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP **16.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Crown Hill Cemetery
1907 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Russell E. Cross Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mr. Russell E. Cross Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mr. Russell E. Cross Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *So sad to learn of Russell Cross' death. He was a dear friend and we will miss him.*

Patsy Martin - Albany, GA - longtime friend - September 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jennie I am so sorry to hear about your daddy. I am in IN as my husbands mom passed away and will be buried mon. Otherwise I would have tried to be at the graveside. I have so many good memories from visiting your parents as well as the beach trips. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Kitty king Sokol - Columbia, TN - Friend (nearly kin) ha ha - September 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Dear Mr. Cross,

While sitting in the airport in Norfolk Virginia, with my father, Joseph Jr U.S.A.F ret., and another veteran of World War II, Bert Beach U.S.N. ret., a young woman approached us and extended her deepest thanks and appreciation for their service to our country. I could I see a touch of sadness in her eyes as she went on to explain that she had just visited you on Monday and was returning back from NYC to Americus Georgia, to attend your memorial service. It was a brief conversation that touched their hearts, as well as mine. Little did I know that 15 minutes later I would be sitting next to your granddaughter Katherine on the flight to Atlanta. She was gracious enough to share your life story with me. And what a great story it was!

Being a veteran myself and a military history buff as well, I hold in high regard anyone who has served, especially in a time of war. The Pacific Theater, in which you served, is well known for some of the most brutal battles during World War II. You are truly an American Hero.

The men and women, who served during World War II, were not called the “greatest” generation for nothing. They were also an inspiration to many Americans, more than they’ll ever know. I hope that someday when I reach Heaven, I’ll be able to shake your hand, hear more of your story and personally “thank you,” for your service”! Two hours and fifteen minutes simply was not sufficient time to re-live it all.

Find solace in knowing that your legacy will continue through your granddaughter Katherine. I feel blessed to have been sitting next to her on her flight while she traveled to say her final goodbye to you. You’ve earned a mulligan (though certainly wouldn’t need it) in my heart forever, may you rest in peace!

Sincerely,

Joseph N Harper III, Albuquerque NM

P.S. Katherine I truly hope you take the time to learn how to play that harp and read great book I just finished reading; CORN FLAKES WITH JOHN LENNON, BY ROBERT HILBURN.

Joseph Harper III - Albuquerque, NM - Friend - September 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *My sincere condolences to Jeanie and all of Mr. Cross' family.*

Richard Stalvey - Dawson, GA - Friend - September 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM