



John Cross Jr.

January 6, 1929 - January 9, 2016

CROSS, Mr. John Jr., - age 87, passed away Saturday January 9, 2016 at his residence. Family hour 10:30 AM Tuesday, January 19, 2016 from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home 268 North Perry Street, with Funeral service commencing immediately at 11:00AM. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 North Belford Road. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the funeral home at 10:30 AM Tuesday. Mr. Cross will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, and may be viewed from 1:00PM - 8:00PM Monday.

Mr. John Cross, Jr. was born January 6, 1929 in Memphis, Tennessee to the union of the late Willie Mae Blunt and John William Cross. John was the oldest of five siblings and three cousins, Hue, Peal Mae (Aldridge), Willie Mae, William (Howard) Cross, three cousins, Clinton and Eldridge Mabon and Thomas James Wooden. Due to the passing of their mothers at a very young age, all eight children were raised as siblings by their grandparents (Mama) Pearl and (Papa) Blunt (ten years to eight months in age).

John attended Booker T. Washington in Memphis, Tennessee where he graduated in June 1947. Then went on to accomplish major events in life. On January 8, 1951 he joined the United States Army and served his country in the Korean War until 1953. While on leave during his Army furlough John married his sweetheart Elizabeth Virginia Hirsch at a church parish on

November 3, 1951 where they remained married for sixty four years.

John and Elizabeth chose to relocate from the south Memphis, Tennessee to the north Michigan by moving to Pontiac, Michigan in the year 1955.

Approximately one year later they had one child Rosalind Marie. In addition to being a full time Dad he always found time to teach his daughter on how to be Ms. Fix-it. John could always find the time to take pride in his lawn, to install, repair or replace anything around the house. He always had the know how to learn from others just by watching. John and Liz were avid Detroit Lions football fans and held season tickets for thirty four years. However, he rarely missed a Detroit Pistons, Detroit Tiger or a Detroit Red Wings game on television because he loved Detroit sports.

John retired from Clinton Valley Hospital as an Area Supervisor of Nursing after thirty years of dedicated service and retired from the Pontiac School District after thirteen years of service but continued to sub (Support staff) for the school district when asked until the age of 83. His passion was his compliment to volunteer with young males as a mentor for the organization Male Responsibility Network (MRN).

Mr. Cross leaves to cherish his memory wife of sixty four years, Elizabeth Cross; devoted daughter, Rosaline Cross of Lithia Springs, GA; sister, Pearlie Mae Aldrich of Memphis, TN and other relatives and friends.

Mr. Cross was preceded in death by his parents, Willie M. and John W. Cross; and siblings, Hugh Cross, Willie M. Cross and Howard Cross.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac
268 North Perry Street
Pontiac, MI 48342
(248) 758-1913
lemoonfhpontiac@gmail.com
<https://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhomepontiac.com>

Family Hour

JAN 19. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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Funeral Service

JAN 19. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Spades Spades lit a candle in memory of John Cross Jr.*



Spades Spades - February 10, 2016 at 03:17 PM



“ *Miss. M Hurner sent a virtual gift in memory of John Cross Jr.*



Miss. M Hurner - January 23, 2016 at 11:16 AM



“ *Mrs. Cross and Rosaline, please accept my condolences on the loss of dear Mr. Cross. He was a great man with an even greater heart. I pray God provide you strength and solace during this difficult time. Sincerely Martha DuVall (Hall).*

Martha DuVall - January 21, 2016 at 08:18 PM



“ *Wow I wish I would've seen this earlier. Mr. Cross was such a great Man. I'll always remember that. Condolences to the family...*

Jacqueline Wellons - January 21, 2016 at 06:41 PM

DA

“ Measure of A Man

*Perhaps he was about seven times the age of most boys in MRN
He shared many life experiences and tough battles he fought to win
He was quick to share his wisdom and he would boldly speak the
truth*

He was a pillar in his community doing wonderful things with youth

*When it came down to a simple choice of words he was never at a
loss*

*Because he'd find a way to speak his mind and get his point across
As Sergeant at arms he meant no harm the way he belted out
commands*

*Like “Quiet down over there” or “ya’ll Listen up”, to “Boy, pull up
them pants!”*

*He was a warrior on a mission “trying to shape and save young
lives”*

*Teaching boys how to win a war without using guns and knives
Ask him what his motto: he’ll say “work before you play.”
And he worked hard helping people gain life skills along the way*

*Ask him what his purpose; he’ll say “helping all mankind”
To make the world a better place and retire with a piece of mind
He helped to ease the burden of a lot of our young black males
And carved out paths for many youth, leaving them no excuse to fail*

*He leaves his mark as an accomplish man, his life time work fulfilled
His badge of honor as a strong black brother stands tall on the
battlefield*

*Challenging young minds and empowering young males is his
legacy to MRN*

*This unsung hero, a wonderful man, a husband, a father, a mentor,
a friend*

In the African Spirit of Harambee,

*Rest in Peace, Mighty Warrior
Male Responsibility Network "CALLING ALL BROTHERS" Mentor
Program*

Dr. Clyde Alexander - January 18, 2016 at 02:32 PM

RP

“ *Liz and Roz,
I will always cherish the memories made during my summer stay at your home. I will be forever grateful for the offer from John to make your home my forever home. We will grieve; but we are a family of faith. We believe God's promises and know that now John is sitting at the right hand of Jesus along with Mama and Papa Blount. Be encouraged.*

Love you guys,

Rita Mabon Patterson

Rita Patterson - January 17, 2016 at 09:42 PM

AH

“ *May God continue to bless and keep you both
Allen and Monica Hirsch*



Allen Hirsch - January 17, 2016 at 04:46 PM

SJ

“ *Thinking of you. Mylas & Sue Jeffers*

Sue Jeffers - January 15, 2016 at 09:22 PM

FA

“ Hi Roz. I only met your Dad and Mom once. But I remember how sweet they were. They reminded me of my mother and father. I feel as though I really new them from the many conservations we've had about our parents. We are sending love and prayers. God Bless you and your Mother.

Freddia Allen

Lindley MS

Freddia Allen - January 15, 2016 at 11:10 AM

PJ

“ Mr. Cross was a constant in my life, playing various roles and sensing my immediate need without detailed conversations. Acting as a surrogate father, a yard buddy and an adviser, he spoke words of wisdom, comfort and correction. My memory of Mr. Cross is as a true representation of a “man;” one who loved and provided for his family, invested in his community and was always ready to speak out against injustice.

Mrs. Cross and Rosaline, I thank you for sharing your husband and father with me. I will miss him greatly. Be comforted in his love that transcends his transition.

Much Love,

Paula

Paula Johnson - January 15, 2016 at 07:14 AM

BL

“ *My condolences to Mama Elizabeth and Rosaline. We will remain in our circle loving both of you as you celebrate the life of Mr. Cross.*

Blendia Gail



Blendia - January 14, 2016 at 11:42 PM



“ *He was a wonderful caring stern man who ment business. Always had encouraging words for us unruly kids. As I look back I'm glad he took the time to feed me his wisdom. Even though it didn't register then it all makes sense now.*

Chad Michigan - January 14, 2016 at 11:08 PM

JM

“ *Mr. Cross was a wounder man with a big heart and will truely be missed I miss you Mr. Cross*

Jackee Maddix - January 14, 2016 at 09:40 PM

JM

“ *Jackee Maddix lit a candle in memory of John Cross Jr.*



Jackee Maddix - January 14, 2016 at 09:38 PM



“ *Melissa Darling sent a virtual gift in memory of John Cross Jr.*



Melissa Darling - January 14, 2016 at 02:29 PM



“ *Melissa Darling lit a candle in memory of John Cross Jr.*



Melissa Darling - January 14, 2016 at 02:28 PM



“ *He was an awesome hall monitor he was funny and just an all around great guy. You will be missed. R.I.p*

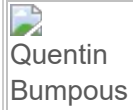
Melissa Darling - January 14, 2016 at 02:27 PM



“ *Harriet Patton purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Cross Jr..*



Harriet Patton - January 14, 2016 at 01:36 PM



“ hey go see the man, i saw him month ago at the brake shop r.i.p my friend



Quentin Bumpous - January 14, 2016 at 01:25 PM



“ Mr. Cross was my supervisor at Clinton valley he was always pleasant, and helpful rest in peace Mr. Cross praying for the family. Dorothy Williams San Marcos Ca. Formally from Pontiac

Dorothy Williams - January 14, 2016 at 01:09 PM



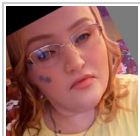
“ Mr. Cross literally saved my life at Jefferson. One day I was accidentally stabbed with a utility knife in my wrist. It hit an artery. In a panic I ran to the office. Mr. Cross grabbed my arm and held pressure until the ambulance arrived. He stopped the bleeding and kept me calm. RIP Mr. Cross! Vernesa (Fowler) Robinson

Vernesa Robinson - January 14, 2016 at 01:03 PM



i remember that

Quentin Bumpous - January 14, 2016 at 01:20 PM



“ Worked with Mr. Cross at Pontiac schools may god be with his family in this time of need....



Cheryl Holloway - January 14, 2016 at 12:51 PM



“ *Mr Cross was one of my memories from Jr high, he always kept me in line and if I didn't he would make sure he told my mother!! So for that I am truly grateful and he will be missed. Thanks Mr Cross for keeping me in line and rest in Heaven. Praying for the family*

Rosalind Jackson - January 14, 2016 at 12:50 PM

HP

“ *To Liz and Roz, John will be missed by so many people and we of course will and have missed the phone conversations that we have with John since we moved to Florida. We enjoyed and will always remember the Sunday morning breakfasts with our group that had conversations, debates and laughter for many hours at the "Old Country Buffet" on Telegraph Rd. We send our prayers for you Liz and Roz, and our love, knowing that the "Lord" will take care of you and we will meet John again one day at the "Old Country Buffett in heaven. We are sorry that we can't make back to Pontiac on Tuesday for the services, please know that our hearts are with you.*

Love Bob and Harriet Patton, Weston, Florida

Harriet Patton - January 14, 2016 at 12:13 PM

JS

“ *Mr. Cross was and will forever be in the hearts and minds of all that ever meet him while working in Pontiac Schools, his loud voice filled the air as many students filed past him daily, and his rum cakes were the highlight of many a staff pot luck, he and Mrs. Cross helped to mold a lot of our city's youth.*

Joseph Sinclair - January 14, 2016 at 11:35 AM

LI

“ To my cousins; Liz and Roz. Cousin John will certainly be missed one thing I loved about him was his passion for the youth especially the young black males. He was a great mentor and cousin. Rest on cousin. And my prayers for you two; Liz and Roz I love you guys

cousin Lisa Hirsch

Cousin John and Allen are probably having some catch up conversations. Ha!

Lisa - January 13, 2016 at 08:07 PM

JJ

“ Rest In Heaven Uncle John! A Great Man who Inspired Me to strive for excellence! James Thomas Jr., St. Louis, MO (Hirsch/Portwood) Family!

James Thomas Jr. - January 13, 2016 at 03:57 PM



“ 51 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - January 13, 2016 at 12:50 PM

MB

“ *Mr. Cross you will certainly be missed by me and my son, Cameron and Renee Blunt may you rest in peace.*

Marian Blunt - January 13, 2016 at 11:56 AM

ST

“ *RIP Mr. Cross, who was a long time friend to the Watkins family, mainly my father Nate. I also remember Mr Cross working at the voting polls for years.*



Stephanie - January 12, 2016 at 12:24 PM



“ *Truly Beloved Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Cross Jr..*



January 12, 2016 at 02:38 AM