



## Joe Curtis Crum

November 27, 1928 - April 2, 2022

Joe Curtis Crum, 93, left this world satisfied and full of days on Saturday, April 2, 2022, at the home of Dana and Lisa Crum, his son and daughter in law, with whom he'd contentedly shared a residence the past year and a half. Born on November 27, 1928, at Clifford (Yellow Creek) KY, he was the son of the late Mont and Maude Sparks Crum Jordan and step-father, Jum Jordan. He was the husband of the late Thelma Ruth Smith Crum. He was also preceded in death by brothers, William Thomas Crum, Ray Dean Crum, Donald Lindsey Crum, Jack Crum, and sister, Ann Crum Marcum, as well as several beloved brothers and sisters-in-law.

Joe was a man of steadfast faith in the Lord Jesus, having surrendered his heart on September 10, 1969, during a revival at the old Delbarton Church of God building (now home of the Senior Citizens Center). News spread of his baptism and a chain reaction of others who came and subsequently received Christ occurred. He and his beloved wife, Thelma, were faithful members of Delbarton (Regional) Church of God for many years. Thelma was one of a strong ladies' auxiliary team who cooked many, many dinners to pay off the mortgage of the church, and Joe was her faithful "dumpling and dressing runner." Joe had a wonderful demeanor and was well-liked by people of every walk of life. He was a good friend, a man of his word, and a good role model who thoroughly enjoyed the virtues of being a husband to Thelma and dad to Tommy and Dana. He loved his daughters-in-law like they were his own; and was very proud of his grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Joe was an Army Veteran who served during the Korean War years. He had the opportunity to entertain fellow service members with his musical talents and, while overseas, he also got pretty handy with a set of barber shears. When the soldiers would get a little wooly, the sergeant would tell them they needed to "go see Crum," and Joe would cut their hair.

Joe was a mine foreman/superintendent for Smith Brothers and McNamee Resources. Prior to that, he served in law enforcement as a constable, a deputy for the Mingo County Sheriff Department and a policeman and interim chief for the Town of Delbarton. Perhaps Joe's great legacy is what he contributed through community service. Former Mayor John W. Preece recently remarked that if anyone could be named "Mr. Delbarton,"

it would be Joe. Joe served on the Delbarton Town Council for a number of years—until he was 89-- and could be seen daily in town supervising work crews, and working at times right alongside the town employees. He also oversaw the sewage treatment plant in Delbarton, and anywhere else he could be of service. Whether it was picking up trash in the street, spreading gravel, or helping make decisions about town matters, Joe was a faithful servant of the town and he truly loved doing whatever he could to make a difference. Until his stroke in 2017, Joe was (at his own insistence) still mowing his own grass and doing other physical labor up into his late 80's. He had a vibrancy and a youthfulness and was a joy to be around. He continued to drive as long as he could so that he could visit his sisters, Gertie and Sue, whenever he wanted. Whenever the Delbarton Homecoming and other community events would occur, he would be immersed in the details and would be there from setup to take down. He loved being a part of the community feasts, fish fries, and other opportunities to bless others alongside his brothers, Mark Sizemore, and other friends of the town. And when his wife, Thelma, fell ill with a disease that put her in a wheelchair the last couple years of her life, Joe was a faithful and loving caregiver.

It was his love of people, community, and music that helped build a weekly “picking and grinning” session that brought music lovers and dancers from miles around to cram into a little store front in town. The Delbarton Music Company came into existence when he, brothers Mont and Jack, and several community-minded musicians, singers, and supporters decided to turn the informal gatherings into an official event. Several area businesses and individuals donated funds to construct the Delbarton Opry House and Community Center; and it was packed every Saturday night with bluegrass, country, gospel, and other genres of music. Joe was a master mandolin player and also loved to sing and play banjo, guitar, fiddle, harmonica, and other instruments. Though he wasn't able to play an instrument after the stroke, Joe never stopped singing and could be heard singing around the house or riding in the car nearly every day.

Remaining behind to cherish his memory are his beloved children: sons, Tommy (Deanna) Crum and Dana (Lisa) Crum of Delbarton, WV; grandchildren Cole Crum, Coby (Angie) Crum, Chris Maynard, and Misty Fleming; 11 great-grandchildren; brother, Mont Crum, and sisters Gertrude Richardson and Sue Enomoto, all of Delbarton. He also leaves behind a number of cherished in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, good friends and neighbors.

A celebration of a life well-lived will be held Tuesday evening, April 5, at the Regional Church of God, with the church open to visitation beginning at 2 PM followed by a memorial service at 6 PM. Senior Pastor Mitchell Bias and Pastor Will Compton will be officiating. Joe will be laid to rest beside his Thelma at the Sparks Family Cemetery in Yellow Creek, KY, at the site of his beloved childhood home. Friends and family will serve as pall bearers.

The family requests, as they feel Joe would agree, that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Regional Church of God.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Chafin Funeral Home of Delbarton, WV.

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ I've knew joe from the 60s. Easy going, and a real good man, good to everyone. He did a lot to help me in 2004 when my home was flooded. Thank You Sir. Rest in peace. Chip Canterbury.

chip Canterbury - April 05 at 10:17 AM

AW

“ We are all Heartbroken for the loss of this Wonderful Man!! Joe was just like a Family Member!! My Sisters and Brothers Loved him Dearly!! He'll be Missed by Everyone!! Prayers for his Precious Family and Friends!! ❤️



Anita Witten - April 04 at 06:41 PM

EP

Everyone loved joe a precious man he will be missed prayers for the family

Emma Pecco - April 05 at 12:49 PM

WC

“ Sorry for your loss to the Crum family, Love and Prayers from Wes and Sandy Caudill

Wes and Sandy Caudill - April 04 at 04:34 PM

KE

“ *The first time I met Joe, I was a baby, so I've know Joe for 63 years. I left Delbarton when I was 18 but when I visited I always tried to visit Joe and Thelma. I've visited at their home and spent the night with Tommy and Dana many times, running the hills, swinging on the big rope swing at Tom and Ellen's house, and gone frog gigging on top of Buffalo Mountain on the old strip mines with Joe, Tommy and Dana. Joe and Thelma's family were my second family. I loved visiting them.*

*The last time I saw Joe was in 2008 and it was like no time had passed. Just like we had seen each other the other day. I wish I had visited more often Joe. I miss you old friend. I know you and Thelma and a host of others are celebrating in Heaven.*

*R.I.P. Joe. You were an exemplary father figure and friend. See you later...*

*Kevin*

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**Kevin** - April 04 at 12:35 PM

JS

*some type of memorial should be in Delbarton for future generations to see. Joe will be sorely missed.*

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**Janet L Starr** - April 04 at 12:55 PM

FR

“ *GOD Bless Our Vets--GOD Bless Our Hero's--Thank You Sir--R.I.P. Friend*



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**Frankie** - April 04 at 01:38 AM

JC

“ Joe Crum was a wonderful man. My Daughter had the juvenile form of Huntington's Disease and Jack and I took her to the Opry on Saturday night's. as soon as Joe seen her he would come over and hug her and kiss her on the cheek and call her his girl. her smile was the biggest ever. And she didn't smile often That is what she always waited on seeing Uncle Joe. when we would ask her who is the best one of the Crum Boys and she couldn't talk very well but she always Said Joe Crum. he had the kindest heart of anyone I have ever known, and I know he will be Missed so much.by all. Family and Friends. But I know Patty Jean had the biggest smile as she seen him enter into Heaven. I Love You Joe Crum My Precious Brother- In -Law

johnnie Connolly Crum - April 03 at 04:47 PM

OZ

“ Ozzy purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Joe Curtis Crum.



Ozzy - April 03 at 04:11 PM

DS

“ Joe was a joy to be around in every way, and I can't say enough good things about him! He was truly a great man!.....Dan Sizemore

Dan Sizemore - April 03 at 03:37 PM

GM

I worked for at McNamee Resources and Joe was the superentent there. He told me one day that I was the best roof bolter he ever saw. A few years ago I saw him at the Homecoming and I laughed and repeated what he said. A big grin shone on his face and he said I tell everyone that. I really liked Joe.

Glen D Merritt - April 03 at 07:08 PM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Joe Curtis Crum.



April 03 at 02:07 PM

ST

“ *My family had the highest regards for Joe! My father, Clifford Davis and Joe were best of friends! I guarantee there's a celebration in heaven amid his entering!!*

Sheila Trippett - April 03 at 01:46 PM

IA

“ *So very sorry to hear this. Knew Joe for year's . He sure will be missed by everyone. Go rest high on that mountain.*



Inis Auxier Adair - April 03 at 01:41 PM