



Robert Hazlett Crawford

AUG 15, 1912 - OCT 14, 2013



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Robert H. Crawford died on October 14, 2013 at age 101. He was born in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia on August 15, 1912. He became an Eagle Scout in 1930. He attended the University of Alabama and received a second lieutenant's commission in 1935 through Reserve Officers Training Corps but was not called to active duty. In 1936, he helped his ailing father maintain delivery trucks under a Works Progress Administration program. In 1938, he became a safety engineer, inspecting mechanical systems to determine insurability. On October 8, 1938, he married Ruth Helen Renz, also a native of Roxborough, whom he had known since childhood. In early 1942, they bought a house in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. Because of his reserve officer training, he was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Army in May, 1942. He served as a company commander in the 12th Engineer Battalion, attached to the 8th Infantry Division. He trained in South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri and Arizona before being deployed to Northern Ireland in December, 1943. He landed in France in June, 1944, as part of the 8th Infantry Division staff and was notified by telegram in August, 1944, of the birth of his first son, Robert, Jr. Badly wounded in the Huertgen Forest, Germany, in January, 1945, he spent most of the next two years in hospitals, first in Europe, then in Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan, until being medically retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1947. He settled in the Philadelphia suburbs and worked for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for over 20 year. A second son, Charles, was born in 1949. In 1969, he retired from Met Life and moved to Harrington, Delaware, where he volunteered at Grace Lutheran Church. For 25 years he voluntarily picked up trash from the park and roads near his house in Dunedin and was named a city volunteer of the year. He was a life member of the Military Officers Association of America. Ruth, his wife of 61 years, died in July, 1999. He is survived by his two sons (both of whom served in the Air Force in Vietnam and



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retired as colonels), his neice Carol Taylor, his granddaughter Kim, grandson Scott and great grandsons Austin and Adam. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery. Instead of flowers, please contribute to VetDogs www.vetdogs.org or Fisher House www.fisherhouse.org.



Tribute Wall

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KO

Kim Oplotnik posted:

Poppop...My memories of you and Mommom together are fond ones. I especially remembering coming to Florida while Daddy was in Alaska and going to Busch Gardens. I loved chasing the lizards and getting to swim when it was supposed to be cold outside. I remember getting together in at the beach and visiting you and Mommom on the porch. (I also loved your false teeth. I had never seen those as a kid!!) The trips to the race track in Harrington were something so normal back then, but now I realize it was a special treat. I am so glad I got to bring Austin to Florida to meet you and Mommom. We look at the photos under the orange trees to remind us of the special time you took to entertain us educationally and so lovingly. The memory that makes me smile the most is having orange sherbet at night with you and talking. I am sure Heaven is a better place with you and Mommom back together. God Speed, Poppop...I love you

November 6 at 8:00 PM

SC

Scott Crawford posted:

Pop Pop. Like Dad mentioned I remember riding on the lawn tractor when we visited you in Delaware. As young as I was that was a big deal then, and it meant a lot to me. Also at Christmas when you and Mom Mom would give me gifts like the analog alarm clock with the numbers that would flip over, or the camera with the flash cubes that rotate on top. Mom Mom would scold me for popping the bubble wrap instead of playing with the gift. Also every time you'd visit we would play chess, and you would win. I'm thankful for the memories we made together, and wish there would have been more opportunities to do so. Living as far away as we did it was difficult to spend a lot of time together. Now in my semi-old age, I can understand why you didn't approve of my racing motorcycles and the dangers involved. Having a leg injury myself now I can appreciate your concerns. I think of you and Mom Mom together again now, as happy and healthy as the day you were married, and I hope to see you both again someday. And you can beat me at chess. Scott

October 25 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dad, from Linda, Scott, Kim, Austin and Adam; Adam doesn't remember since he was so little, but Austin, Kim, Scott, Linda and I certainly do. You and Mom took care of Linda when I was in the Philippines, and I appreciate that. Your inability to engage in sports, although confusing at first, became clear after I understood the extent of your WWII injuries. Linda has said she has known you since she was 15 and said you were more of a father than her own was. Scott called the other night and remembered riding on the riding lawnmower with you in Harrington, DE. You and Mom had a great sense of humor. Thankfully, you are in a better place without the pain and despair of dementia. Bob and Linda

October 20 at 8:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

To Charlie & Bob, George & I send our love and condolences to you both and your families . I will miss him very much for I loved him also very muchDad was a great person. Sincerely, George & Rosemarie Smith

October 16 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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