



George Crawford

Feb. 25, 1944 - Dec. 13, 2025

George Crawford, 81, of Drexel, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on the morning of December 13th, 2025 in Asheville, NC. He was born on February 25, 1944 to Elmer and Ruth Crawford and grew up in the mountains of Avery County—surrounded by people who believed in working hard and meaning what they said.

He served as a Private in the US Army throughout the Berlin Wall Crisis, Operation Big Lift, and the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the effects of his service stayed with him far beyond his time in uniform— you could see it in the way he took responsibility without hesitation and stood firm when life pressed in around him.

Not long after returning home in 1964, he reconnected with a former classmate, Linda Teague at the Drexel Fair. They married in 1966 and built their life in Drexel, raising their sons Kevin and Shane, and later welcoming Georgia Reese Greer into the family. Their house was a place people passed through easily— kids coming in and out, neighbors dropping by, supper stretching to fit whoever pulled up a chair.

When he was around thirty, George would say that “God got ahold of him.” He began studying the Scriptures with the same deliberate earnestness he brought to everything else. As his faith deepened, he followed where he felt the Lord nudging him— filling in at churches that needed an interim pastor, joining mission work

overseas, serving in the deaf ministry. He stayed only as long as he was needed, moving on when he sensed the Holy Spirit prodding him forward. He often reminded people that he was “just a teacher,” and that was how he lived his calling. One of the verses he held closest was 2 Corinthians 5:17: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new

creation; the old has passed away,” and it was a promise he carried with him his whole life.

George was the kind of man who showed up. He helped where help was needed: at a grocery store, on the back of a moving truck, up and down Burke County roads, in any ministry that asked for a pair of willing hands. People took to him fast; something about him just had a way of making a stranger feel like they belonged. He was direct – blunt at times– but there was a kindness to him that never wavered.

To his family, he was steady and dependable– someone whose presence carried weight. And for those who loved him, his imprint remains: in the slow unfolding of the Blue Ridge mountains, in the soft rise of a hymn you didn’t realize you were humming, in a line from A.J. Russell’s God Calling that settles on you the way his words used to.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Linda Teague Crawford; sons: Kevin Crawford (Angie) and Shane Crawford (Dawn); daughter, Georgia Reese Greer (Chad); grandchildren: Zac Greer (Emily), Spencer Greer (Katie), Blake Crawford (Rachel), Caleb Crawford, Allie Crawford Strebeck (Tom), Lizzie Crawford, Ian Crawford, and Gabe Crawford; great-grandchildren Daniel, Madelyn, Sadi, and Elijah Greer; sister, Betty Fox; a number of brothers-in law and sisters-in law and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers: Cecil Crawford (Pauline), Jimmy Crawford, Steve Crawford, and Wayne “Pete” Crawford; and his sisters: Jean Ollis (Phillip) and Helen Buchanan.

The family will receive friends from 5pm until 8pm, Saturday, December 20, 2025 at Sossoman Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held at 2pm, Sunday, December 21, 2025 at Praise Assembly of God Church, 873 US 70, Morganton, NC 28655, with the Rev. John Henderson officiating. Burial will follow at Park Hill Memorial Garden.

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In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Valor Hospice and Caldwell County Honor Guard.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

Linda so very sorry for your loss. God just did not create a better person on this earth than brother George. I am here if you need me. Godspeed.

—Jim Belote



Words can't express how sad I am to hear of George's passing. He was absolutely the best. I remember all the good times with you all when Gordon was living. I still can hear George saw- Are you still saved! I know he and Gordon are having a great time. My prayers are with you. Love you all so much

—Renee Hoyle Triplett

Brother George will be missed! I've only known him the last 7 years or so. I was honored to have him attend and join the church I pastored, Drexel Christian Center (the church he helped build). He was a great mentor and friend. He was full of the Holy Ghost, wisdom and God's grace. Blessings to all of the family!

—Tim and Lisa smooth



Praying for the family during this difficult time.

—Josh and Katrina Adams



Sorry for the loss of a Family Member. Margaret Tate.

—Margaret Tate

Linda Kevin Shane and families so sorry for your loss George will definitely be greatly missed he always had a smile and wave whenever he would see us I remember George coming up and helping get mother out of the floor when she fell in the bathroom years ago he was always there when we needed him and he was a great blessing to everyone in the neighborhood take care our love and prayers go out to you and all the family Wanda Stacy Michael Meredith and family

—Wanda



—Jen

I have known George for for a number of years . And glade that I got to know him he truly was a friend. And Sunday school teacher. He said what he meant and meant what he said, there will never be another one like him. I am glade I got to know you as a brother in the lord. Wayne

—Wayne neal

A previous brother in Christ he and I worked together at New Grace Pentecostal church where we seen great moves of the Holy Ghost, he gone home to his heavenly fater, to the family may God fill the void that is left with his holy present. Lord Bless Ken Suttles

–Kenneth Suttles

George, George...you will be greatly missed here on this crazy earth. You have been such an inspiration to so many. You were always ready to share Jesus with whoever would listen...and even when they wouldn't I can only imagine when you crossed over that Jesus was waiting with open arms to receive you home. Comfort and peace, and all my love to the family. God bless until we see each other again Sandy Hallyburton

–Sandy Hallyburton

Gary and I loved George and he will be truly missed. George prayed over Gary during a revival service 12 years ago when Gary was diagnosed with cancer. We still praise the Lord to this day for George's prayers. Kevin and Shane, we know your dad is with Jesus and he is now whole again and praising his Savior with all the other saints of God there with him. We will be lifting you, your mom and family up in prayer during this time. While we rejoice for the home going of your dad, we certainly know this is especially hard on family and loved ones who will miss his presence so much. But what a glorious day it will be when we all get to heaven and see our loved ones again. Gary and Jani Carswell

–Gary and Jani Carswell

I will miss your easy way of understanding , and teaching me through faith, God's word! I will miss your 'picking at me' and your humor! I will miss you forever Uncle George! Fly high and, please keep your eye on me!

–Kim Funk

George Crawford was more than a blessing to have known. His cheerful smile and thoughtful nature made him a special person to so many. To my precious family, I'm sorry for the sadness felt since his passing. I pray for peace and

comfort to us all. He is truly an angel now who has earned his wings. I thank you George for the memories you created and the love you bestowed. George, you showed us what it looks like to lead with faith and without regret. I remember you saying, "when God tells you to close one door... He has another one opened for you. So just take it and don't look back." Your life set the example for many and will continue to live on for generations. Dedication, strength and most importantly, love which will never fade George. Until we meet again beyond those heavenly gates, may you rest in peace. We will always love you.

—Jeremy & Melaina Rhoney



George and his family were great neighbors to me and my family for over 40 years. Godspeed 'til we meet again on the other side.

—Jerry Hefner

A great friend and brother in Christ. Loved to hear him teach the word and valued his advise dearly. He was always a great friend to my husband in heaven when he was here. We both loved him and his family with all our hearts. Thankful for memories

—Debi Barker



—Ed Hathaway



LINDA ...Im sorry of George passing. Thinking of you...He was a good man & father..please call me when you can..I love vou...Geraldine



—Geraldine Abernethy Lindas



George was a wonderful neighbor for years. He moved me to another house years ago. A very good man! Drexel lost another good one! I am so sorry for your loss. May God bless you all and wrap you in his love. Sincerely The Ward Family. Joe and Franceleen (in heaven) Libby and Dawn

Elizabeth Ward Arroyo



Shane and Family, We both are so sorry to hear the loss of your father, he lived an incredible life and brought such joy to all who knew him. Please except our deepest condolences .

—Cindy & Howard Childress



I sure did love you sir! You have been such a blessing in my life. Prayers for the family! I love you all

—Shelia Mays

George's presence here on earth will be greatly missed. We are so blessed to have know George. Prayers for all who loved him. He is shouting in glory.

—Harmon and Patsy Bumgarner

Didn't know George real well get him a few times but just wanted to tell Kevin I'm very sorry for his loss

—Jerry Wright

George will certainly be missed. He was always a delight to know and Jack and I both thought a lot of him. We had a good laugh over the time he called my phone (collect) by mistake. The operator said she had a collect call from George Crawford and would I accept the charges. Thinking he was having some emergency I gladly said, YES. Then he came on the line and said "hello, Honey!" I

said George, is that you? He said, yes, who are you? So, after that, anytime or anywhere we met up our greeting was "hello, Honey!" He was a friend we were blessed to have known. With love and sympathy to all the family, Guinn Huffman

—Guinn Huffman