Sossoman
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James "Jim" Russell Crooks

Sept. 29, 1933 - April 18, 2026

James "Jim" Russell Crooks, 92, of Lake James passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Grace Ridge Retirement Community.

Born September 29, 1933 in Burke County, NC, he was the son of the late John Cuba Crooks Sr. and Mary Margaret Browning Crooks.

Jim was born during the depression years of the 1930's. In an autobiography of his life he had written for a college course in 1974 the opening paragraph stated "*I was born in 1933, the seventh child of the Crooks family soon to be followed by three more siblings for a total of 10 children. My life as a child was uneventful, unless you call the hardships of not enough of about anything you could think of to go around for this large family*".

Learning to hunt and fish at an early age to help support the family stuck with Jim as he was an avid outdoorsman his entire life. He was proud of what he did to help his family in those years, eventually running Crooks Landing, the family business on Lake James.

Hard work and determination learned in his youth guided Jim throughout his life. Jim always worked hard and was dedicated to any challenge he came up against. Jim was also a proud Army veteran. He often said that his stint in the military was one of

was also a proud Army veteran. He often said that his stint in the military was one of the best things to ever happen to him.

In 1953 Jim married his childhood sweetheart and the love of his life, Dorothy "Dot" Dellinger. Jim and Dot moved to California in 1959. In his autobiography he wrote "*We arrived in California on Labor Day; we had no friends and no idea where to look*

for jobs or anything else. We just started asking random people where we should go and most said to go to Orange County and try there first. They were right, and soon we had jobs and many friends. As most young people do, we got caught up in the whirlwind life of California in the 1960's. We tried everything, snow skiing soon became our favorite sport with friends."

Jim also often spoke fondly of his and Dot's travels throughout Europe, always full of stories about the sights they visited and things they did. Some of the excerpts from his autobiography noted "*We traveled to Amsterdam, Holland with all the dykes, windmills and Marken Island. From there we proceeded through Belgium and crossed the English Channel to London, England visiting Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and Big Ben. From London we traveled to Paris, France to sightsee Paris and visit the Louvre Museum." In another excerpt Jim noted" We drove through the Austrian mountains on our way to Italy. Florance was our first Italian stop and I most remember the market places and olive groves. After leaving Florance we arrived in Rome. We toured the Vatican, the catacombs and many ruins. Like all tourist in Italy, we walked up the steps of the Leaning Tower of Pisa and rode the gondolas from shop to shop in Venice. We left Italy and traveled into Switzerland; I remember Switzerland for the stone roof houses, waterfalls and snow in the Brenner Pass in June.*"

After Jim retired from Alpha Beta Foods in 1992 where he held several positions over his career, he and Dot returned to North Carolina. They had purchased some property on Linville River at Lake James in 1977, which they eventually developed into Linville River's End Campground and operated it for over 30 years.

Jim is survived by his sister, Anna Laura Jaynes of Charleston, TN and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by Dot, his beloved wife of 58

years. Also preceding him in death are his siblings, Naomi Crooks Johnson, Nancy Crooks Newton, Louise Crooks Stamey, Earl Monroe Crooks, Pauline Crooks Yancey, John Cuba Crooks Jr., Carl Cuba Crooks and Mary Martha Crooks Cooper.

The family will receive friends from 12 to 1 p.m., Friday, April 24, 2026 at Sossoman Funeral Home. The graveside service will follow at 2 p.m. at Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Brad Browning officiating. Military honors will be provided by the NC National Guard.

The family would like to thank Grace Ridge Retirement Community and especially the Memory Care staff for the wonderful care given to Jim.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Oak Grove Baptist Church, 1065 Paddy's Creek Road, Nebo, NC 28761.

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

Tribute Wall

Dennis and I had the pleasure to have a camper at Linville River's End for many years. We have many fond memories of Jim. We will miss him dearly.

–Dennis and Sabrina Thomas



So sorry to hear of Mr. Crooks passing! He was an interesting hardworking man. He was devoted to his wife! He loved sharing his life story and kept the campground in tip top shape! I think he enjoyed seeing families enjoy the camping experience and wanted everyone to be Happy Campers! May he rest in peace!

–Larry and Linda Andrews

For 25 years, we had the privilege of calling Jimmy not just a neighbor, but a dear friend. He carried a lifetime of stories, wisdom, and quiet strength—yet what we will remember most is the warmth he brought into everyday moments with his quick smile. We will always be grateful for the time we shared and the example he set—a life well lived, rooted in grace, resilience, and kindness. Jimmy leaves behind not just memories, but a lasting imprint on those fortunate enough to know him. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered. John and Rindy

–John and Rindy Stiene

For 25 years, we had the privilege of calling Jimmy, not just a neighbor, but a

dear and trusted friend. He carried a lifetime of stories, wisdom, and quiet strength—yet what we will remember most is the warmth he brought into everyday moments with his quick smile. We will always be grateful for the time we shared and the example he set—a life well lived, rooted in grace, resilience, and kindness. Jimmy will be deeply missed and fondly remembered. John and Rindy Stiene

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Mr. Jim is what I liked to call him. He was such a nice man and like many others have commented he had some great stories! He will certainly be missed around the campground and I am sure he will be missed at Grace Ridge too! Broke and I will keep the family in our thoughts.

—Judd & Brooke Huffman

I've known Jim for a long time. We had a RV on his campground for 21 years. He was a fair person and worked hard everyday to keep campground looking beautiful. I thought a lot of him. After Dot passed, I took him a meal on Sundays. Jim will be missed. Rest in peace Jim.

—Pat Condrey

As long time neighbors in the Holiday Shores neighborhood on Lake James, we came to appreciate Jimmy over the years. His quiet affect hid his effectiveness and support for things in the neighborhood. We visited him at the camp ground a number of times. He will be missed. Otis & Linda Wilson

—Otis & Linda Wilson



My husband and I knew Jim since our late teen years. For over 20 years we have enjoyed the beautiful Linville River's End Campground that he and his wife Dot established all those years ago. Jim's hardwork and dedication was evident by the immaculate condition that his beloved campground

and home was kept. He was a friend to everyone. I will always remember his appreciation for an invite to our children's birthday parties at the lake and his kind thank you for a slice of cake. Jim, we sure hope that you and your wife are reunited and that you and Ted are up there catching up.

—Molly Lyda

Bryan and I knew Jim from the campground. We loved it when he would stop to talk and tell stories about his life when he rode his Orange Dukes of Hazard golf cart through the campground. He was an interesting person and we will miss him.

—Trela & Bryan Watson

Jim was a man of integrity. My family have been at Linville River's End Campground since Jim and Dot opened up. During this time we enjoyed the many visits Jim made to our campsite and the stories he would share. We feel very blessed to have known Jim and to call him our friend.

—Bert and Jan Alexander

Jim was a great man. He will truly be missed. I loved to listen to him tell his stories. Continued Prayers for his Family. Now he is with his love, Miss Dot!!!

—Rickey Gowan



Rest in peace Uncle Jim. I loved him very much.

—Gay Dellinger