



Robert Bruce Crawley

March 21, 1963 - Jan. 15, 2025

Robert Bruce Crawley, 61, of Morganton, NC entered the pearly gates and met his Savior on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Born on March 21, 1963, in Philadelphia, PA he was the son of the late Albert Crawley Jr. and Anna Marie Crawley Miller.

Those left to cherish Robert's memory are his fiancé, Teresa Hamrick; sisters, Terri Waters and Karen Wright (Tom); nephews, Jeremy Wright (Kristen) and Donovan Flanders; nieces, Kim Lyle (Scott), Jennifer Miller (Matt), Kristen Johnson (Chase), and Cierra Meadors (Shaedon); great nephews, Luke, James, Waylon, and Leo; great nieces, Lila, Maddie Mae, Emma, Brynlee, Layken, and Baby Girl Meadors; and numerous uncles, aunts, and special cousins.

In addition to his parents Robert is preceded in death by his stepfather, James Floyd Miller.

Robert moved to Morganton, NC when he was very young from Philadelphia and

quickly became a huge part of the Morganton community.

At a young age he enjoyed riding bicycles, dirt bikes, and motorcycles with his childhood friends. No challenge was too great for him. He dove into the sports arena developing a love for baseball and his major passion football, playing from a very early age for Coach Jug Wilson at Glen Alpine Elementary. There Jug Wilson instilled in Robert the passion for football. There was no teacher or coach in his life that escaped his charm and personality.

Robert was known as Bobby to his family until he insisted on being "Robert." Bobby loved his Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church family where he started attending in his elementary school years and where his love for his Lord strengthened. Bobby lost his father at the young age of 13 but was blessed with a loving stepfather afterwards who instilled a deep love for go-kart racing and NASCAR. Bobby was also blessed with two sisters who he formed an incredible bond.

Bobby was introduced to the love of his life, Teresa Hamrick, by the first love of his life, his mother, Anna Marie Miller. Robert maintained that love for his "Snookums", Teresa, until he walked through the pearly gates and is awaiting her arrival.

Bobby excelled as an athlete and loved the game of football. His coaches, Jug Wilson, Johnny Anderson, and Pete Stout were his heroes. They encouraged him to begin his own coaching career, beginning with Oak Hill school and then moving to Freedom High School. For a short time, Coach Crawley coached at East Burke High School and Patton High School. He had a very unique old school way of coaching, however, that style developed love and lifetime friendships with his players. Moon pies and RC Colas were magic to him and used as a reward for his players. Coach Crawley maintained those relationships throughout his life, even messaging some of them the day before he took his last breath. He was never afraid to tell his players how much he loved them.

Aside from coaching, there was nothing more that he loved than his family. Whether it was spent at home, at the pool, at the lake, at the station, or at the racetrack, he was with family. His encouragement, love, and love of life is what encouraged his sisters, nieces, and nephews to live their best life. Robert's passion for music sent thousands of CDs and YouTube videos to all his family and friends. Music was a

huge part of his life. The Elk's Lodge in Morganton and the love he had for the veterans of our country was of huge importance to him. He held various positions at the Elk's Lodge and never failed to participate in organizational functions. He travelled with the Elk's Lodge to the VA to assist with "mater and mayonnaise sandwiches", pizza parties, and Christmas parties for the veterans. Bobby also

worked with his sister, Terri, in her position with the VA. Bobby helped a veteran move when he had no one to help, called veterans to check on them, and raised money for a funeral of a veteran that had no family.

Services for Robert will be held Monday, January 20, 2025, at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church at 2:00 PM with Revs. Rich Irwin and Keith Burkhart officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM prior to the service. Committal will be held at Forest Hill Cemetery following the service. The family request that in honor of Coach Crawley, you wear Freedom apparel or Freedom colors of red, white, and blue to his service.

The legendary Coach Robert "Bobby" Crawley's absence will be felt by his "Snookums", Teresa, his remaining entire family, his friends, his players, his fellow coaches, and the Morganton community.

Memorial contributions may be made to Freedom High School Football Program, 511 Independence Blvd., Morganton, NC 28655, Freedom High School Baseball Home Run Club in support of his nephews Luke and James Miller, 154 Stephens Rd., Morganton, NC 28655, or Little John United Methodist Church, PO Box 447, Lenoir, NC 28645.

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

Tribute Wall



Teresa & family, I had the pleasure of being Robert's teammate at Freedom in 1979 & 1980. He was always motivated and a leader on the field. I later had the good fortune of reconnecting with him when I returned to FHS as principal in 2004. He was always passionate for FHS football, Ralph 'Jug' Wilson, Johnny Anderson, and of course, an RC with a moon pie. It was an honor and privilege to know Robert Crawley. Blessings, Brian Oliver, Col, US Marine Corps (retired)

—Brian Oliver



—anonymous



Teresa and family Coach Crawley was good friend during years FHS Jonathan Kirk Freedom High School Mascot Mr. Patriot AKA Gen.Washington Freedom High School Marching Band.

—Jonathan Kirk

I played football with Robert at Glen Alpine and Freedom. He really did enjoy football. We were good friends while I lived in Carbon City. I have been gone from home since leaving college and fell out of touch. I know he will be missed. Be strong Teresa. Go Patriots!! Gary Dixon

—Gary Dixon

You were my favorite coach. Always hard on us but you always wanted us to be the best player we could be. Gonna miss running into you around town. We continue our prayers for Teresa and the rest of your family. Keep the fields ready for some football when all your former players get to Heaven to see ya! Love ya Coach!

—Brandon Beam

We are so sorry for the loss of Robert. Teresa, We will keep you and family in our prayers. We Love you.

—Doris Shelton, Glenn and Teresa Hamrick

Dear family, I did not know him, but he sounds like a wonderful person. please know that you are in my prayers for peace and strength .

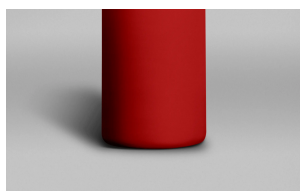
—Gail Gibson

Teresa and family, Although I did not know Robert very long compared to many, he will still be so very dearly missed. Most of all his kindness, good humor and witness to God's love . Praying for you all during this sad time for peace and comfort.

—Chrysti Irwin



So sad that my friend is gone. Prayers, and sympathy to all his family and friends He was one of a kind and will be



his family and friends He was one of a kind, and will be missed forever. RIP, my man.

—Robert McGimpsey Jr

Teresa and Family I'm so sorry for your loss When i read that i just couldn't believe it Words of sympathy feel inadequate in expressing grief and sorrow for a loss so great. Sending a warm embrace and all my love during this sad time. Wishing you peace and comfort in these difficult days. Will be Praying for you and the Family in Hope God wraps his loving arms around you all and comfort you all

—Randy Spake

Miss a really great man who left this earth way to soon for all his friends & Family your work on this earth is done RIP ROBERT

—Jeff Chapman

I am so sorry for your loss.Bobby was a great guy .He will be missed. Praying for you all. Joyce Speagle Costner

—joyce costner

I had the honor of being coached in football and baseball at Oak Hill Jr high and then football at Freedom High by coach Crawley. He knew I loved racing and got me tickets to North Wilkesboro to watch a race. Many years later he came to Hickory Speedway to watch me race. I felt honored. I would swing by Jim's Service Center and talk racing and football.He was a great coach, mentor and all around good person . He always pushed me to be better but would also tell you in that ole deep voice that you done good. Rest easy coach Till we meet again. Thanks for everything

—Robert Hollifield

Teresa, hard sometimes thinking how fast Lord called Obert home after we chatted and prayed together (1:45 or so) . He is healed 100% but will take awhile for shock or daze to wear off. I sat around sometimes knowing I needed to do something but mind flitted in and out a bit. Know you are deeply loved and our

boys have joined their parents and maybe some or all siblings. Peace, love and comfort dear friend. Diana

Teresa I am so sorry for your loss Sending prayers to you and to all the family

–Joy Filice

Rest high on that mountain Brother.. Prayers for you family and Teresa

–Debbie Patton

Sending thoughts and prayers to Teresa and Robert's family I am so sorry for your loss Love, Ruth Keller

–Ruth Keller



Teresa, family & friends. Sorry for the loss of Robert went to school with him for yrs always a very nice respectful man. You the family & friends are in our Prayers !! Love y'all

–Norma & Randy Speagle



–Deanna Hardin

Words can't express how heartbroken we are for you all. We both went to school with Robert and Lisa has loved Teresa her whole life. We will be thinking of you and sending prayers. We know he has already told the Lord 1000 jokes. He will be missed by so many.

—Lisa and Jeff Metcalf



—Patsy Reid Toman



Thank you for all of the lessons in and off the field. Thank you for the stories about my father

—Kent Fortner

My guy “Twinkie” I will miss the random messages that were hilarious and brightened my days! A big man with the heart of a teddy bear!

—Harlteen Stamps, Jr



We just messaged back and forth 2 days prior. Your hilarious messages will be missed! RIP “Twinkie”

—Harlteen Stamps, Jr





Robert was a great guy. He will be missed very much.

—Bob Melton



—Angela Robbins



—Anonymous



Coach was a great man. Loved him. He will be missed by so many. Sending hugs and prayers

—Dawn Byrd



Teresa Terrie and Karen and Family. I am sorry to hear of the of Robert. May God give you comfort during this difficult time in your lives Praying for you all Love ya Terry Moses

—Terry Baker Moses



—Carol Crump



Teresa we are so sad to hear about your loss. Dean and I are keeping you in our prayers and prayers.

—Vickie L Icard and Dean Icard

I am so sad to hear of Robert's passing. I will always remember the numerous conversations we had discussing sports and music. He was a good friend and I will remember him fondly. Hugs to Teresa and prays for his family.

—Jace Ollis