



Robert (Jack) Cranford

APR 22, 2019



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Robert (Jack) Cranford

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Robert E. Jack Cranford, 82, a life-long resident of Stanly County, died on Easter Sunday at the Carolinas Rehabilitation Center in Concord, NC where he was recovering from heart bypass surgery. All his immediate family, including a 2 year-old great granddaughter, had spent a joyful day with Jack, who died shortly after they departed.

A 1957 graduate of Albemarle High School, Cranford played on AHS Bulldogs football teams coached by the legendary Toby Webb. A tackle on the defensive line, Jack was a part of what the Charlotte News called the "wrecking crew" and a team that lost only two games during the four years he played. David Grigg, a retired Albemarle attorney who also was on those Bulldogs teams, said, "Jack was a great teammate and a good friend for 60-plus years."

The 1957 AHS yearbook, Crossroads, noted Jack's dominant trait as being "co-operative." As with so many of his Bulldogs teammates, Jack was greatly influenced by Coach Webb, who "in the words of Bulldogs player and well known Raleigh attorney Wade Smith" taught them, "Do your best on every play and don't brag about it."

Cranford attended Western Carolina University where he played football for a year. Returning to Albemarle, he worked at Wiscassett Hosiery Mill, then in various sales positions, most notably as a highly successful auto salesman for Morgan Motor Company. One of his greatest points of pride was having helped his revered Coach Webb in the purchasing of all his cars. And former Bulldogs teammate David Grigg said, "I bought my cars from Jack because I knew he was a straight shooter and I could rely on anything he told me." Grigg added, "He was a solid business person and was an active contributor to progress in our community."

Jack Cranford is survived by his wife of 57 years, Miriam Wilhoit Cranford. Together, Jack and



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Miriam helped organize and execute the recent public presentations about local history by the Stanly County Historical Society and Museum.

Jack Cranford was the son of the late Norman Nathan Cranford and Ethel Early Cranford. He retired from Morgan Motor Company and was a former member of the Army National Guard in Albemarle. He was a member of the Stanly County Historical Society and past board member of the Stanly County Senior Center.

In addition to wife Miriam Wilhoit Cranford, Jack is survived by a son, Robert E. Cranford, Jr. of Albemarle; a daughter, Michelle Cranford Drago (and husband Ronald Drago, II) of Kannapolis, NC; three grandchildren: Makayla Thompson (husband, Timothy Carter), Cecilia Drago and Ronald Drago; and great granddaughter, Emmerlyn Carter and great grandson, Wesley Carter. He was preceded in death by a son, Kelly Joe Cranford and a granddaughter, Samantha Drago.

The funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 25 in the Stanly Funeral and Cremation Care Chapel of Albemarle, with Rev. Keith Walters officiating. Burial will be private. The family will receive friends following the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to Stanly County Senior Center, 283 N. 3rd Street, Albemarle, NC 28001 or the Stanly Historical Society, 157 N. 2nd St. Albemarle, NC 28001.

Stanly Funeral and Cremation Care of Albemarle is serving the Cranford Family.



Tribute Wall

Robert (Jack) Cranford

EJ

Eric Johnsen posted:

Jack was such a great guy, always a gentleman. My condolences to the family.

April 26 at 5:42 AM

RC

Rboert Cranford Jr. posted:

Thanks to everyone for the kind comments about my dad. He will be missed. It is wonderful knowing that he touched so many lives. Thanks for the tremendous support it means so much to our entire family and thank you Stanly Funeral and Cremation for taking such good care of my dad.

April 26 at 5:05 AM

CL

Charleen Lisk posted:

I worked with Mr. Cranford at Grants when I was in high school and really thought the world about him . He never forgot even though sometimes he couldn't think of my name but he always spoke to me and we talked about working together. He will truly be missed by everyone he knew . Prayers for the family.

April 24 at 5:05 PM

JS

Jo Scott posted:

So sorry for your loss. I worked with Jack at Grant's for several years. He was a good manager and well thought of by his co-workers. My prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

April 23 at 12:33 PM

CL

Carolyn Walls Laudati posted:

So very sorry for your family's loss. I worked with Jack at W.T Grants during my high school years and I have fond memories of that time.

April 23 at 11:36 AM

JH

Jenny Hatley posted:

Prayers to you, Mrs. Cranford, and your family.

April 23 at 7:47 AM



Tribute Wall

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GB

Gail Burris posted:

Miriam and family...so sorry to hear of Jack's passing ! Always thought so much of him through the years. I worked with him at Grant's when I was 16. He was a wonderful man .Thoughts and prayers are with you all.

April 22 at 5:16 PM

JT

Jackie C. Teeter posted:

So sorry for your loss.Jack was a good man.I worked for Jack in the '70;s at Grants.He was easy to work for and get help when ever you needed.God bless and comfort you at this difficult time.Rest in Peace my friend

April 22 at 3:13 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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