



## J. Michael Crosby

December 15, 1943 - February 1, 2026

J. Michael Crosby, 82, passed away February 1, 2026. Born December 15, 1943, in Towson, Maryland, he was the beloved son of Jim and Edith Crosby and brother to Steven and Mark Crosby.

Michael was devoted to quality education to the young people he taught. After earning his PhD, he joined the faculty at the original Wilde Lake High School in the 70's, where he served as head of the Social Studies department. His students remember him not only for his mastery of history and civics but for the trust and encouragement he fostered in the classroom. He founded the "Who Am I" group, a safe space where students could express themselves openly; that program became the foundation of long-lasting relationships, and many students remained in touch with him through the years. His warmth, curiosity, and steady leadership made him a cherished teacher and mentor.

After a distinguished career in education, Michael brought the same dedication and integrity to real estate in sales and marketing. He then made a decision that Real Estate Education needed to be taken seriously, and necessary in both quality and entertaining classes for Realtors. He and his wife, Bobbi, co-owned and operated a successful pre-licensing and continuing education business, helping others launch and grow their careers in the industry. Michael and Bobbi were married on May 6, 1979, and enjoyed many splendid years together building a blended family and a life of shared

interests.

He is survived by his wife, Bobbi Crosby; daughter Meg Crosby; stepdaughter Denise Marcinski; stepson Doug Marcinski (Karen); niece Amy Shockley (Brad); and great-nephews Will and Wyatt Shockley. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Edith Crosby, and by his nephew, Tim Crosby.

Michael loved pottery, art, discovering new restaurants (a true foodie), antiques, he loved meeting and talking to people and had many stories to share. He definitely was a people person. Visiting many restaurants in Washington DC and Baltimore gave him pleasure. A daily coffee ritual with a close friend was one of his simple pleasures. On one of their last mornings together, Michael spoke of his lifelong commitment to nurturing others. His friend replied with a story from the New Testament about the unnamed person who helped Saint Paul—calling Michael a “rope holder” whose quiet support helped carry forward the work of many. “Mike, thank you for being a rope holder your whole life. You have made my day,” His friend said; that sentiment captures how many knew him: steady, humble, indispensable.

A private celebration of life will be held by the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to World Central Kitchen or Bay Water Animal Rescue. Friends who wish to share memories are invited to contact the family. Michael’s legacy lives on in the students he inspired, the colleagues he supported, and the family and friends he loved.