



William "Smitty" Crouch

November 9, 1928 - December 11, 2024

William "Smitty" Crouch died on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, peacefully, at his home in Chester, surrounded by his children. He was 96 years old. Born on November 9, 1928 in Chester, Maryland, he was the son of the late Walter "Capt. Smitty" Crouch and Katie Kersey Crouch.

Smitty graduated from Stevensville High School in 1947. He married Gloria Mae Wyatt of Chester, Maryland on June 26, 1948. From childhood, always wanting money in his pocket, he worked at many jobs on the Eastern Shore. He was a farm laborer, at age 12 on the Kersey farm. At 12 through 14 he worked at soft crabbing, gunning duck blinds with Charles Ford, Friels Cannery, the concession stand on the ferry boat and worked for his father, Capt. Smitty, in the Oyster business and the store. He tried the Baltimore Great American Tea and Spice Company but, that didn't last long. Back on the Eastern Shore, he worked at the maintenance shop at Matapeake as an apprentice.

Smitty worked on the Matapeake Ferry in the engine room the day they hit the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (under construction at the time). Next, he worked the very first night shift on the Bay Bridge as a toll collector. He oystered with George Walters, painted with his father in law, Casey Wyatt. Became a road inspector for State Highway Administration in Cambridge and Salisbury.

Finally, Tidewater Fisheries caught his eye, later to be renamed the Department of Natural Resources Police. Forty One years later, he was the admired and respected Capt. William Crouch, DNR officer. He was praised for Public Relations work and won officer of the year. He was the first Marine Policeman to go through the Md State Police Academy. They called him the old man, typing being the hardest part, but he achieved success and promotion for his efforts. He remained active at the Kent Island United Methodist Church, was an avid fisherman, golfer, and traveler.

He participated in all his childrens' and grandchildrens' activities. Every birthday and Christmas Dinner and gift giving, he was front row and center.

In addition to his wife of 76 years, Gloria Wyatt Crouch, Smitty was preceded in death by two sons, Jay Crouch and David Crouch; one son in law, Martin Pierson; three brothers, Gordon Crouch, Jimmy Crouch and Jackie Crouch; three sisters, Mary Ann Trapp, Ruth Thompson, and Jean Crouch. He is survived by one sister Nancy Bly; one son, Glenn Crouch; two daughters, Honey Voermann and Penny Pierson; grandchildren, Tara and Mike Catterton, Billy and Jessica Voermann and Casey and Jacob Danzeisen; great grandchildren, Paxton Catterton, Maximo Voermann and Jay Danzeisen. Daughters in law, Barb Crouch and Donna Crouch. Smitty Crouch was a true native son of Kent Island. He will be missed.

Memorial Services will be held at Helfenbein's Funeral Home in Chester, Maryland on December 19, 2024. Visitation from 11am to 12pm. Service from 12 to 1. Burial will follow the funeral service at Stevensville Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Stevensville Cemetery

808 Main Street
Stevensville, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 19. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Chester Location / Kent Island
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619
(410) 643-2226
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

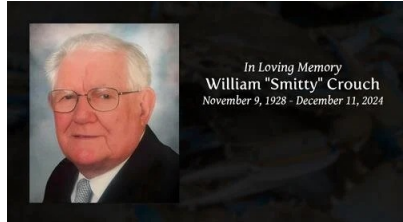
DEC 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

Chester Location / Kent Island
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619
(410) 643-2226
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - December 18, 2024 at 12:23 PM

LW

“ *Larry And Lynne Wilkins sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch*



Larry and Lynne Wilkins - December 20, 2024 at 09:55 AM

TB

“ *Tina And Scott Baynard lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch*



Tina and Scott Baynard - December 18, 2024 at 06:43 PM

JC

“ *Joyce George Cox lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch*



Joyce George Cox - December 18, 2024 at 09:29 AM

JC

Sending condolences to Smitty's family. From the family of the late Lt Col Harry George.

Joyce George Cox - December 18, 2024 at 09:34 AM

KP

“ *Keith & Kim Parkerson lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch*



Keith & Kim Parkerson - December 18, 2024 at 07:51 AM

NH

“ *Remember working with Capt Crouch during my time with NRP. He was quite a gentleman. My husband, Bill, worked as a parttime inspector with NRP assigned Kent Narrows. Bill was told, uniform always pressed, inspection book, all other assigned equipment top shape. Capt Smitty's surprise visits, inspection must not be a failure. It was all worth the experience. Crouch Family God Bless you during this time. Bill and Nancie Hall*

Nancie Lewis Hall - December 17, 2024 at 03:41 AM

NH

“ Nancie Lewis Hall lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Nancie Lewis Hall - December 17, 2024 at 03:33 AM

BW

“ Bob & Sheila Willis sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Bob & Sheila Willis - December 16, 2024 at 08:31 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Smitty" Crouch.

December 16, 2024 at 06:28 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Smitty" Crouch.



December 16, 2024 at 06:28 PM

GB

“ Capt. Crouch was a comical and tough, but fair Commander at NRP during the time I worked with him. RIP Capt. Smitty! 🙏🙏

George Ball



GEORGE BALL - December 16, 2024 at 02:59 PM

BE

“ Bonnie Elliott lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Bonnie Elliott - December 16, 2024 at 02:26 PM

KH

“ Kim Honeycutt lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Kim Honeycutt - December 16, 2024 at 11:03 AM

AG

“ Amy And Bo Greenwood lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Amy and Bo Greenwood - December 16, 2024 at 10:38 AM

RZ

“ Capt. Crouch was my first Area Captain when I joined the NRP in 1978, he was truly a unique boss, very though, but fair. I enjoyed working under his leadership. He loved coming north up the bay where I was assigned on the Patrol Boat HARFORD with Capt. Buddy Hurley, during the rockfish gill net season. Capt. Smitty would meet us in Betterton , for an afternoon ride on the Patrol boat and lunch, fresh rockfish stew, he sure loved to eat!! I have many fond memories of those times. Capt. Smitty was a devout Christian, and I'm sure he will have a place in spiritual paradise!! God Bless !



Royden S Zimmerman - December 16, 2024 at 10:30 AM

SH

“ Susan Hogan lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Susan Hogan - December 16, 2024 at 09:24 AM

GG

“ Geri Garvin lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Geri Garvin - December 16, 2024 at 09:09 AM

FS

“ Fred And Phyllis Sherbert lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Fred and Phyllis Sherbert - December 16, 2024 at 09:08 AM

FS

“ Frank Smith lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Frank Smith - December 16, 2024 at 09:03 AM

TS

“ Tracy Schulz lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Tracy Schulz - December 14, 2024 at 07:37 PM

JA

“ Don, Judy, and Andy Adkind



Judith Adkins - December 14, 2024 at 02:19 PM

BN

“ Bobby And Genevieve Norris sent a virtual gift
in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Bobby and Genevieve Norris - December 14, 2024 at 12:22 PM

BP

“ Bill And Norma Patton lit a candle in memory
of William "Smitty" Crouch



Bill and Norma Patton - December 14, 2024 at 10:55 AM

TB

“ Glenn and family, sending love and prayers for peace and comfort.
Your Dad was one of the good guys, and you were blessed to have
him for a long full life. He's now resting easy with your Mom and
brothers.

Tom and Patti Boone - December 14, 2024 at 10:43 AM

ND

“ Neil Dadds lit a candle in memory of William
"Smitty" Crouch



Neil dadds - December 14, 2024 at 09:32 AM

ND

Glenn and family so sorry to hear of the loss of your dad

Neil dadds - December 14, 2024 at 09:33 AM

JC

“ June Clark lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



June Clark - December 13, 2024 at 08:33 PM

JC

Dear Crouch family, there isn't enough words to tell you how sorry we are to hear of Smitty's passing he now is with the love of his life, Gloria. We have such fond memories of all of you all through the years. RIP dear friend.

June and family

June Clark - December 13, 2024 at 08:41 PM

CJ

“ Claudia Jewell lit a candle in memory of William "Smitty" Crouch



Claudia Jewell - December 13, 2024 at 08:01 PM

CJ

Penny and family, Kent Island has lost yet another native son who lived a long, full life. Together again with Miss Gloria, Jay and David. Prayers for comfort and peace filled with wonderful memories.

Claudia Jewell - December 13, 2024 at 08:12 PM

JC

“ *Jim Crouch lit a candle in memory of William
"Smitty" Crouch*



Jim Crouch - December 13, 2024 at 02:43 PM