

LT. COLONEL

*Curtiss*  
**CROSSLEY, SR.**

May 11, 1936 - June 8, 2024





# Order of Service

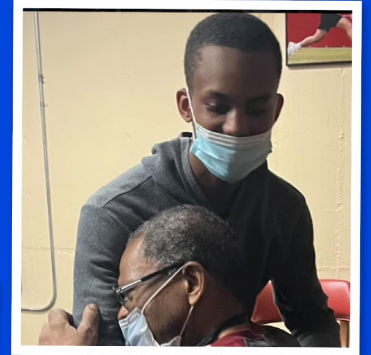
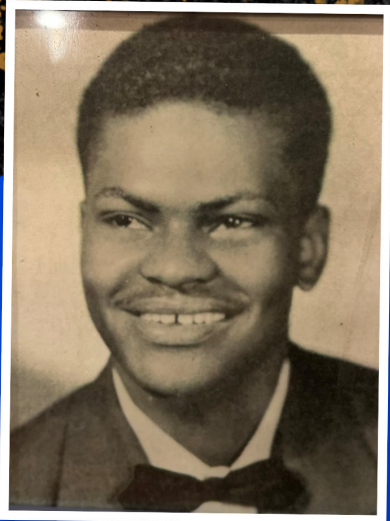
Saturday, June 15, 2024

Processional	
Master of Ceremony.....	Brother Howard White
Invocation.....	Elder Anthony L. Harris
Old Testament Scripture.....	Elder Franklin Loper
New Testament Scripture.....	Elder Bernard Verner
Musical Selection.....	Abounding Life COGIC Music Ministry
Remarks .....	Family/Friends (2 min.)

Elder Grafton Hall  
Charles Henderson, Sr. (friend)  
Tywana Gaston (nurse)  
RaTasha Adams (goddaughter)  
Damita Williams-Stewart (goddaughter)  
Ernestine Adams (sister-in-law)  
Jason Adams (brother-in-law)  
Kendall Crossley (only granddaughter)  
Crossley Boys:  
Curtiss E. Crossley II (son)  
Cornelius E. Crossley, Sr. (son)  
Rod Speech (grand nephew)

Musical Selection .....	Abounding Life COGIC Music Ministry
Acknowledgement of Cards & Resolutions and Reading of the Obituary.....	Gwendolyn Gaston-Gray
Musical Solo.....	Dwayne Lee
Eulogy.....	Bishop Ocie Booker
Benediction	







# Obituary

## **MORNING LIGHT**

Curtiss Ephraim Crossley, Sr. was born on May 11, 1936 in Amite County, Mississippi. He was the third of four children born to Roosevelt and Angeline (Green) Crossley. He was preceded in death by his parents and all of his siblings (Samuel Crossley, Annie Ruth Crossley, and Laura Crossley).

## **KNOWLEDGE IS POWER**

He spent his early school years in the Summit (Amite County), Mississippi school districts. It was during his secondary education at DuSable High School, in Chicago, Illinois, that Curtiss first enlisted in the United States Army in 1952. As a member of DuSable's Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), Curtiss achieved the rank of Captain during his junior year in 1953. In 1954, Major Curtiss Crossley distinguished himself as one of twelve recipients of The Honorary Brevet Commission. This honor was only given to the most outstanding graduating cadet officers. He also shined as a member of the ROTC Sabre Team, and as one of the five young marksmen of the school's Rifle Team. He completed his post-secondary education at Chicago State University, where he received a B.S. in Education with a Minor in Mathematics; and at Governors State University, where he received a M.A. in Psychology and Counseling.

## **SERVICE TO COUNTRY**

Being the brilliant leader that he was, Curtiss experienced an extraordinary rise in rank from Major to II Lieutenant (1958), to I Lieutenant (1961), and finally, Lieutenant Colonel (1968). At the time, the appointment of a Black man to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army was rare. After a storied, active duty military career, Lieutenant Colonel Curtiss E. Crossley subsequently served in the Illinois Army National Guard. He received an Honorable Discharge from The United States Army in 1968.

## **LOVE AND LEGACY**

Curtiss met the love of his life, Jane Alice Adams while attending Chicago State University (formerly Chicago Teachers College). They were married on February 1, 1970. To this union two brilliant young Black Kings were born, Curtiss Ephraim II and Cornelius Efrain, Sr.

## **VOCATION OF DISTINCTION**

True to his calling as a leader and griot, Curtiss held career teaching positions such as Adjunct Professor and Human Resource Specialist at University of Illinois at Chicago, Adjunct Professor at South Suburban College, Adjunct Professor at Prairie State College, Elementary School Math Teacher at School District 152, Traffic Safety Instructor at Northwestern University, Student Specialist at South Suburban College, Office Assistant for the Transitional Work Program at Hines VA Hospital, and providing more than 20 years of individual tutoring in Mathematics.

## **A SURE FOUNDATION**

Always possessing a servant's heart, Curtiss was saved prior to meeting his future bride. After they married, his commitment to family unity caused him to change his church affiliation and become a member of Harvey Church of God In Christ, under the leadership of the late Elder Andrew Williams. Here, he faithfully served on the Usher Board and in whatever capacity needed. Along with his family, he later became one of the founding members of the Abounding Life COGIC, under the leadership of his brother-in-law, the late Elder James R. Adams. At Abounding Life, he worked diligently for many years as Head of The Usher Board. His white-gloved, gentle, but firm handshake and friendly smile greeted countless members and visitors each week! Curtiss also faithfully sang in the Abounding Life Men's Choir. He will be fondly remembered for making sure that everyone received their braided "palm branch" on Palm Sunday. One of his last spiritual achievements happened on Sunday, April 28, 2024 when he was officially ordained as a Deacon of Abounding Life by Bishop Ocie Booker, Pastor of Abounding Life COGIC.

## **RISE UP EVEN HIGHER**

Lieutenant Colonel Curtiss E. Crossley, Sr. departed this earthly life on Saturday, June 8, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Jane; two sons, Curtiss Ephraim II (Yolanda) and Cornelius Efraim I (Amanda); granddaughter, Kendall; grandsons, Curtiss Ephraim III, Cornelius, Jr., Connor, and Cody; nieces, Debra Crossley, Carolyn Lee, Angelanette Crossley, and Vonda Crossley; grandnephews, Roderick Speech (Sarah), Quentin Crossley, James Lee, Jonathan Wilson (Jasmine), and Joseph Wilson (Samantha); four sisters-in-law, Essie Thompson, Annie Johnson, Ernestine Adams, and Robbie Weathington; one brother-in-law, Jason Adams (Kathryn); Adams Family nieces, and nephews whom he loved as his own; the Abounding Life Deacon and Usher Boards, and the Abounding Life church family.

# Expressions from family

With love!

In a time when many marriages have failed, God blessed our marriage. Our relationship began in college and lasted until now. Through our many challenges and good times, our marriage was productive. We have two wonderful sons, two lovely daughters-in-law, and five amazing grandchildren.

Without a doubt, you loved us and cared for us. We shall never forget the yearly trips that you planned for us. We were able to travel together nationally and internationally.

It will be difficult for the family to continue without you. You brought sunshine to our lives. Your love for us will assure our survival as a family.

We don't want to let you go. We know the struggles that you encountered with your health, but you never gave up or complained.

I will remember how you loved and cared for us. God blessed you to be a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. This new chapter in our lives will be challenging, but with God on our side, we will make it. We will always love you.

With Love!

**Your wife, Jane Crossley**

Lt Colonel Curtiss E Crossley Sr.

There are no words that can eloquently state what you meant to me as a father, educator and protector. I am completely devastated right now as I don't understand life without my father, who has ALWAYS been there for me. Rest in Power knowing that your name, generous spirit and humor (You Jive Turkey) will be carried on.. Thank you God for gracing us for 88 years with this beautiful man.

Job well done my good and faithful servant.

**~Curtiss E Crossley II (son)**

Your quiet wisdom, kindness, and "just checking in" phone calls will forever be cherished. Rest in peace, Poppy. You will always hold a special place in my heart.

**~Yolanda (daughter-in-law)**

Grandpa, you were always a prime example of unwavering love and patience. Your powerful legacy of mental and spiritual strength will continue to inspire me and the generations to come. I will always cherish our little talks and quiet time we spent together. Rest in peace, Grandpa. I love you

**~Kendall (granddaughter)**

Grandpa, I am grateful for all the time we had together. Thank you for coming to my baseball/ basketball games and being one of my biggest supporters. I'm going to miss you very much. Rest in peace Grandpa, I love you.

**~ Curtiss III (grandson)**



Pop,

Words will never be able to accurately describe the void left in my life once you departed from labor to reward. You always led with dignity and class, instilling in me the foundational pieces to always carry myself as a gentleman above all else. My childhood is filled with memories of watching old Western movies with Clint Eastwood, every March sitting in front of the TV filling out March Madness brackets and watching college basketball. One thing I could always depend on was you being there, no matter the circumstances. You prided yourself on never missing a baseball or basketball game in my youth. Even in my adult years, as I ventured into coaching, you managed to make your way into the bleachers. I was amazed at how you got into the gym despite your physical disabilities.

Pops, I have so many wonderful memories and stories of our times together. You have provided me with great introspection on how to be a man, and I'm grateful for the "quiet lessons" you have taught me and your unwavering support. I'd always ask you, "Dad, how are you feeling?" You'd respond in classic form, "I'm alright, brother!" Well, Dad, I'm thankful for 41 years, and although this pain is immeasurable, I can quietly tell you, "I'm alright, brother." I will continue your legacy through each of your grandsons!

**Your #2 Son, ~Cornelius, Sr.**

Hey Dad (#2),

Right now, I am not sure I have the words to express how heartbroken I am that you are not here with us any more. My own dad passed away before I married Corn, so you took that opportunity to jump right in and fill a void, being my Dad #2. You and I, we had a special bond. Even when no one else thought your jokes were funny, you'd catch my eye and we would sit and giggle quietly together. Those moments mean so much more now. You loved me unconditionally from the moment I joined this family, and you never let me forget it.

Our boys have had the most wonderful role model in their Pop Pop, and hanging out with you was one of their favorite places to be. From sitting three-deep on your favorite chair watching cartoons, to sneaking them cookies and juice when you thought I wasn't watching, you were their favorite partner-in-crime.

You were determined to live your life exactly the way you wanted. All the fussing in the world wasn't going to change that. But you chose to live your life with dignity, with kindness, with love, and with God by your side, and for that, all we can say is, job well done.

We love you and will miss you forever. Take care, Jive Turkey.

**~ Amanda**

Pop-Pop,

Thanks for teaching us math and quizzing us on our addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts. You always told funny jokes to us every time we came to visit. Thank you for always letting us eat all your food and watching sports with us on television. We love you and will always remember the tickles, the hugs, the cookies, and climbing on your special walking chair. We miss you. We love you. Forever.

**~ Cornelius Jr., Connor, & Cody**

You will always be loved. Even though you have transitioned to a better place, you will never be forgotten. You will live eternally in our hearts and cherished forever.

**Monique, Roderick, Joseph & Jonathan, & Angie**

**Pallbearers**

DeMark Adams  
Marcus Adams  
Mathais Adams

Quentin Crossley  
Roderick Speech  
Jonathan Wilson

Joseph Wilson

**Honorary Pallbearers:**

Jason E. Adams  
Andre Adams  
Bernard Adams  
Danny Adams

Reginald Adams  
Curtiss E. Crossley II  
Cornelius E. Crossley, Sr.  
Gregory Johnson, Sr.

Calvin Thompson

Place of Interment:

Monday, June 17, 2024  
10:00a.m.

Abraham Lincoln Cemetery (Elwood, Illinois)

The Family Entrusted Services To:



*Nabors Family Funeral Home*

Lillie Nabors, L.F.D.E.

470 W. 172nd St

Thornton, Illinois 60476

Office/Cell: 708-704-5023

*Expect Great Service...  
and Receive Greater.*

