



Ret. Cw3 Joe Billy Crosby

December 17, 1942 - April 30, 2021

Ret. CW3 Joe B. Crosby (Joe Billy) was born in Elmore, Alabama on 17 December 1942 to Zeke and Sally Crosby. He was the lucky-seventh of their children and grew-up on the family farm in Coosada with fifteen siblings and his beloved grandmother, Mary Crosby (n. Zeigler).

He took his first breaths a year and ten days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor that drew the United States into the Second World War. This was a cosmic battle of imperfect good against perfected evil. Nazi Germany was an aggressive dictatorship, engaged in racial genocide, and Imperial Japan committed human atrocities wherever its soldiers stepped foot. The United States – the country Joe would serve -- was not perfect, but, in an era before the broad reception of human rights, it was one of a few countries that did not embrace genocide as a method of diversity management.

Joe knew he was blessed to be born in the United States and, especially, in these years. It meant that he would have a chance at life, and his life proved to offer many critical blessings to his family, friends, military and business associates, community, the Nation as whole and countless unknown millions around the world who now enjoy democracy. U.S. victory was pivotal in defining the prospects and hope for millions around the world, but the nation's commitment to win and sustain the peace through the Cold War was even more important. It was in this cause that Ret. CW3 Joe B. Crosby chose a

twenty-four-year career serving his country, buffering democracy around the world and with exceptional distinction in the U.S. Army.

Recommended by the Armed Services in 1942 – the same year that Joe was born – the Legion of Merit (LOM) was established by Act of Congress on 20 July 1942 and the rules of award by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order of 29 October 1942. This high military award is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States. It is usually reserved for senior officers, and it was a historic and rare distinction when it was bestowed on Ret. CW3 Joe B. Crosby on 9 September 1986. He received numerous distinctions over his Army career, but the Legion of Merit inducted him into an exclusive group that includes Ret. General and later President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Ret. General Colin Powell.

Joe's amazing journey from a start in rural, segregated Alabama to exceptional service to his country at home and in Asia, Europe and Latin America are such that call for a biography and an obituary could never do his All-American story and legacy full justice. In 1962, he graduated from Sandtown High School, in Millbrook and went on receive dozens of diplomas and certificates of leadership and other training from the United States Army. As a family man, it was on 21 August 1963 that he married the love of his life, Callie Mae (n. Barber), who he met at age six and remained married to for fifty-seven (57) years. He and Callie raised two accomplished daughters, Mrs. Daphne Danielle Crosby (Actress) and Dr. Margaret Crosby-Arnold, PhD (Professor), between Europe, the United States and Asia, and they poured the same love, encouragement and energy into "The Grandbaby," Erin Eckstein (Teacher). Joe was not one to boast and talk, but was a man of action. He was reserved, preferring to give and "just be nice to people". He let the record and recognitions of his military service and post-retirement service to his country as the CEO of J.B. Crosby, Inc. speak for him. The highest respect we

can pay to him is to follow his example and do what he did and let his extraordinary record speak. Some of these are included here.

As he promised soon after her sunset in March, Joe departed on 30 April 2021 to meet Callie in heaven for his "Tea-cake." His memory and legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of his family, friends, and associates around the world. He is deeply missed by his daughters Daphne (Robert Berlin), Margaret (ex. Artis) and granddaughter, Erin. His beloved siblings will miss their brother, Joe and these are Grant Crosby (ex. Vivian), Walter Crosby (Lula), Doris Roberts, Sue Bonner (Murphy), Mamie Long and Patricia Long. He is also adoringly remembered by numerous nieces, nephews and relatives. Some followed in his footsteps in the Army, and many worked for J.B. Crosby, Inc., - the thirty-three-million-dollar construction company that he founded - and helped make it an American, small business success story. These include Ret. Master Sergeant Bert James, Gilbert Long, Walter Crosby, Jr., Sonja Crenshaw (first employee), Craig Crosby, David Crosby, Keina Houser and Dora Johnson. He is also held in dear memory by the Coosada/Elmore/Millbrook community of lifetime friends, including Jimmy Prince along with the couple's many friends, Elvira Pritchett, Dorothy Woolfolk, Carolyn Rhodes, the Reeves Family and so many others. He will be missed, also, by Callie's extended Mayo and Jackson families as well as the members of Lighthouse Church.

List of Ret. CW3 Joe B. Crosby's
Army Decorations, Medals, Badges,
Citations and Campaign Ribbons:

Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars
Army Commendation Medal with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
Good Conduct Medal (4th Award)

National Defense Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
NCO Professional Development Ribbon (NUM 3)
Army Service Ribbon
3 Overseas Service Bars
Overseas Service Ribbon (NUM 3)
Army Achievement Medal
Expert Qualification Badge (M-16)
Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation Badge with Pals
Meritorious Service Medal
Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
Legion of Merit

Selected List of J.B. Crosby, Inc.

Construction Projects and Recognitions:

Air National Guard – Renovation of Hangers/Jet Wash Rack, Dannelly Field
Maxwell Airforce Base – Installation of heavy-duty Base Drainage Systems,
Demolition of Jet Testing Pad, Renovation of Air War College and countless
other projects

Gunter Airforce Base – Numerous Construction Projects

Corp of Engineers -- Numerous Dike and Levy Projects along the Gulf of
Mississippi and Alabama

Corp of Engineers – Dredging of Black Warrior River, Clark County, Alabama
Constructed Drydock on the Tom Bigby River for Paddlewheel Boat

Veterans Affairs Department – Numerous Construction and Renovation
Projects for Birmingham, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa and Tuskegee VA Facilities
Prattville Fire Station – Constructed

Alabama State University – Constructed Olean Black Underwood Tennis
Center and Patterson Track

City of Montgomery – First Renovation of Grain Silos in association with the

development of River Walk

Montgomery Biscuit Stadium – Constructed Headhouse

Hyundai Plant – Caisson and Deep Foundation Construction for Engine Plant
and Administrative Buildings

Constructed 4 Hotels (Sylacauga, Hope Hull and Montgomery)

Montgomery Area Family Sunshine Center – Renovation

Alabama River Parkway Apartments – Construction

Erinwood Neighborhood – Development

J. B. Crosby, Inc. – Office Construction

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church – Renovation

Goodship Church, Millbrook, Alabama – Construction

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Elmore, Alabama – Construction

Lighthouse Church, Millbrook, Alabama – Design & Construction

Cemetery Details

Alabama National Cemetery

3133 Hwy 119
Montevallo, AL 35115

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Lighthouse Baptist Church
2281 main st
millbrook, AL 36092

Interment/Committal Service

MAY 10. 12:00 AM (CT)

Alabama National Cemetery
3133 Hwy 119
Montevallo, AL 35115

Tribute Wall

WS

“ *Condolences to the Crosby family. Unfortunately I just found out about the passing of Mr. and Mrs. Crosby. They were kind people I will never forget that made my cabinet business with their patronage. God bless.*

William I. Sankey - June 04, 2021 at 12:29 PM

EN

“ *Uncle Joe, I am going to miss you. I appreciate all. Your love and kindness you showed me. I love you Emma*

Emma Thomas (niece) - May 17, 2021 at 01:27 PM

LL

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



LaVera J. Long - May 07, 2021 at 09:16 PM

DO

“*Condolences to the Cosby family, You were a great father to the Cosby family and your family. You and your wife, who has gone home to Rest In the arms of the House of the Lord will missed, Thanks for the help and 💕 always present in the times of the Lord will be missed Rest in peace and love to you all 💕 always my Dear friend forever in the Lord. Your three love to you , daughter Daphne, daughter Peggy and your granddaddy love Erin will have peace and love with each other. Always sharing memories And moments of joy of the Lord will for you. They always will have the Lord love. You and the love of unity you showed in the home. Until we meet again in the Lord will. (Friend). Dot*

Dorothy - May 07, 2021 at 01:42 PM

DO

“*Dorothy lit a candle in memory of Ret. Cw3 Joe Billy Crosby*



Dorothy - May 07, 2021 at 12:32 PM

RZ

“ Roz Zeigler lit a candle in memory of Ret.
Cw3 Joe Billy Crosby



Roz Zeigler - May 05, 2021 at 12:56 AM

LW

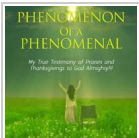
“ I'm sitting here this morning and I can't get cousin, Joe, off of my mind . I didn't just lose a Cousin I lost a brother. Everyone loved him. How could you not! He was a kind, gentle soul. We have to be joyful that he's at peace with his loved one. Peace be with my Crosby Family. ❤️❤️❤️❤️

Lois Waters - May 02, 2021 at 12:59 PM

JP

“ My sincere condolences! I was so sorry to hear about my friend , classmate and who was just like a brother to me. Joe and I was friends since 1957 and throughout our travels often checked on one another. He will truly be missed.

Jimmie Prince - May 02, 2021 at 09:58 AM



“ My Sincere and Heartfelt Sympathy are sent to you, and your family in the loss of your loved one. May his loving memories be cherished, and never forgotten. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted: Matthew 5:4.



Clara Moncrief - May 01, 2021 at 11:27 PM

TF

“ *To the Crosby Family:
My family and I extend to all of you our
sincere sympathy in the loss of Bro. Joe Billy.
We pray that God will strengthen, encourage,
and comfort you in your time of sorrow. "Earth
hath no sorrow that Heaven can not heal." We will continue to
remember you in prayer.*



TONIA RAYE ZEIGLER GARRISON & Family - May 01, 2021 at 11:41 AM

MS

*Sorry for your loss. Thinking of you'll.... more than words can possibly
say With Sympathy. The Stinson's, Jesse, Emily, & Jalen.*

Mrs. Emily Moon Stinson - October 07, 2021 at 02:13 PM