



Dr. John Robert Crawford III

November 1, 1937 - March 28, 2018

John Robert Crawford III, M.D., 80, died Wednesday, March 28, 2018, at the Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House after a gradual decline in health.

Dr. Crawford was born November 1, 1937, in Salisbury to John Robert Crawford, Jr. (deceased) and Hesta Kitchin Crawford (deceased). His grandparents were John Robert Crawford, Sr. and Jennie Klutz Crawford.

Dr. Crawford was educated in Salisbury City Schools and a graduate of Woodberry Forest School (Woodberry Forest, Va.). He was graduated from the University of North Carolina (1960), where he was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity, and he served as an Air Medic in the United States Air Force from 1960 to 1962. He graduated from the UNC School of Medicine (1966) and completed his internship at Geisinger Medical Center (Danville, Pa.), followed by a residency in ophthalmology at the University of North Carolina and at McPherson's Hospital in Durham, N.C.

Dr. Crawford opened his ophthalmology practice in Salisbury in 1971 and proudly served on the staff of Rowan Memorial Hospital. At the time of his retirement in 2016, he was the oldest practicing physician in Rowan County. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a Diplomat of the American Board of Ophthalmology. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the North Carolina Society of Ophthalmology, and the North Carolina Medical Society, which recognized him for fifty years of membership.

During his career, Rob served as the Chief of Surgery for Rowan Memorial

Hospital and as a Clinical Instructor in Ophthalmology at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine. He published seventeen papers in medical journals and received the A.M.A. Continuing Education Award in each of his years in practice. He was an approved ophthalmologist for Southern Railway (now Norfolk-Southern Corporation) for many years.

A lifelong member of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Salisbury, he served on the boards of Rowan Cotton Mills, the North Carolina Lutheran Home, Wachovia Bank, the Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Chatham Hall (Chatham, Va.), and Historic Salisbury Foundation. He had been a member of Salisbury Rotary Club, Salisbury Country Club, and Charlotte City Club.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-four years, Anne (née Way, of Charlotte); his son John Robert Crawford, IV of Lexington, N.C., his wife Amy and their son, John Robert "Jack" Crawford V; his daughter Virginia Crawford Phillips of Spartanburg, S.C., her husband Courtney Stuart Phillips and their children, Virginia Anne Phillips and Courtney Stuart Phillips, Jr.; his sister, Claudia Crawford Fleming of Winston Salem, N.C., her husband Gary and their children; and by many cousins.

The family wish to express their deep and abiding gratitude to his caregiver, Queen Esther Fogle, for her loving care and devoted attention, and to the staff of the Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House, who have graciously cared for him and supported the family.

A service celebrating Rob's life will be held Monday, April 2, at Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, at 2:00 p.m., the Rev. David K. Huddle presiding. Burial will follow at Chestnut Hill Cemetery. The family will receive visitors and friends at the church, in Peeler Hall, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Children's Home Society of North Carolina (P.O. Box 14608, Greensboro, NC, 27415), the Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House (1229 Statesville Blvd., Salisbury, NC, 28144), Historic Salisbury Foundation (P.O. Box 4221, Salisbury, NC, 28144), or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Crawford family. Online condolences and memorial tributes may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Chestnut Hill Cemetery

Salisbury, NC

Tribute Wall

LC

“ John was a good pal and friend to our Class of 1956 at Woodberry Forest School. It does not surprise me that he went into Medicine and ended up as a fine and caring Optometrist. Condolences to John's family.

Leon Campbell

leon campbell - April 06, 2018 at 11:03 AM

HF

“ It is with deep regret that my family learned of Dr. Crawford's passing! He was my Mother's (Mary Helen McCoy) Optometrist for years, and I thoroughly enjoyed taking her to the appointments, especially after she needed a caregiver (2010 and beyond). Dr. Crawford ALWAYS provided phenomenal eye care for her, and today, at age 97, her vision is still going strong - thanks to his loving care provided. We will miss the visits, his lilting voice, his wonderful sense of humor, and his joy in doing what he loved. Our most sincere condolences to his family! We will honor him further by contributing to one of the organizations mentioned in his obituary. Rest in peace, Dr. Crawford.

Helen Gail McCoy Ford

Helen Gail Ford - April 04, 2018 at 10:36 AM

CH

“ I thought that John Robert was getting better, after our last phone conversation when he invited me to visit him. Unfortunately I had a severe attack of allergies and was not good company. To you the family know that John Robert and I were close friends early as you know that our mothers were members of the PWWC (pregnant womens walking club) circ 1937. we played together as young children and was taught sunday school by his mother, maybe Claudia might remember.

My thoughts and payers to all of you.

Charles Heilig

Ps I will not be able to attend services due to prior commitment.

Charles Heilig - March 31, 2018 at 10:29 AM

PC

“ Crawford Family, I don't know where to begin to express my condolences. Dr. Crawford was my eye Dr since i was a teen?? i am now 62. He was the best! Always knew what to do. He has gotten me and my husband out of many an eye jam over the years. and his wife Anne, was always so gracious to accommodate us when we needed to call the home. I'll never forget his intense concern over smut accumulating over the mountains of NC and TN triggering our irritated eyes!! What a man!! What a Doctor!! I love him!!

pam coffield - March 30, 2018 at 09:14 PM

JK

“ Jim, Frank, Richard, and Kathy purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Dr. John Robert Crawford III.



Jim, Frank, Richard, and Kathy - March 30, 2018 at 05:49 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. John Robert Crawford III.*



March 30, 2018 at 01:14 PM



“ *We in Laurens are very sad in the pasting of our friend. We were having a breakfast at the museum and some of his artifacts were on display when we received the news. My thoughts,prayers and hugs to each of the family. The Laurens County Museum is a better place because of Dr Crawford ,Anne and all the family. Fay Edge*

Fay J Edge - March 30, 2018 at 07:58 AM



“ *Dr. Crawford was my Mom's eye doctor for many years, he was knowledgeable and caring, and never failed to take the time to chat and make sure she was doing ok in addition to caring for her vision. When an eye disease progressed rapidly deteriorating her vision, he did not hesitate to send her to a specialist in Charlotte, and his office personally made the appointment for her. That specialist continued her care and restored much of her vision, and the credit goes to Dr. Crawford for his integrity and quick reaction to her particular situation. Thankful for Dr. Crawford's presence in our community.
Your family will be in our prayers for God's love to comfort you all.
Graham family*

n - March 29, 2018 at 11:00 PM

BS

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Dr. Crawford. My husband & I were his patients for years & always enjoyed our visits with him. We really hated when we found out he was retiring. He was a wonderful man & eye doctor. He will really be missed by all. I'm praying for the entire family during this time. God bless you all.

Barbara Sipes - March 29, 2018 at 09:16 PM

RD

“ He was them most wonderful caring man I have ever known. He was so sweet to me and I am sure to all his patients. I was a patient for many years, more than 30 I am thinking. I always enjoyed going to see him, he seemed to make me feel better before I left, always kidding around. Sadly he will be missed. I Loved him because we just seemed to jell together. I will be praying for the family. God Bless.

Rebecca Darconte - March 29, 2018 at 03:03 PM