

Obituary

Dr. DeNorris DeWitt Crosby



Dr. DeNorris DeWitt Crosby was born the sixth child to the late Ada Johnson Crosby and George Crosby, Sr. on July 15th, 1934, in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. He grew up surrounded by his brothers and sisters, inspired by an atmosphere of excellence, education, and Christian values.

An excellent student, DeNorris graduated with honors in Compact High School's Class of 1952. He began his post-secondary education at Morristown Junior College in Morristown, Tennessee, and completed it at North Carolina Central Teacher's College, (currently known as North Carolina Central University) in Durham, NC, gaining his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology.

In 1961, he became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through the Tau Psi Chapter at North Carolina Central. While in college, he developed an interest in research work, and upon graduation, began working as a Research Scientist at Yale University.

During a two-day vacation, he served as a substitute biology teacher, and discovered the joy of teaching. He began his career as an educator in the early 1960's as an advanced Biology teacher at Central High School in Bridgeport, CT. In 1964, he met the love of his life, the former Lillie Griffin of Waterbury, CT; they married in November of the same year.

In February of 1965, they moved into their home in Monroe, CT, where they have resided over the past 56 years. Deciding to advance his career, DeNorris became the Department Chair of Science at Lee High School in New Haven, and then Headmaster. He then moved on to Troup Middle School, where he also worked as Chair of the Science Department.

He gained a Master's in Education from Southern CT State University, New Haven, CT in 1973 and a Doctor of Philosophy from Heed University in Dr. Hollywood, Florida in 1978. In 1983, he became Principal of Hillhouse High School in New Haven, CT and then Supervisor of the Title 1 Program for New Haven Public Schools.

Dr. Crosby retired from the New Haven Public Schools in June of 1995 but remained active in education through working as an Interim Principal and Advisor in the Bridgeport Public Schools and the Waterbury Public School Systems.

Dr. Crosby's public service throughout Fairfield County was tireless. He served on Monroe's Republican Town Committee as Regional Network of Programs and the town's Board of Health; the Bridgeport Board of Education Drop-Out Committee; Warren Harding High School's Advisory Board; NAACP Life Member; NAACP Heritage Life Member; Bridgeport Rotary Club; ABCD Board of Directors; Bridgeport's Ralphola Taylor YMCA Center, Board of Directors. His deep secular beliefs led to his attending Mass every Sunday as a parishioner at Trinity Saint Michael's Anglican Church, where he served as Senior Warden.

His dedication to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was matchless. Dr. Crosby served his beloved fraternity 60 years in various capacities, receiving numerous awards from the Alpha Nu Chapter in Fairfield County, along with having an annual scholarship named in his honor.

Dr. Crosby was a member of the CT Chapter of Guardsmen, where he and Lil enjoyed the traveling and fellowship of the organization for many years. The pair traveled the U.S. and the islands with the chapter.

DeNorris and Lil traveled, opened their home to their families on many holidays and birthdays or just for a visit from family. He loved pets and many dogs were a part of his life. He was a solid Giants fan, was well-read, attended sporting events, and even dabbled in photography. He was a dedicated husband, brother and Uncle, whose love knew no bounds for his family.

Dr. Crosby transitioned from this life Friday, September 17th, 2021, at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, CT. He leaves to cherish his legacy, his wife of 57 years, Lil Crosby; his sister, Eleanor Turner of New Haven, CT and his brother, Thomas LeeVaughn Crosby of Bridgeport, CT; Sister-In-Law, Elene Crosby, (Phil), Brothers-In-Laws, James (Jimmie) Griffin and Robert Griffin, of Waterbury, CT ; his godchildren, Tiffany Kinion, Andre Kinion, and Mayonashia Jones and her son, Rey Tobias Grout, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, globally. He was pre-deceased by his parents, Ada Johnson Crosby, and George Crosby, Sr., sister Thelma Jeter, brothers George Jr., J.R., Clyde, and Phil Crosby.

Services will take place on Monday, September 27th, 2021, with a Viewing taking place from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM; the Celebration of Life will begin at 11:00 AM at St. John's Episcopal Church, 16 Church Street, Waterbury, CT; Internment will take place at New Pine Grove Cemetery, Waterbury, CT. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Dr. DeNorris Crosby Junior Scholarship Fund, c/o Lennitt Bligen, District Representative, 2 Sigourney Street, Boston, Mass 02130 or online at: AlphaNuQues.org

Services will be organized and administered by Howard K. Hill Funeral Services of New Haven, CT. To leave a message of comfort for the family, please visit, www.hkhfuneralservices.com.