



Mr. Christopher Murray Crane

January 21, 1938 - February 19, 2016

Christopher Murray Crane passed away peacefully at home on Friday, 19 February, surrounded with family following a long illness. A native of Dalton, he was born on 21 January, 1938, the son of Arthur and Cooley (Graves) Crane, also of Dalton, both deceased.

Throughout his life, Chris loved machines of almost every variety, and spent many happy years in his shop, on his tractor, flying his plane, riding his motorcycle, and driving cars. He was a longstanding member of the Dalton Fire Department and was one of the first EMT's in Berkshire County, helping to train others and volunteering for the Ambulance crew. In retirement he took up scuba diving, photography, woodworking and boating, among other hobbies. He loved working outdoors and had every tool imaginable, including some he made himself. He especially enjoyed spending time with his 3 children and 7 grandchildren, whether helping build a barn, splitting wood, making maple syrup or apple cider, or simply watching games and concerts and acting as chauffeur.

A "Papermaker" for life, his career at Crane & Co, Inc. spanned 5 decades, from 1957 – 2001. He embodied the values and passions learned from his forebears that made the company great for over 200 years, with a dedication to employees, the community, customers and suppliers. He loved manufacturing, and more importantly the people and families who made the

finest paper and security products in the world. He viewed his long relationship with the Bureau of Printing and Engraving with great pride and as a responsibility to work together to produce the nation's currency, truly a world currency. Among his favorite sayings was that anywhere in the world you go, you can take a piece of Dalton from your pocket that will be gladly accepted for payment! In 2015, in recognition of his contributions to the currency industry, he was inducted into the Currency Hall of Fame by the International Association of Currency Affairs. He is the first American so honored.

Chris was the eldest of 5 and is survived by siblings Lansing, Barbara, and Jonathan Crane. His dear sister Sandra Crane Whitman passed away on 20 May, 2014. Chris attended schools in Dalton before going off to Eaglebrook School, The Hotchkiss School (Class of 1956), and Syracuse University. He and his wife of 57 years, the former Gale Stanton of Clarks Summit, PA, met while students at Syracuse and were married on 10 May, 1958. In addition to Gale, Chris is survived by daughter Allison Crane of Pittsfield and her son Charles Guyer; son Douglas and his wife Becky Crane of Dalton and their children Elizabeth, Andrew and Charlotte; and son David and his wife Ruth Blodgett of Dalton and their children Christopher, Alice and Katherine. His 7 grandchildren were all a great source of pride and happiness for Chris: "We are truly blessed" was one of his most frequent sayings.

He believed that relationships, whether business or social, are the foundation and joy of life. He was a member of The Lenox Club and Golf Club, where he had many friends. Chris was well known for his bowties, smile and the constant question "anything I can do for you"?

Chris' family wishes to thank the many friends who have sent cards, notes, emails, calls and other messages of support. We are also very grateful for the wonderful care he received at Berkshire Medical Center, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical, and Hospice Care of the Berkshires. Per Chris' wishes,

there will be no calling hours or formal services, and burial will be private at a future date. Memorial donations may be made to The Dalton Ambulance Fund or Berkshire Medical Center, through the Bartlett Wellington Funeral Home, 525 Main Street in Dalton, MA 01226.

A Celebration of Chris' life, open to all his many friends, is being planned for a date to be determined by the family.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 19. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Model Farm
Main Street
Dalton, MA 01226

Tribute Wall

DC

“ I had the honor and pleasure of meeting and getting to know Chris and his wonderful family in 2011. I’ve always been afraid to ask “how is Chris (or Gale) doing?” because I dreaded to learn they had passed. We know we all have to pass on eventually but it’s still so hard to face when it’s someone that’s made such an impact to those around them. I know for sure he had an impact on me. He was a truly generous person with his time and wisdom. He was always there for anyone and everyone. I don’t think I ever saw him be still or sitting down to relax. He was always on the move and going from person to person, wherever he thought he could be of service. He was proud of his tools and bow ties and loved to share his expertise. The only person more memorable than him that I ever met was his wife Gale (may she rest in peace as well). She had the sweetness of a child and the patience of a saint! They were truly blessed with a beautiful, loving family.

DC Christopher - April 26, 2025 at 10:43 AM

SK

“ David, Ruth and extended Crane Family,

Our sincerest condolences with the passing of your father. I am sorry I did not have the opportunity to meet him but it seems that those whom did benefited greatly. May he rest in peace.

Your in our thoughts,

Scott & Bonnie Kirchner

Scott Kirchner - February 23, 2016 at 04:13 PM

MK

“ A kinder friend could not be found. Chris was such a support to our family when my father passed away 8 years ago. Looking in on my compromised mother and driving her to the Lenox club, in her last years there. Even after his illness this fall , he was asking me," how can I help you?"... loyal to the core, kind of human being... our hearts are very heavy in the Kerans family today.

moira kerans - February 23, 2016 at 12:12 PM

 Jimmy Yimmy

“ Awwwe :(:(R.I.P. Chris Crane!! Ive known Cris since i was 18(now 30) when i started working at my 3Rd generation family buisness in which he was a very frequent vistor and knew my family before i was even born. He was always workjng on his cray scientist projects and we loved helping him through whatever he had going on that day :) He Always came in with a smile on his face and put ones on ours :) You were such an amazing, nice, honest and awesome man with the name known around the world. You will be missed. You were always so pleasant to be around. You were an inspiration to all others you crossed paths with. Thank you for being so nice to me and my family. You will be so ever missed. Goodnight Chris. Sleep well. ~ J.Bruzzi III

Jimmy Yimmy - February 23, 2016 at 08:15 AM

LM

“ When I worked in the Thread Room Chris would come in sometimes at night. He would walk around and say hello to everybody and ask how things were going. It was nice to see him and I felt like he appreciated his employees.
A very great and down to earth man. I will miss him.

Larry Moyer - February 23, 2016 at 07:52 AM

FC

“ A Class Act! A true Gentleman. Mr. Crane was a great ambassador for the family and represented the Crane's at many funerals in my Church. Always had a kind word for me at the door. Please accept my condolences and best wishes and prayers to all of you for your loss. Fr. Chris, Pastor of Saint Agnes.

Fr. Chris - February 23, 2016 at 07:13 AM

GB

“ Sending thoughts of appreciation of Chris and support to family as you adjust to his passing.
Love & peace, George & Nancy Bissell

George Bissell - February 23, 2016 at 05:58 AM

DD

“ I had the privilege of working directly for Chris for many years. He never once left my office without asking if I needed anything? He became a very close personal friend. He saved my life and that is a long story. As soon as he Got to Heaven he asked God what he could do for him. God looked at Chris and said you have already done it my son, you have lived a true Christian Life. God said I want you to rest a while and catch up with your family. I need to have some help down in the "Cloud Shop" so I will put you in charge of that. Folks get ready to see some of the Most Beautiful Clouds ever when you look up towards Chris in heaven. God Bless Chris Crane and his wonderful family. donnie

Don Drosehn - February 22, 2016 at 06:04 AM

ST

“ *I grew up with Chris as I lived on Model Farm; Many fond childhood memories.*

Rest in peace Chris.

Sandra Thomson

Sandra Thomson - February 22, 2016 at 05:47 AM

AH

“ *As many customers of the pharmacy have come and gone.. the man that always stands out as one of my all time favorites... Chris Crane.*

His infectious smile and unforgettable laugh. His fun banter as he walked graciously into the room. His hair combed back.. his bowtie on.. his "top of the morning" greeting.

As he would say .. " the troublesome customer" that he never was.

We all have been blessed to know Mr. Crane, may he rest comfortably.. love to your whole family... and friends.

Ann Heath - February 21, 2016 at 07:45 PM