



## Walter William Crossett Jr

July 20, 1948 - November 8, 2015

Walter William Crossett, Jr., 67, of French Creek, died suddenly on Sunday, November 8, 2015. He was born on July 20, 1948, in Baltimore, MD, a son of the late Walter William and Earlene Petzold Crossett.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Nancy Henshaw Crossett; two sisters: Mary Louise Hochstetler and Joyce Loretta Crossett, both of Harrisburg, PA; and numerous in-laws and beloved nieces and nephews.

Mr. Crossett was an Art Instructor in schools in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and taught for thirty years at Buckhannon-Upshur High School from January 1978-January 2008. His hobbies included working with stained glass, wood, stone, pottery, and caring for his farm and pets. He was an avid hunter and a gifted teacher.

At the request of the deceased, the body was cremated. A Celebration of Life gathering will be held at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 5, 2015, from 2-4:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Buckhannon-Upshur High School, Attn: Mary Hull, to endow a visual arts scholarship in Walt's name.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life gathering

DEC **5**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall  
Buckhannon, WV

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I did not know Mr. Crossett personally but have heard Joyce speak highly of him many times. Joyce and I attended Carson-Newman together many years ago and is a good friend. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

*Judy Birchfield*

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**Judy Birchfield** - November 19, 2015 at 11:23 AM



“ Mr. Crossett was a terrific teacher. He helped everyone find and embrace their strengths inside the classroom, and outside as well. He was a wonderful person and will be dearly missed.



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**Charlotte Rose** - November 18, 2015 at 08:15 PM

AJ

“ Andi & Jami???? lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr



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**Andi & Jami????** - November 15, 2015 at 10:52 AM

JB

“It's hard to say which of Walt's great attributes will come to my mind most frequently as I mourn my lost friend. Who could forget the caring and capable artist and teacher, one who was such a great influence on my own son? Or I could remember the tinkering Walt, the one who always had a new project more amazing than the last? The gracious host who spent many hours preparing to entertain so many at the annual end of school party? The amiable storyteller, keeping us choked up with laughter as he told tales about life at BUHS, himself and Nancy? Right now I tend to think my strongest memories will be how much he loved Nancy, of the delight he took in everything about her.

You can be sure that my thoughts will be with Nancy, and I will be filled with sadness at the loss for all who were fortunate enough to have known Walt.

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**Julia Brady** - November 13, 2015 at 06:31 PM

RR

“walt was a great nieghbor and a great art teacher he will be missed dearly rachelle riley smith



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**rachelle riley-smith** - November 12, 2015 at 05:28 PM

SL

“He was a very loving person and a wonderful art teacher. He will always be remembered in so many ways. God be with his family . I can remember telling him I can't draw a stick person and his reply was a line is art. Steve Linger and Kim Eubank Linger



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**steve and Kim Eubank Linger** - November 11, 2015 at 11:49 PM

SM

*I was so sad to hear of Walter's accident. When he learned that I had started making pottery, he spent time with me on the phone and answered many of my questions. His love of teaching was evident in the help he gave to me. He also invited us to his studio and gave me clay. He was so kind to me.*

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**Sandy McDowell** - November 22, 2015 at 11:33 AM

 Rod Queen

*Walt was a maker; he was always making something of beauty-pottery, a sculpture, another incredible fish pond or a fountain. He was also very generous- the most important part of being a teacher. He'll be missed*

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**Rod Queen** - December 16, 2015 at 07:38 AM

NR

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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**Nannette Reger** - November 11, 2015 at 10:33 PM

NR

“ Nannette Reger lit a candle in memory of  
Walter William Crossett Jr



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**Nannette Reger** - November 11, 2015 at 10:28 PM

RP

“ I walked into high school art class dreading it, because I knew I was not someone who could do traditional art well. Mr Crossett showed me there was more than just one way to do art, for which I am forever grateful. It opened up possibilities for me to be artistic in ways I never thought I would be. As I sit in my living room now, I see a coil pot I made in pottery class.

*Even though I work with numbers every day, I still carve out time for art in my life. I never would have had art as part of my life if not for Mr. Crossett. His memory lives on.*

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**Rachel Patterson** - November 11, 2015 at 07:36 PM

JC

“ Julie And Ellis Conley lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr



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**Julie and Ellis Conley** - November 11, 2015 at 07:25 PM

JC

Walt Crossett was a friend, a mentor, a big brother, a Renaissance man. He was the one we all turned to for help--whether it was learning a new technique for pottery or drawing or painting or glass, fixing the VCR, inventing a gadget to extrude clay, hanging the homecoming mural, or just to have a listening ear for school or personal problems. He was wise in the ways of art and life, and for him, the two were the same. He taught me so much, and I will always be grateful for his presence in my life -- Julie

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**Julie and Ellis Conley** - November 11, 2015 at 07:26 PM

TH

“ *Tammy Huffman lit a candle in memory of  
Walter William Crossett Jr*



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**Tammy Huffman** - November 11, 2015 at 06:42 PM

DF

“ *Diana Burr And Family lit a candle in memory  
of Walter William Crossett Jr*



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**Diana Burr and Family** - November 11, 2015 at 02:47 PM

KB

“ *Kelly Brandt lit a candle in memory of Walter  
William Crossett Jr*



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**Kelly Brandt** - November 11, 2015 at 01:23 PM

“All four years of my high school and the summer preceding freshman year, Walt Crossett presided over all things art development in my young life. In hindsight, our art department was extremely well-funded, unusual for any high school anywhere, and all the rarer now.

*In what was most certainly the art wing, people like myself could rigorously pursue skills in an expensive and amply stocked stained glass studio, a clay workshop with multiple wheels and kilns, and a fully equipped darkroom. Positively insane the aspects of the art world that were made available to us, and there was always a dedicated core of students who took everything offered, myself among them. That handful of familiar faces that wasn't just passing through and playing at something for a brief time, we were the ones who sought out the art spaces even when we weren't officially in session. Spending time there before school, during lunch, after the final bells had rung, Crossett's sphere was our refuge, something that spoke to every part of ourselves, that unnameable Solution to the unspoken Inquiry. Again, admittedly cliché; but for those of us whose passion was in every way the arts, these rooms were both the outlet and the means for honing that passion.*

*I've never met a more unconditionally loving man. There was never a moment when any of us were made to feel our pursuits were pointless careers in the making. Not for a second did I think he ever doubted my abilities or my will, and through this unswerving support, I never questioned it myself. He emotionally invested in us, in our messy, high school personal lives along with our art, and we wanted to make him proud. Many of those core students launched themselves into art school and excitedly raced back during that first college break to show off their portfolios, wanting his approval, knowing before we ever arrived that we already had it.*

*Walt Crossett handed me the high school's art scholarship personally -- another unbelievable resource, looking back once more -- at the awards ceremony executed for such things. There's a*

*picture of me hugging him on stage, somewhere, because he was the kind of teacher you embraced in joy. I had many art instructors after him, many far more demanding and who could probably claim more credit in hammering me into something worthy; but it always ever began with Crossett. When I think of my art education, my thoughts always go to him first, and I imagine, always will. I possess enormous admiration and respect for my college professors, but I loved Walt Crossett. We all did. He will remain that voice in my head who enthusiastically exclaims, "Absolutely! Why not?" and I will continue to endeavor to make him proud.*

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**Megan Hefner** - November 11, 2015 at 12:25 PM

KP

“*Dear Nancy, words can truly not express my heartfelt sympathy for you and your family. Walt was larger than life to me. He and Naomi took me in as one of their own and for that I will be eternally grateful for. It was a pleasure to know him but it was an honor to call him my friend, role model and mentor in life.*

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**Kristi Parks-Davis** - November 11, 2015 at 11:13 AM

KP

“*Kristi Parks-Davis lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr*



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**Kristi Parks-Davis** - November 11, 2015 at 11:07 AM



“ *Dear Nancy, I have thought of you and prayed so many times these last few days. I pray that God's peace comes quickly to help ease the pain of your loss. You were a beautiful couple.*  
*Love, Sam and Mary Ellen Biller*



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**Mary Biller** - November 11, 2015 at 09:20 AM



“ *Mr. Crosett was a great man. He will truly be missed. His family is in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Amy Hackett** - November 11, 2015 at 08:26 AM



“ *Louise Sisley lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr*



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**Louise Sisley** - November 11, 2015 at 08:08 AM



*My deepest condolences to you, Nancy, and your family. May your memories of him warm your heart. Love, Louise Sisley (Wuzzy)*

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**Louise Sisley** - November 11, 2015 at 08:11 AM

 Blaine  
Dean

“ *Mr. Crossett was a great man and mentor. he help me through alot of stuff when I was young and my home life was not the greatest. he was there and taught me to look for the greatest things life. It was in art were I found a true passion for art. It was in those classes as well I met my wife. To look back if it was not for him I my have lost my way real early in life. So I want to say thank you for all that he had done....*



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**Blaine Dean** - November 11, 2015 at 07:47 AM

TE

“ *Mr. Crossett was my art teacher in high school. I just loved him. He was a very caring man. I remember when he married Nancy. He always talked so fondly of her. I remember the excitement when they were to marry and the cruise. So funny how you remember these things. He will be missed.*

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**Terry** - November 11, 2015 at 06:46 AM

MG

“ *Marley Gregory lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr*



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**Marley Gregory** - November 11, 2015 at 06:13 AM

RL

“ Robin Lewis lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr



Robin Lewis - November 11, 2015 at 06:02 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Every student he had was touched by his teaching ability. He was amazing. He gave me so much through school and his teaching that I can never repay. Thank you Walt.

Kimberly Haney - November 11, 2015 at 05:58 AM

TL

“ Teresa Wilfong Light lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr



Teresa Wilfong Light - November 10, 2015 at 10:25 PM

DW

“ Dan And Amy Wentz lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr



Dan and Amy Wentz - November 10, 2015 at 09:18 PM

JO

“ *Bill became Walt, but he never varied from being a great neighbor. Truly missed by my family. Nancy, you are in our prayers.* ”

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**Jeannie O'Halloran** - November 10, 2015 at 09:09 PM

AH

“ *Angi Wingfield Hinchman lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr* ”



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**Angi Wingfield Hinchman** - November 10, 2015 at 08:56 PM

KA

“ *"Some of you may think you can see, but can't draw. Actually you can draw, you just need to learn how to see." - Walt Crossett* ”



*Those words changed the entire course of my life.*

*I was hoping to see him one day so I could give him a big "Thanks" and show him what an impact he had on my life. Over the past two days I have read so many stories of how he touched the lives of his students and the people who knew him. I'll take those stories as proof that he was a real, live angel. What a beautiful and special soul to be remembered in the way that he is.*

*Goodbye Mr. Crossett... I hope that rainbow bridge has a spectrum that's more beautiful than anything Earth has to offer.*

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**Kristy Aldridge** - November 10, 2015 at 08:19 PM

SG

“ When I find myself replaying good memories from High School..... It is a guarantee that those memories include Mr. Crossett. He was a great teacher. I enjoyed those times over the years that our paths would cross. He was always so cheerful and I will never forget that big smile. You will be missed.



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**Susanne Alkire Gompers** - November 10, 2015 at 08:15 PM

LA

“ Our deepest condolences go out to the family. He will be greatly missed. Lori Andrews

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**Lori Andrews** - November 10, 2015 at 06:57 PM

JA

“ You made the world a more beautiful place, both with your artistic works and your ability to nurture that creative expressiveness in others. You will be missed.



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**Janna Vaught Adams** - November 10, 2015 at 06:45 PM

JZ

“ One of the greatest people I ever had the pleasure of knowing. The Zulianis love you and will miss you Walt!



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**Jackie, Rob, Cameron and Carter Zuliani** - November 10, 2015 at 06:18 PM

JZ

*Rob too. Somehow it left him out.*

**Jackie, Rob, Cameron and Carter Zuliani** - November 10, 2015 at 06:24 PM

DW

“ *Mr Crossett was a very caring and loving teacher. He truly loved his students and work. When my daughter had him back in 2003 my son was very young and fascinated with my daughters pottery. Walt would send clay home for my son to create and send it back to be fired. My thoughts and prayers are with all of Walt's family and friends. God Bless 🙏*



**Debbie Warner** - November 10, 2015 at 06:14 PM

LU

“ *Mr.Crossett the many projects we done in class. Yet the one most vivid to me was our portaut pictures we done. You thought I was crazy when I asked if I could draw 3 people instead of one, thinking how would I get it done in the time frame given. I succeeded in the time frame and the grade on the back was a 110,yes a 110% because you said I done such I wonderful job and you were proud of me for pushing my limits. Mr. Crossett art will not be the same without you but the memories and the inspiration you gave us kids, now most of us are adults, is one that not many teachers can say they accomplish. You sir are a great man with a wife that is next best beside you. You will bed sadly missed but greatly remember. Rest forever easy and teach my little Creedence the ability to see beauty through all the ways of life.*



**Lynette Unger** - November 10, 2015 at 05:36 PM

HW

“ *Helen Bryant Whitcomb lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr*



**Helen Bryant Whitcomb** - November 10, 2015 at 05:29 PM

SD

“ *Sherry Dean lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr*



**Sherry Dean** - November 10, 2015 at 05:00 PM

TH

“ *Teresa Halle lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr*



**Teresa Halle** - November 10, 2015 at 04:40 PM

 Jodi Hinkle

“ *Mr. Crossett was hands down the greatest art teacher I ever had while I was in high school at BUHS!!! He inspired many of us and pushed us to let our creative sides shine!!! He will be truly missed. Prayers to his family.*



**Jodi Hinkle** - November 10, 2015 at 04:31 PM

TW

“ *The Wileys lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr*



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**The Wileys** - November 10, 2015 at 04:25 PM

TF

“ *The Wiley Family lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr*



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**The Wiley Family** - November 10, 2015 at 04:23 PM

KB

“ *Kenny And Cathy Bonner lit a candle in memory of Walter William Crossett Jr*



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**Kenny and Cathy Bonner** - November 10, 2015 at 03:26 PM