



Catherine Ann Crosby

April 25, 1943 - February 15, 2026

Obituary for Catherine Ann Crosby

Catherine Ann Crosby, beloved daughter of the late Wallace Edward Brown, Sr. and Mable Wright Brown, was born on April 25, 1943, in Salisbury, Maryland. She peacefully transitioned from this life on February 15, 2026, at her residence. Leaving behind a legacy of love, devotion, and quiet strength that will forever be cherished by her family and all who knew her.

She was one of five children and shared deep, lifelong bonds with her siblings: the late Wallace Brown, Jr., the late Sylvia Harper (Pastor Robert), Martha Ringgold (Wayne), and Mabel Purnell (David). Raised in a close knit family grounded in faith, compassion, and unity, she carried those values throughout her life and passed them on to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Catherine received her formal education in the Wicomico County Public School System of Maryland, attending from 1949 through 1961.

A current devoted and faithful member of Trinity Tabernacle Church in Salisbury, Maryland, she served under the leadership of Pastor Daniel Appleby. She was honored by the congregation as the Church Mother, a role she embraced with humility, wisdom, and love. Her dedication to the church remained steadfast up until her passing, offering guidance, encouragement, and a nurturing presence to all who knew her. Previously, she was a devoted and faithful member of New Hope Outreach Church in Fruitland, Maryland, under the leadership of Pastor Robert L. Harper.

She was united in marriage to John Lawrence, with whom she welcomed two sons, James Lawrence and Terrence Lawrence. She later welcomed her daughter, Ella (Crosby) Watkins, who remained a constant source of joy and pride.

Her working years reflected the same dedication she showed in every part of her life. She was employed at the Campbell Soup Company, where she worked faithfully for 30 years, forming lasting friendships and earning the respect of her coworkers. She retired from the company in 1993, when Campbell Soup closed and moved its operations. Later, she joined Salisbury University (a member of the University System of Maryland), where she served with commitment and integrity for 20 years, retiring in 2015. Her work ethic, kindness, and steady presence left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of working with her.

Known for her gentle spirit, warm smile, and quiet wisdom, she cherished her children deeply. She shared a special closeness with each of them, but her son Terrence held a uniquely devoted place in her daily life as her primary care provider. Their relationship grew even stronger through the countless hours he spent offering moral support, assisting with her daily needs, and coordinating her medical care. Terrence often transported his mother to doctor visits and medical appointments, as well as on their many sightseeing, visits and food-runs. They were affectionately known as “The Road Runners.”

These excursions became treasured moments filled with joy, laughter, and companionship, creating memories that will forever live in the hearts of those who loved her.

Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the lights of her life. Her life was also enriched by a meaningful and enduring friendship with her longtime neighbors, the Bounds family, Homer, Lorece, and daughters (Kim and Kisha), whose kindness, unwavering support, and companionship brought her joy for many years.

She leaves to cherish her memories: her children James Lawrence (Gloria), Terrence Lawrence, and Ella Watkins (Thomas); her sisters Martha Ringgold

(Wayne), Mabel Purnell (David), and brother-in-law Pastor Robert Harper; her beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother Wallace Brown, Jr., and sister Sylvia Harper. Her life was a testament to love steadfast, generous, and enduring. Her memory will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bennie Smith Life Celebration Center
901 West Isabella Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Funeral Service

FEB 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bennie Smith Life Celebration Center
901 West Isabella Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - February 28 at 09:33 AM

TB

“ *To the family,we were so sorry to hear about Catherine going with the Lord,you have our Love and prayers and may God strengthen and comfort you in a time of need.*



Therman&Barbara Brown - February 28 at 11:18 AM

MF

“ *Mabel Brown n family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Catherine Ann Crosby.*



Mabel Brown n family - February 25 at 09:25 AM

MF

“ *Mabel Brown n family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Catherine Ann Crosby.*

Mabel Brown n family - February 25 at 09:25 AM

WB

“ With all our love Marcus & Tammy Briley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Catherine Ann Crosby.

With all our love Marcus & Tammy Briley - February 24 at 08:18 PM

WB

“ With all our love Marcus & Tammy Briley purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Catherine Ann Crosby.



With all our love Marcus & Tammy Briley - February 24 at 08:18 PM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss



Thomas Widgeon - February 20 at 07:37 AM

PR

To Ella and Family, we're sending prayers, love and condolences.
The Redding Family

Priscilla Redding - February 23 at 05:30 PM

LA

Terrance, So sorry for the loss of your Mother! May Your Devotion, Love and Strength carry you through this difficult journey! Deepest Condolences to You and the Family! 🌸🌸🌸
Lauren

Lauren - February 25 at 09:06 AM