

In Loving Memory: Former Mayor Mary Crabb

November 9, 1943 - July 4, 2013



The Honorable Mary Louise Smith Crabb - Mary lived, laughed, loved, and served! She will be sorely missed by the many lives she touched with her winning ways. Her life is a celebration of all the good we share in the humanity of the human family!

The Honorable Mary Louise Smith Crabb was born November 9, 1943, to Edward and Snowdrop Smith and was the oldest of three daughters. Mary's parents were a young Army couple stationed at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. Her father was a Buffalo soldier of the 10th Cavalry, which was assigned at West Point. She attended elementary school at West Point and elementary school in Highland Falls when her Dad was in Korea. Mary attended her first two years of high school in Highland Falls, after finishing the 8th grade at West Point.

In 1959, Ret. MSG Smith was stationed at Ingrandes, France and where Mary completed high school in 1961, graduating from the Poitiers American High School in Poitiers. After graduation Mary moved to Munich, Germany to attend the University of Maryland and where she lived with her Aunt and Uncle, the late Rachel and Alpheus Jones, who was also a Buffalo Soldier.

After returning to Highland Falls in 1962, Mary attended and graduated from St. Luke's Hospital School of Practical Nursing and became a LPN. She began her life of service by caring for Veterans as a member of the staff at the Castle Point VA Hospital. Mary would eventually change careers in 1968 and went to work for the State of New York Department of Corrections. She would ultimately spend 28 years in Corrections, where she rose to the rank of Lieutenant and retired from the Department of Corrections in May 31, 1996. Never one to be idle, Mary went to work for the Board of Education and currently worked at the Newburgh Library System on Grand St.

In 1964 Mary met her lifelong partner and future husband, the Honorable Tyrone Crabb. The couple fell in love and were united in marriage at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Beacon, NY in June 1966. The young couple was blessed with two sons: Tyrone Jomo Crabb, Lieutenant Colonel Retired US Army and Hudson Joda Crabb, a teacher in the Norfolk, VA School System.

Mary and her husband, Tyrone, were a dedicated Newburgh family. They worked hard to raise their family and to make Newburgh a better place to live. Tyrone was very active in local and state politics and the family supported his desire to improve the quality of life for all residents of his beloved Newburgh. Following the death of Tyrone, after his successful run for Mayor of Newburgh, Mary was appointed Mayor of Newburgh to fill his vacated seat. She served in this position for one year and during this year and beyond, she was a tireless ambassador for the people of Newburgh and believed that people should be proud of the city, have jobs, affordable housing and be able to take care of their families. Most recently, Mary was considering a run for the Orange County legislature, where she hoped to continue her service to the Newburgh community.

Mary was active with the American Legion Auxiliary and served as Unit President, Orange County President and 9th District President. She toured New York State extensively in support of the American Legion Auxiliary and its many causes.

Mary was on the Board of the St. Luke's Foundation working extensively with fundraising for its many worthwhile causes. Mary had many passions to include serving as the St. Andrews Chair for Carpenter's Kids. The Carpenter's Kids Program was founded in 2005 as a partnership between the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanzania and the Episcopal Diocese of New York to bring shoes, breakfast and clothing for orphans of AIDS parents in Tanzania. As a Vestry board member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Beacon, she worked extensively in its renovation. Mary was part of a team who assured the Undercroft became a work of art! Mary had many unique and creative talents, enjoyed knitting, crocheting, gardening, and woodworking. There was nothing she wouldn't try to fix and saw the beauty in old architecture. She was always involved in a project at home or at her church; no job was ever too big or too small. As Chairmen of the Architecture review Board for the City of Newburgh, this journey further allowed her to serve and fulfill her passion for old architectures.

Mary and her family loved to travel. They visited many areas within the United States to include much of New York State and several countries outside the states. Most recently Mary visited the Grand Canyon and Sedona. Mary also journeyed abroad, visiting Germany and many of the Slavic countries, Russia, India, the Great Wall of China, Ghana, Togo and Benin. Mary and her family cruised extensively and Mary landed in over 80 ports of call.

Her husband, the Honorable Tyrone H. Crabb, and her father, Retired US Army M/Sgt Edward Smith, predeceased Mary in death.

Mary is survived by her mother, Mrs. Snowdrop Smith of Highland Falls; mother-in-law, Mrs. Ida Crabb of Banning CA; sons: Ret. LTC Tyrone Jomo Crabb (Erika) of Burke, VA and Hudson Joda Crabb (Monique) of Virginia Beach, VA and stepdaughter, Michelle Ford of Fontana, CA; grandchildren included Briana Crabb, a junior at Virginia Tech, Tyrone Crabb of Burke, VA, Emmary and Jamie-Ty Crabb of Virginia Beach, VA; step grandchildren: Jasmine Ford of Fontana, CA and Kimberlee Willis of Irvine, CA; sisters: Jacqueline Jackson of Las Vegas, NV and Edweana Aiken (Eugene) of Hopewell Junction; several nieces and nephews to include Jason Jackson (Bernice) of Atlanta, GA, Jonathan Jackson (Jennifer) of Phoenix, AZ, Alecia Wells (Lawrence) of Rahway, NJ, Christopher Thomas of Los Angeles, CA, Amanda Aiken of New Orleans, LA, Eugene Aiken (God Son), III of Hopewell Junction, NY; brother-in-law, Wesley Thomas and many, many family and friends, too numerous to list.

Mary had a warm and infectious personality so that all who knew her loved her. Mary deceased this life on July 4, 2013. We shall always treasure this day as an endorsement and celebration of the life of the Honorable Mary L. Crabb.

May God Bless Mary and we shall see her on the other side!

Mrs. Crabb will lie in repose from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 12th, at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 17 South Avenue, Beacon, NY 12508. Funeral Services will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 13th, at Crossroads Assembly of God, 7 D'Alfonso Road, Newburgh, NY 12550. Public viewing will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m. at the church.

Professional services were entrusted to Rhodes Funeral Homes. "Committed To Being The Very Best". Call us anytime at 845-569-1233.