



Donald Francis Crosby

May 21, 1933 - March 21, 2026

Donald Francis Crosby, who lived a life marked by humor, courage, and creativity, was born on May 21, 1933, in Brookline, Massachusetts, and passed away on March 21, 2026, only 61 days shy of his 93rd birthday, in Griffin, Georgia, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire everyone who knew him.

He was the beloved husband of Diana Lence Crosby of Georgia for 66 years, just 28 days from their 67th Wedding Anniversary, and their marriage stood as a powerful example of devotion, partnership, and endurance. Together, they built a family rooted in love, resilience, and faith. He was the proud father of three children, including his eldest son, Dana Donald Crosby, and his wife, Patricia, of New York, along with their children, Shawna, Desiree, and Olivia. He was also the father of Dean Harry Crosby of Georgia and his children, Ricky and Christopher. He is also remembered by his youngest daughter, Deborah Fidelia Crosby Bray, and her husband, Darren Jack Bray, of Georgia, and their children, Joshua and Jacob. He also held close family ties with his cousin, David Lence, and his wife, Brenda, of Florida, along with their children and grandchildren. His family was one of the great joys of his life, and his presence strengthened every generation that followed him.

Donald pursued his education at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts, where he developed the practical foundation that

would support a lifetime of skilled work and hands-on. He was the kind of man who believed in learning by doing, and he carried that belief into every chapter of his life. Whether he was solving a mechanical problem, building something with his hands, or offering steady guidance to those around him, he brought discipline, curiosity, and determination to the task.

His work history reflected a remarkable range of talent and service. He served as a Tank Mechanic for the Korean War, a role that demanded strength, precision, and courage. He later worked as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician, Jet Engine Mechanic, and he earned the respected title of Licensed Airframe and Powerplant, or A and P, Mechanic. His abilities extended far beyond one trade, as he also served as a Veterinarian Assistant and later as a UGA Weather Station Technician. In every position, he proved that excellence is not accidental. It is built through effort, integrity, and a willingness to keep showing up with purpose.

He also knew how to enjoy the journey. His interests revealed a man who embraced life with energy and imagination. He loved his horse and livestock hobby farm, and he found joy in multi-disciplinary engine mechanics, blacksmithing, traveling, antiquing, kayaking, hands-on crafting, leatherworking, woodworking, metalworking, forging, and welding. He was adventurous in spirit and creative in practice. He did not merely admire craftsmanship. He created it. He did not merely appreciate the world. He explored it. He had a gift for turning raw material into something useful, beautiful, and lasting, and that same spirit shaped the way he lived among people.

Those who knew Donald will remember him as funny, adventurous, and creative. He had the rare ability to make others laugh while also making them believe that hard things could be handled and impossible things could be attempted. He brought warmth into a room, confidence into a challenge, and

character into every conversation. He was the kind of man who reminded others that life is meant to be lived fully, with hands ready to work, a mind ready to learn, and a heart ready to love.

His life stands as a powerful reminder that a person can leave an enduring mark through skill, faith, family, and joy. He showed that strength and tenderness can live in the same heart, and that a life built on service and love becomes a blessing to many. His life made the world better for his family, his friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Though he has passed from this earthly life, the example he set remains. His story is one of perseverance, craftsmanship, devotion, and laughter. His family will carry forward his memory with pride, and his legacy will continue to speak through the lives he touched. He lived with purpose, he worked with excellence, and he loved with steadfastness. That is a life worth honoring, and that is a life that will not be forgotten.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, beginning at 10 a.m., at F. S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home, 14 Independent Street, Rowley, with the Funeral Service at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Rowley Burial Ground.

Cemetery Details

Rowley Burial Ground

133 Main Street
Rowley, MA 01969

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

F.S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home
14 Independent Street
Rowley, MA 01969
<http://fsrobertsandson.com>

Service

APR 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

F.S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home
14 Independent Street
Rowley, MA 01969
<http://fsrobertsandson.com>