



## Narvel James "Jim" Crawford, Jr.

November 9, 1929 - September 9, 2021

Narvel James "Jim" Crawford died at Mission Hospital on Thursday, September 9, 2021.

Narvel James "Jim" Crawford, Jr., was born in Asheville, NC on November 9, 1929, Narvel James Crawford, Sr. an Asheville city solicitor and municipal court judge, and to Tymah Phillips Crawford, at one time a secretary for F. Scott Fitzgerald. Crawford graduated from Asheville High School (at that time Lee Edwards High School) in 1948, having won the Russell Memorial Award for Oratory.

He entered Duke University in Durham, NC, that same year and graduated from Duke (1952) Phi Beta Kappa and having twice been president of Theta Chi, his social fraternity. While a student at Duke, Crawford was a candidate for student body president and only lost by 12 votes. He was a political science major and worked summers in the Asheville Citizen newsroom.

Crawford volunteered for the U.S Army counterintelligence training at Fort Holabird a special training center near Baltimore, Maryland. He was assigned to work near Salzburg, Austria, later in New Orleans and Bordeaux, France. Returning from his military service in Europe, Crawford enrolled in graduate school at Duke to study history, later to transfer to University of North Carolina, in Chapel Hill.

While at UNC-Chapel Hill he went to New York City for a summer and was hired by W.W Norton publishing house and became a political science editor before becoming a publisher's representative, mostly on the U.S. West Coast,

primarily California, and in British Columbia, Canada.

In the early 1970's Crawford returned to Asheville to assume family responsibilities, eventually becoming involved with downtown property management. Following in his politically active family's footsteps, Jim Crawford credits his earliest political inspiration to the sight of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt riding in an open car up Charlotte Street in Asheville when Jim was 7 years old.

His actual political career began with his election to the presidency of the Democratic Forum. In 1976 he was elected by the state Democratic Party Executive Committee in Raleigh. In 1977 he entered local politics as campaign manager for several Democratic city council candidates, each of whom won office.

In 1978 Governor Jim Hunt appointed Crawford to the Buncombe County Social Services Board. His successful regional political efforts moved Crawford to be elected to the 43rd House District (later the 51st District seat in the House of Representatives of the North Carolina General Assembly, a seat previously held by U.S. Congressman James McClure Clarke. The 43rd and 51st Districts represented Buncombe, Transylvania, and parts of Henderson Counties. He held that seat for several terms, seeking re-election to the General Assembly until 1994.

As a freshman, first-term member of the State House, Crawford led a successful move to cut all state elected officers' salaries by six percent..., including his own. During his time in the General Assembly, Crawford was co-chair of the State Parks Commission of the House, Vice-Chair of the House Election Laws Committee, and served on House Committees on housing, rules, state government, transportation, and various appropriations committees. He was Chair of the House University Board of Governors nominating committee, a trustee of Thoms Rehabilitation Hospital, now CarePartners. He also served on committees to consider the problems of disposal of low-level radioactive materials in North Carolina, concerns of the aging and civil rights law compliance.

For much of Crawford's professional and political life he was active in Asheville's Civitan Service Club, the United Way, the Chamber of Commerce, and the YMCA. He has served on the board of Flat Rock Playhouse, the State Theater of North Carolina, and on the boards of the American Foundation for the Deaf, and of the Epilepsy and Hemophilia Foundations. Over a period of several decades, Crawford was a regular attendee at All Souls Parish in Biltmore Village, though his church membership remained in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York City.

Among his survivors are Clayton Ryan of Asheville, cousins, Jean Russell Adams of Lake Junaluska and Judith Patton of Canton.

A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, September 18, at 11:00 am, at All Souls Episcopal Church, 9 Swan Street, Asheville, NC 28803.

A reception in All Soul's Parish Hall will follow the service and burial will be at Calvary Churchyard, 2840 Hendersonville Road, Fletcher, NC 28732, at 1:30pm.

Memorial donations in honor of Jim Crawford may be made to Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM), <https://abccm.squarespace.com/givenow1>.

Morris Funeral and Cremation Care is serving the family and condolences may be sent to them through our website at [www.morrisfamilycare.com](http://www.morrisfamilycare.com)

The service will be livestreamed at the church and it is available at <https://www.allsoulscathedral.org/virtual-worship>

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Episcopal Churchyard

2840 Hendersonville Road  
Fletcher, NC 28732

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

SEP 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cathedral of All Souls  
9 Swan Street Biltmore Village  
Asheville, NC 28803  
<http://www.allsoulscathedral.org/>

## Reception

SEP 18. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Cathedral of All Souls  
9 Swan Street Biltmore Village  
Asheville, NC 28803  
<http://www.allsoulscathedral.org/>

## Interment

SEP 18. 1:30 PM (ET)

Calvary Episcopal Churchyard  
2840 Hendersonville Road  
Fletcher, NC 28732



# Tribute Wall

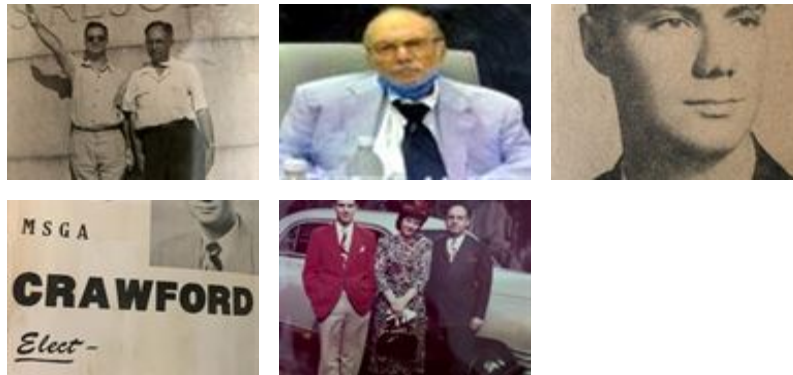


“ *Narvel James "Jim" Crawford, Jr.*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *24 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Morris Funeral Home - September 20, 2021 at 07:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Narvel James "Jim" Crawford, Jr..*



September 18, 2021 at 08:42 AM



“ *What a wonderful gentleman and representative for WNC! I met Jim when I worked at First Union National Bank and was proud to say that I knew him. May wonderful memories sustain his friends and loved ones.*

Sharon Owen - September 15, 2021 at 10:27 AM

WK

*I had the pleasure of serving with Jim in the House in the early 90s. A great man who taught me a lot. But I never knew he had done so much for his country, state and county until I read this. What a great tribute to such a gentleman. I am glad I knew him.*

Wayne Kahl - October 07, 2021 at 02:28 PM

AC

“ *A wonderful caring man, I will never forget his encouragement and kindness to all people!*

*Annette Coleman*

Annette Coleman - September 15, 2021 at 09:13 AM

LD

“ *Clayton: Jim was always a pleasure to talk with at church, a gracious and sweet man. Take comfort in knowing you made his last few years better. His leadership and contributions to Buncombe County is much appreciated. May God give you peace and comfort in the days ahead.*



Leta Dover - September 12, 2021 at 04:44 PM

GH

“ *A community leader of the highest order. The kind of leader we need more of today. I greatly appreciate all the contributions Jim made to this area and to the state of North Carolina. He was a rare breed. He will be greatly missed. Gerry Huntley, Fairview, NC*



Gerry Huntley - September 12, 2021 at 07:44 AM

RO

*A dear friend for many, many years who was so much a part of our family. He was a very caring man and we will miss him being a part of our life "by George"... Ron & Wanda Baldwin*

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**Ron** - September 15, 2021 at 01:28 PM