



Mr. David "Big D" Charles Crum

November 4, 1933 - July 26, 2025

David Charles Crum, known by many as "Big D"
November 4, 1933 – July 26, 2025

David "Big D" Charles Crum, 91, passed peacefully on July 26, 2025, at his cherished home on Crum Ranch in Plant City, Florida — where he lived a life rooted in faith, family, and service.

Born November 4, 1933, in Plant City to Elizabeth Mae Crull and Ralph Lovett Crum, David was their only child. As a 3rd generation Floridian, he leaves behind a legacy as enduring as the Florida soil he stewarded.

Mr. Crum proudly served his country in the U.S. Army for eight years, rising to the rank of Captain. Afterward, he inspired young minds as a middle school science teacher before returning to his truest calling — as a Cracker cowboy and rancher. He spent decades mentoring others, living the values of hard work, integrity, and generosity.

A deeply spiritual man, David was the patriarch of his family and a guiding light to many. He faithfully led the "Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast" Bible study at First Presbyterian Church from 1987 to 2022 and often asked, "Are you happy in your heart?" or invited others with his gentle wit: "If you don't have anything better to do, God would sure like to see ya in Church this

morning.”

He was named the 2008 United Way Volunteer of the Year, and for over 60 years, David remained a dedicated member of the Florida Sheriff's Association, the Florida Cattleman's Association, and the Free Masons. His handshake was his word, and he was a tireless servant of both land and community.

David is survived by his loving wife of nearly 70 years, Sheila MacDowell; their three children: Helen Elizabeth, Julie Kathleen, and David Charles Jr.; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren — all born in Florida and led by his outspoken direction and enduring example.

He was a lifelong sportsman, passionate about hunting, fishing, tennis, and golf. But above all, David found joy in God's creation, his family, and in walking faithfully before the Lord.

A funeral service will be held Friday, August 8 at 3:00 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 South County Road 39, Plant City. Expressions of condolence at HopewellFuneral.com.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG 8. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home
6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. David "Big D" Charles Crum



Hopewell Funeral Home - August 12, 2025 at 01:49 PM



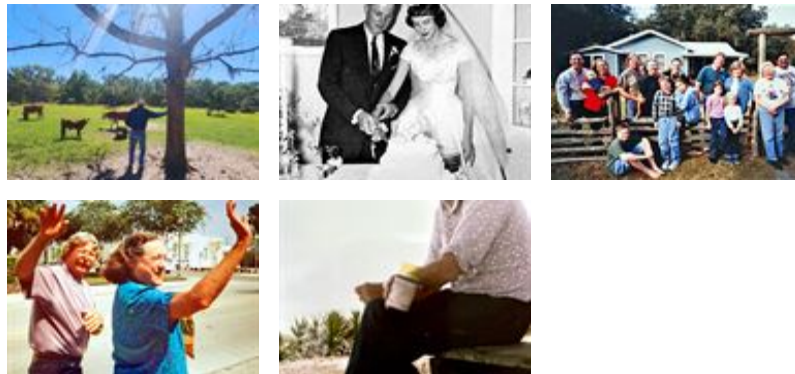
“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. David "Big D" Charles Crum.



August 07, 2025 at 02:02 PM



“ 41 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hopewell Funeral Home - August 05, 2025 at 04:28 PM

LK

“ Love, Jerry & Kate purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. David "Big D" Charles Crum.



Love, Jerry & Kate - August 01, 2025 at 02:07 PM

JT

“ Juliann T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. David "Big D" Charles Crum.

Juliann T. - August 01, 2025 at 02:03 PM

KB

“ Keir B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. David "Big D" Charles Crum.

Keir B. - August 01, 2025 at 09:51 AM

CA

“ I will always carry loving memories of David in my heart. Big D referred to me as his adopted daughter for so many years, welcoming me into their family when I was about 5 years old, as his daughter Beth and I were best friends (and still are). Listening to him play his guitar and sing Hank Williams songs while enjoying his morning coffee, riding us around the old ranch on adventures, and taking trips to NC in the summer. I carry notes he sent me from his men's Bible study class in my bible to this day. He was quite a character!. I am glad I got down to Florida last year to see him again. David loved his family, his pets, his cows, but mostly he loved Jesus. Rest in peace, David. I know I'll see you when I get to heaven.

With abundant love,
Cheryl Arthur

Cheryl Anne Arthur - July 29, 2025 at 03:51 PM