



Wayne Howard Kross

October 25, 1930 - August 18, 2020

Wayne Howard Kross, 89, went home to be with his Savior on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. Please take a moment and share a kind thought or memory with Wayne's family at www.andersonbethany.com.

Services: A private, graveside service will be held at General Douglas L. McBride Veterans Cemetery at 11:00 AM on Monday, August 24, 2020.

Wayne was born in Chicago, IL. He was an avid baseball player in his youth and was signed by the St. Louis Browns farm team, currently the Baltimore Orioles when he was eighteen. He enlisted in the United States Air Force during the Korean War and served as a radio operator on a B-36 bomber, flying dozens of dangerous missions while fighting bravely for his country. A military honor guard detail will present a flag at his funeral. While stationed at Walker Air Force Base in Roswell, Wayne also pitched for the Air Force baseball team and traveled the country representing the Air Force. He was particularly proud of having played against Pete Domenici, who played for UNM at the time.

He married the love of his life, Vicky, in 1953, who joined him in Roswell for the first year of their married life, his last year of active service. After returning to Chicago, Wayne worked as a foreman for Youngstown Steel Mills for the next 20 years while he and Vicky raised their family; they then returned to Roswell, their honeymoon town, in 1981. He began a third career as a bricklayer at the New Mexico Military Institute in 1982 and retired from there as well.

Wayne was a lifelong Christian, a devoted husband and loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. After he retired the last time, he kept busy helping with family home projects, building everything from shelves to doll beds for his grandchildren.

Survivors: Wayne is survived by his sister, Carol Gish and husband Bert; brother Warren Kross and wife Phyllis; sister, Anne Stonehouse and husband Fred; as well as his children: Carol Mestas and husband Louis, Annemarie Oldfield, Lynn Lang and husband Glenn, Dianne Marley and husband Mike, and John Kross and wife Carol; along with eighteen grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, and numerous beloved nieces and nephews, who loved and will miss him.

Preceded: He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Helen Kross and his brother, David Kross, and his loving wife, Vicky.

Honorary Pall-Bearers: Chosen to serve as Honorary Pall-Bearers are his grandchildren: Matthew Kuzniar, Catherine Kuzniar, Carolynn Armstrong, Joseph Oldfield, Cody Ogrentz, Alex Ogrentz, Elizabeth Marley-Hollingsworth, Margaret Walter, Michelle Marley, Rob Kross, Andrew Kross, and Julie Kross. The family would like to thank the devoted caregivers at Avamere, and Chris Hicks, who were so loving and compassionate to our father and to us during his final years. We would also like to thank our friends and co-workers, who demonstrated their love and support with meals and prayers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to EFCA ReachGlobal, 901 E. 78th Street, Minneapolis, NM 55420, c/o Mike and Lorelee Hill.

Wayne's tribute was lovingly written in his honor by his children.

Tribute Wall

DR

“ I worked with Wayne at NMMI from 1983-1988.. It was both a pleasure and a blessing. He became both a friend and mentor to me. We shared a love of baseball and talked often about John's progress at Roswell and Hardin-Simmons.. We played golf together a good many Saturdays, he liked going early so he still had plenty of Saturday left after we were done. My folks were both in the service (my dad was a pilot) and he help me learn to see things from a different perspective. He was never "preachy" toward me but changed and deepened my Christianity without me even noticing it. I moved back to NC as my folks entered the last stages of life. I later returned to NM in 2007 and had a chance to thank him for the time we spent together and how I appreciated what I learned from him. He never claimed to be perfect but was "real". I'm sorry for your loss and I am blessed and glad I got to spend some time with him.

Doug Ranson ..

Doug Ranson - August 26, 2020 at 11:52 AM

KC

“ Annemarie and Family,
There are no words which can dull the pain of losing a loved one. Seek comfort in knowing your loved one is pain free and reunited with those who went before him.
May the Lord be with you in this time of great loss.

Respectfully,
Kim Childress

Kim Childress - August 24, 2020 at 01:42 PM

CB

“ Sympathy to Warren and Phyllis my neighbors. Sorry for your loss. God bless you both and Wayne’s family. May he rest In Peace.



Charlotte Blinn - August 23, 2020 at 07:14 AM

BJ

“ The first time I met Wayne was June of 1986. I was 14 years old. I was supposed to work the paint crew at NMMI but someone asked me if I would help the brick layer. From that day forward I met one of the nicest people ever. I will always remember our coffee breaks that were supposed to last 15 minutes but always lasted much longer because we just enjoyed talking to each other. All of the phone calls after a cowboys game over the years I will always remember. See you again my dear friend.

bj - August 22, 2020 at 01:17 PM

CH

“ Hey guys, sorry I can't make the service for your dad. You know I loved him like the father I never had. He was such a good example to me, patient, kind and understanding. Thank you for sharing him with me. I hope there's V-8, Brach's Party Mix and McDonalds apple pies in heaven for him !! Chris

Christopher K Hicks - August 21, 2020 at 07:23 PM

BP

“ Wayne was our neighbor when our oldest son was born. Our child had colic and we would be outside with him crying and Wayne would talk to us over the fence telling us it was going to be ok. I saw him at Avamere when I put my mother there 2 years ago and he remembered me and we talked about our time living next door to each other. Such a sweet man! Prayers for his family!

Bonnie Puntch - August 20, 2020 at 05:51 PM