

CELEBRATING
THE LIFE
OF



“Kat” Crosby

Mrs. Kathleen Ross Crosby

March 9, 1925 – November 13, 2012

Saturday, November 24, 2012 ~ 12:00 Noon

First Baptist Church West

1801 Oaklawn Avenue

Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

Dr. Ricky A. Woods, Senior Minister, Officiating

Mrs. Kathleen "Kat" Ross Crosby

Mrs. Kathleen Earle Ross Crosby departed this earthly life on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at the Houston Hospice in Houston, Texas. She was 87 years old.

A retired educator and tireless civic leader, Kathleen "Kat" Crosby was born on March 9, 1925, in Winnsboro, South Carolina as the fifth child to the late Mrs. Beatrice Tucker Ross and Mr. William Albert Ross, Sr. She received her high school diploma from Fairfield Training School in Winnsboro, South Carolina, prior to attending college. She graduated from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1946. She subsequently earned her Master of Arts Degree from Bank Street College in New York, New York in 1970.

She was united in marriage in 1948 to her loving husband, Joseph C. Crosby, Sr. They were blessed with fifty-three years of marriage, until his passing in May 2001. To this union, two loving and beautiful children were born, Joseph, Jr. and Kathy.

Christian faith and service were an important part of Kat's life. Starting at an early age, she was an active member at Saint Paul Baptist Church in Winnsboro, South Carolina. Music, singing, and poetry were interests and talents that she pursued and shared at home, school, and church. As an adult, she became an active member of First Baptist Church (now West), teaching Sunday School, singing God's praises in the choir and serving as an active leader in her church. She encouraged the young and old, alike - generously and willingly giving of her time, talent, and tithing, until her health declined. Kat practiced "living life best by serving others most." Kat Crosby believed firmly that everyone has the capacity to learn and grow in God's grace. She was the embodiment of the creed, "Let all you do be done with love." Kat left the halls of her upbringing, intent on making a difference, and in the process became a legend in her own time, as well as a history maker.

Kathleen Crosby began teaching in 1946 in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. In addition to twenty years of experience as a classroom teacher, she served as an In-Service Specialist for Early Childhood Education from 1967 to 1970. She worked at length with Head Start programs, and offered her services as an Education Consultant at the university level. From 1970 to 1976, she was Principal of Billingsville Elementary School. There she received accolades for her highly successful leadership in dealing with school desegregation and busing that were occurring in the Charlotte metropolitan area. A 1976 CBS television documentary highlighted her outstanding leadership of the Billingsville Elementary School. In 1976, Mrs. Crosby became an Area Assistant Superintendent to the district, which comprised twenty-five schools. She retired in 1986 after a successful and distinguished career, having given over forty years of service to the Charlotte school district.

In 1970, Kathleen Crosby was appointed to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Charter Commission. An outspoken voice on desegregation, she was named WBT Radio's Woman of the Year 1976. In 1977, she was appointed to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Mrs. Crosby served as Vice-President of the United Community Service Board and on the Community Relations Committee, the University of North Carolina's Board of Trustees, the Drug Education Board, WBT Radio's Black Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees for Johnson C. Smith University. In 1974, she was awarded the B'nai B'rith Women's Human Relations Award, and in 1975 she was inducted into the NAACP's Hall of Fame. She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Kathleen Crosby was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph C. Crosby, Sr.; her three brothers, Dr. William Albert Ross, Jr., the Reverend Paul Lawrence Ross and Julius Mansel Ross, Sr., and one sister, Evelyn Ross Hartzog.

Left to cherish her memory are her son, Joseph C. Crosby, Jr. (Kristina) of Clayton, GA, and her daughter, Kathy Crosby Wells (Dr. Kenneth Wells) of Houston, TX; five grandchildren (Allison Kathleen, Kenneth Michael, Kaitlyn Marie, Ashley Elizabeth and Samantha Morgan); one sister, Cecile Ross Stevenson (Lemmon) of Pottstown, PA; five sisters-in-law, Maude Ford Ross of South Carolina, Eliza Ross of North Carolina, Yvonne Crosby of New York, Sarah McDuffie of Wisconsin, and Katherine Flora (Herman) of Maryland; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Kathleen Ross Crosby may be sent to Johnson C. Smith University, General Scholarship Fund, 100 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, NC 28216 or First Baptist Church West, 1801 Oaklawn Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28216.