



Carroll Fenton Craft

March 2, 1936 - May 15, 2018

Carroll was born in Lowell, Massachusetts to the late Carroll Freeman and Grace Fenton Craft. He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce Craft. He is survived by his brother, Steven Craft of Maine, and late wife, Stella; daughter, Sarah, son-in-law, Jeff, and granddaughters Adelynn and Mataya Woodard.

Carroll grew up in Lowell, Massachusetts, beginning piano lessons at a young age and learning to play the organ. He became the organist for his church at age 15, while attending Lowell High School.

Carroll worked at Massachusetts General Hospital while attending nursing school and university. He earned his RN and worked as a surgical nurse and operating room supervisor. The war was brewing, so he joined the National Guard while attending Northeastern University in Boston, where he earned a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry.

Upon completion of his degree, he served in the 39th Signal Battalion of the Army and was stationed in Vietnam for one year (1963-1964). He was then stationed in Fort Gordon, Georgia, where he developed a taste for sweet iced tea and a love for the country life. He served as an organist for the Saint Mark Methodist Church in Augusta, Georgia. He earned the rank of Captain.

After his time in the Army was served, he returned to Northeastern University in Boston to earn a master's in accounting. He married Joyce Etta Merrifield and worked as a CPA for an accounting firm for three years. They had a daughter, Sarah Lynn. Carroll missed management and longed for a country lifestyle, so he found employment at Xavier Hospital in Dubuque, Iowa as supervisor over nursing, living in the vast country where his wife would often report "the nearest neighbor isn't for miles!"

Carroll then transferred to St. John's Hospital in Tulsa where he worked as Nursing Supervisor and eventually as the Chief Financial Officer. The family lived in Inola, Oklahoma, living on 10 acres, raising Aberdeen Angus cows, chickens, vegetables, and kept bees.

Carroll's love for learning never stopped, even attending Harvard University Business School's Advanced Management Program for senior executives.

Over the years, he continued serving as organist and choir director at several churches in

Claremore, Pryor and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In 1991, Carroll earned the Archbishop's Certificate in Church Music from the Royal College of Church Music after three years of in-depth research. He was one of 13 musicians in the world, and the only American, awarded the archbishop's certificate that year.

Carroll was instrumental in the installation of a one-of-a kind 1894 mechanical pipe organ built by the Moller Organ Company at All Saints Anglican Church in Tulsa, where he was the organist and choirmaster at the time. He loved playing that organ! He retired from All Saints at age 77 after 62 years of being a church organist.

After retiring from 32 years working at St. John's Health System, Carroll enjoyed studying French, both at university and through a tutor, attending historical organ tours around the world, and traveling. Even as his health declined, he continued to be a voracious reader, attending all the various symphonies, operas, Broadway musicals, and informative lectures. He enjoyed eating Thai food with his family, naps with his dog, listening to NPR, attending his grandchildren's musical events, watching PBS, and keeping up-to-date with current events. He never stopped learning.

Respecting Carroll's wishes, the family will hold a private service, and he will then be buried in Sanford, Maine with his wife, Joyce.

An organ recital will be held in his memory at a to be determined date.

Donations can be made in Carroll's memory to The Organ Historical Society, 330 North Spring Mill Road, Villanova, PA 19085. Correspondence to the family can be sent to Sarah Woodard, 5895 S. Hudson Place, Tulsa, OK 74135.

Moore Funeral Home - Southlawn Chapel 918-663-2233

Comments



“ He was truly a great man to work with. I enjoyed working with him. He was a man with great integrity.
I enjoyed his playing the organ in our SSM Meetings and gatherings. I will truly missed him. He did a great service to St. John Health System and us (SSM Sisters) specially me. My heartfelt sympathy to Sarah and her family. Sister Fely Chavez, SSM

Sr. Fely Chavez, SSM - May 23, 2018 at 07:48 PM



“ I was always mesmerized when Carroll played the organ for our meetings with St. John Health System. One felt they truly were hearing the music of heaven. My thoughts and prayers go out to you, the family, as your loss is as great as Carroll was. Blessings, Sr. Sherri Marie Kuhn, SSM

Sr. Sherri Marie Kuhn - May 22, 2018 at 03:24 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Carroll Fenton Craft.



May 19, 2018 at 01:25 PM



“ So grateful that we got to meet Carroll . He accomplished so much in his lifetime that we are sure he is putting all his talents to use in heaven ... It is not easy to lose a parent but I am sure he is looking down on each one of you.
Love,
Jim and Bobbie

Bobbie Wilkins - May 19, 2018 at 09:45 AM



“ What a very talented man. A great father and husband. A great contribution to society. God speed!

Kelly Hays - May 18, 2018 at 08:24 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. I had a great respect for Mr Craft.

Mary Nelson - May 18, 2018 at 06:43 PM



“ Sorry For Your Loss!
Jesus Loves Me!



Thomas & Libby Widgeon - May 18, 2018 at 07:03 AM