



Mather "Jake" Cravey Sr.

January 17, 1935 - February 2, 2020

Mr. Mather Jake Cravey, Sr., age 85, of Cross City, Florida passed away at his home on Sunday, February 2, 2020. Jake was born in McCray, Georgia on January 17, 1935 to Mather and Velma Cravey. He graduated from Green Cove Springs High School in Green Cove Springs, Florida in 1953. In 1957 he completed training with the Florida Highway Patrol. Jake's first assignment was with Group B, Northern Division of the FHP, stationed in Cross City, FL. There he met and married his wife, Mary Jo Dempsey. He retired from the Highway Patrol in 1982.

In 1980 Jake responded to God's call to the ministry. He enrolled in Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, FL and graduated in May, 1983. His first call was as Pastor of Rock Sink Baptist Church in Old Town, FL. During his years in the ministry, he pastored several churches in the area. From 1997 to 2001 Jake served as Director of Missions for the Lafayette Baptist Association. In 2010, due to health issues, he retired from pastoring.

Jake was preceded in death by his parents (Mather & Velma), and his three children: Mather (Matt) Jake Cravey, Jr. (Maureen), William David Cravey (Donna), Mary Elizabeth Cravey Sheheane, and his first grandson, Michael Cravey.

Jake is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Jo Cravey, and his

grandchildren, L.B. Cravey (Kelsey); Nicholas Cravey (Cally); David Cravey (Lesley); Jake Cravey (Kristina); Sarah Sheheane Parrish (Tyler); David Sheheane (Felicia); daughters in-law, Maureen Cravey and Donna Cravey; great grandchildren, Adelaide, Roslyn, Ava, Tripp, Luke, Lilly, and Chase.

Funeral services will be held at First Baptist Church, Cross City, FL on 2:00 PM Thursday, February 6, 2020, with Bro. Mike Brown officiating. A graveside service will follow at Rock Sink Baptist Church Cemetery, Old Town, FL, with Bro. Al Paulson officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home in Cross City Wednesday evening from 5 – 8 PM.

Arrangements have been placed under the care of Rick Gooding Funeral Home Cross City, Florida 352-498-5400 and Chiefland, Florida 352-493-0050. Please sign the online guest book at rickgoodingfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Rock Sink Baptist Church Cemetery

471 NE 816th Ave
old town, FL 32680

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rick Gooding Funeral Home Cross City
16984 SE Hwy 19
Cross City, FL 32628
(352) 498-5400

Service

FEB 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Cross City
16024 SE Highway 19
Cross City, FL 32628

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Cravey was a kind man. His size was very intimidating to me as a young teenager. But his demeanor was always kind. I believe he lived out his faith in God and Jesus Christ. Until we meet again.*
Debbie Neel

Deborah J Neel - July 20, 2025 at 09:38 AM



“ *Mather "Jake" Cravey Sr.*

October 08, 2023 at 10:03 PM



“ *Mather "Jake" Cravey Sr.*

January 30, 2023 at 01:26 AM



“ *Bro. Jake was a special friend. He was the reason we chose to stay in Florida as we were just passing through when we met him and Mary Jo at Bethel Baptist Church many years ago.*
We didn't know that he had passed away until Thursday afternoon so we missed his funeral which we regret as he and Mary Jo have been special to us for many years. He will be missed by many of us.
Mary Jo our prayers are with you as we feel your loss.
Larry & Laura Peterson

Larry Peterson - February 07, 2020 at 09:55 AM

WT

“ I had the honor to know brother Jake a couple few years, enjoy visiting him and had Bible study, and prayers. he will be missed by many.

Walter Tedder - February 06, 2020 at 05:46 AM

JH

“ To the Cravey Family:
Dixie county has lost another icon to heaven. Brother Cravey was a fine trooper, pastor, mentor, and friend. May our awesome living God bless you all during this time.
With upmost respect.
Jimmie, rachel, charles, maddie and zach hill

Jimmie hill - February 05, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ Jake once told me a story about when he was a trooper and one day he stopped at a local cafe for lunch. At the table side of him was a little girl with a mom or grandmother and the little girl was misbehaving about what to order. He overheard the adult say something to the effect of, “If you don’t behave, I’m going have that officer take you away.” When he finished eating, he paid his bill and walked over to the little girl and said, “I know how you feel, the food here is not that good anyway.”

We’ll miss this man who literally lit up the room when he walked in. He shared His light with others.

God bless you on this next step of the journey, dear beloved cousin.

Eric Cravey

Fairmont, WV 26554

Formerly of Orange Park, Florida

And Milan, Georgia

Eric Cravey - February 04, 2020 at 11:48 AM

CD

“ *Mary Jo I love you and will always remember you both whenever I hear or see "Heaven's Grocery Store". You made such an impact in my life.*

Carla Delaney - February 04, 2020 at 10:14 AM

BP

“ *Jake was a special friend and I will never forget how he and Ron Phillips teased each other and laughed a lot. God bless the family, you are loved.*

Betty Phillips

Betty Phillips - February 04, 2020 at 12:32 AM

FF

“ *First met Jake over 50 years ago when he was a State Trooper in charge of the car inspection stations in North Florida. He, as he should be, by the book and forceful. You had respect for the man and his purpose. Later when I worked in Cross City I would visit with Jake and always had a special place in my heart for him, I can truly say Jake Cravey was a Good Man!*

Frank Bump Faircloth - February 03, 2020 at 08:38 PM

GG

“ *Mr Jake was a fine upstanding man of GOD. I'm praying for his precious wife and family. He will be missed by all.*



Gloria Gilbert - February 03, 2020 at 08:26 PM

DC

“ *Jake Cravey, an honorable man of God. Nothing else need be said.*

David Cravey - February 03, 2020 at 08:14 PM

DJ

“ *Prayers and condolences for his family.*

D Ray Harrison, Jr. - February 03, 2020 at 07:41 PM