



Emma Jean Crocker

October 30, 1917 - July 17, 2021

If ever there was a woman who lived on her own terms, that woman was Emma Jean Crocker. She was short in stature and high in social conscious. Her five-foot frame, dimpled grin and twinkling eyes belied her determination and what was, when the occasion called for it, her sharp tongue.

Emma Jean Williams Crocker, 103, died Saturday at her Thomas County residence. The funeral is at 11 a.m. Monday, July 26th, at Allen & Allen Funeral Home. Visitation is 4-6 p.m. Sunday, July 25th, at Allen & Allen.

Widowed in 1972 after a 33-year marriage to Jack Ivan Crocker, Mrs. Crocker managed the family's farm, was a beloved educator, 30-year volunteer at Archbold Memorial Hospital, 4-H leader, adult literacy teacher, founding member of New Hope Community Center, Sunday school and Baptist Training Union teacher, member of the Young at Heart Choir, and at the time of her death the oldest member of Thomasville First Baptist Church. At the farm, she drove the tractor, managed cash crops, horses, cows, hogs and the 70-acre pecan grove. She stopped driving her car at 98 after breaking her leg and took up driving a golf cart to manage the farm until the day she died. She was pretty much up for anything, whether it was rescuing a goat that had fallen into a well, propagating successful varieties of pecan trees for 50 years, threatening to shoot highway workers damaging her property, or rescuing a neighborhood family from abuse. A member of that family recently told Mrs. Crocker's family that her rescue saved their life.

Wherever she saw a need she took action to correct it, sometimes with tender concern and other times with tough love. She had her five children grow and can their own food and till the land with a plow pulled by a goat or horse to make it a more interesting task. When Mrs. Crocker wanted an addition to the family home, she planted popular hot peppers which her children picked and sold at an astronomical price to pay for its construction.

A former student said of Mrs. Crocker, "You just cannot have a memory of her without smiling. What a powerhouse of wisdom, love mixed with discipline, untold knowledge, and pithy sayings sprinkled with grit, grace, and an extra helping of spunk!"

When the highway at their property was being widened, Department of Transportation workers bulldozed dirt and debris onto her azaleas. Mad as a wet hen, she jumped into

her golf cart loaded with farm tools and her rifle and went flying up to the construction crew. Mrs. Crocker told the crew in no uncertain terms that they had ruined her azaleas and warned them never to set foot on her property again or she would shoot them. Her daughter Judi Corbin was in the golf cart with her and stopped Mrs. Crocker as she reached for her rifle.

Her daughter Eileen Hart, grafted a white camellia in her honor in 1989. The Emma Jean Crocker seedling American Camellia Society #2166 is described as a stubborn little white flower, much like Mrs. Crocker.

Her strength, outlook on life, and support was a mainstay to the family through the deaths of her son Thomas Floyd Crocker, her daughter Martha Eileen Crocker Hart, and sons-in-law Allen Triplett Corbin and David Michael Edwards.

Survivors include her daughter Judith Pauline Crocker Corbin of Thomasville; two sons, Timothy Eugene Crocker (Linda) of Pickens, SC, and William Ivan Crocker (Ginger) of Albany; daughter-in-law Jane Elizabeth Rehberg Crocker of Tifton; son-in-law Robert Samuel Hart II of Odessa, FL; brother-in-law Claude Eugene Crocker (Claudia) of Thomasville; 11 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Georgia Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, Inc., at 9420 Blackshear Hwy, Baxley, GA 31513 or to Christian City at 7345 Red Oak Rd., Union City, GA 30291.

Cemetery

Laurel Hill Cemetery

901 Jackson St

Thomasville, GA, 31792

Events

JUL **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

25

Allen & Allen Funeral Home

110 W. Hansell St., Thomasville, GA, US, 31792

JUL **Funeral** 11:00AM

26

Allen & Allen Funeral Home

110 W. Hansell St., Thomasville, GA, US, 31792

Comments



“ Kerry and I did not have the privilege of meeting your mother and grandmother. We loved her all the same. As Tim & Linda's neighbors in SC, we looked forward to the Crockers returning from Thomasville to hear, "Tales of Mama". Sounds like she was quite a wonderful, lovely and giving person. Not to mention her quick wit and spunk. So sorry to hear of her passing. Our sincere condolences.

Kerry & Cheri Kapalko - August 03 at 04:57 PM



“ I feel blessed to have known Mrs. Crocker. She always had a young spirit and a lot of spunk. She could immediately become a friend and genuinely loved people--loved life. It was so heartwarming to see Judy take loving care of her mom. Their bond was strong and deep. I am thankful I met her and spent some time with her. She was amazing. Although she has gone in body, her imprint has been left in the hearts of many. She passed away with a song in her heart. How loving. I hope the memories and good times help all the family loved ones at this difficult time. Truly a special person.

Vicki - July 23 at 06:21 PM



“ So glad I had the privilege of having this lady influence my life the way she did. The best third-grade teacher Rose City Christian School ever had! We will see you again soon Mrs. Crocker

Glenda Asbelk Christensen - July 21 at 10:45 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Emma Jean Crocker.



July 21 at 09:07 PM



“ I've loved Emma Jean since we met as teachers at Central School in the mid sixties. What a delightful, sharp witted, down to earth, and often hilarious friend she became. I know you will miss her. What an inspiration and positive example she was to her family and to all who knew her.

Mary Lou Vonier - July 21 at 12:01 PM



“ Mrs. Crocker was my teacher in several grades. It was a pleasure to know this lady. She was a very spunky person. You knew when she was serious and when she was not. I have often thought of her over the years. May God Bless the family in this time.

Pamela M. Bloodsworth

Pamela Bloodsworth - July 21 at 10:19 AM



“ If this is the same one that was the past President of the Archbold Hospital Volunteer Auxilliary, then, my friend R.I.P. and GOD Speed to your next destination. I will certainly miss you, my dear! The Hospital Auxilliary will never be the same without you leading it! Thank you for your hard work and dedication to everything you did. Good bye.



Melanie (Bauer) Blow - July 20 at 12:11 AM



“ Patti Crocker & Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Emma Jean Crocker.



Patti Crocker & Family - July 19 at 03:16 PM



“ You are in my thoughts and prayers . Patsy stone

patsy stone - July 19 at 01:41 PM



“ We are so sorry for the loss of your Mom , (Grandmother) Ms Crocker was such a special Lady, She will be missed by many. Prayers go out to all of her family and those that she held a special place in their hearts...

Mike Bass & Lynn Bacon..

Mike Bass - July 18 at 01:29 PM



“ What a wonderful life she lived as a member of the greatest generation. A woman that had many skills, could do anything to perfection, served others as a lifelong volunteer and mentor to our community. I envied her spirit and her will to always be positive with a wonderful laugh and smile. The world is a far better place based on her life's work. I was very fortunate to have been one of her “kids”!

Gone but never forgotten! I am sure she has her car keys back and is driving around doing good things at a higher level. I sure hope they had a tractor and rotary mower ready for her! My thoughts to my friends Judy and Bill and all the extended family.

Monty Lewis - July 17 at 09:38 PM



“ What a remarkable woman. Hugs and love to the Crocker family.

Nancy Reimer - July 17 at 12:43 PM