



*Flower Bearers*  
Family & Friends

*Pall Bearers*

William Ligon  
Charles Jones

Anthony Crooks  
Robert Crooks



# Celebration of Life



Saturday, October 23, 2021

11:00 A.M.

New Hope Baptist Church  
890 Old Stone Church Road  
Clemson, South Carolina 29631

Reverend James Seibles, Officiating

Professional Services Entrusted to:  
Marcus D. Brown Funeral Home, Inc.  
1212 South Main Street  
Anderson, South Carolina 29624  
(864)225-2220  
"An Eternal Flame of Remembrance"

Designed and Printed at  (864) 401-6336

## Order of Service

Rev. James Seibles, Presiding

Prelude.....	Musician.....	Soft Music
Processional.....	Ministers and Family	
Selection.....	Rene Robinson	
Inspiration from Scripture		
Old Testament.....	Rev. Russell Oglesby	
New Testament.....	Rev. James Robinson	
Prayer of Comfort.....	Minister Linda Davis	
Remarks.....	William Ligon Karry Walker	
Selection.....	Rene Robinson	
Eulogy.....	Rev. James Seibles	
Recessional.....	Soft Music	

### Committal/Benediction/Interment

Arlington National Cemetery  
1 Memorial Ave.  
Arlington, Virginia 22211

### Acknowledgement

We, the family of the late Thomas (Tom) Edward Craft, are grateful for the love and support that you have shown to us during his transition from earth to glory. Continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers. May God bless and keep you.

~ The Craft Family ~

## Obituary

### The Beginning of the Craft's Nest:

Thomas (Tom) Edward Craft was the first of two children to Margaret and Thomas Craft Jr. He was born on July 14, 1951 in Clemson, South Carolina. Thomas is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 39 years Vonita; mother Margaret V. Craft; sister Karry Craft Walker; a beloved aunt Genevea Brownlee; sisters-in-law Patricia Speed Gould, Inez Speed and Sheila Harrleson; nephews Justin Walker, Terrance, Anthony, Charles, and Dwayne Prince, Gregory Speed, Elton and Dominic Harrleson. Nieces Yolanda, Sonya and Tonya Speed, Sherece Gibbs and Sherill Harrelson; cousin Cecil Diggs and a host of cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Thomas J. Craft, Jr.

### It's Tom's Life:

Tom had a desire to Live, Love and Laugh. His passion was gardening. It appealed him to obtain an apprenticeship under Denison Landscaping & Nursery. He loved making things grow and new creations. Tom went on to obtain his Master Gardner certification. Anyone who rode past the Craft's family home knew that Tom had a green thumb. He looked forward with anticipation of attending the annual garden, outdoors and flower expo in Philadelphia, PA.

Although, Tom never obtained a degree in culinary, he was an excellent cook and would prefer to eat at home than going out. He was most comfortable when he was home surrounded by loved ones, whether playing a game of pool, listening to jazz or one of his favorite artist, Frankie Beverly w/Maze.

He also had a flare for fashion, always outfitted in the latest including to complete the look with a hat/jewelry/ cuff links and a swag to his walk. Tom was a great conversationalist – ready to discuss and engaged in a hearty of current events, ideas and philosophy. He was a gentleman, chivalry was not dead, it embodied him.

He was soft, loving, considerate, sensitive and nurturing to those he cared deeply for. He constantly showered his wife with cards and other items of affection and devotion, just because. He would hold onto the pass-down possession for sentimental value (he once had a picture frame constructed from old wood pieces from his maternal grandfather's barn to hold his grandfather's picture). Also he had his grandmother's couch re-upholstery that was stuffed with horsehair). Very proud of his heritage and upbringing and he loved riding horses with his cousin Cecil.

Tom attended Blueridge High School, Seneca SC during segregation. He graduated from D.W. Daniel High School in 1969. He attended Anderson College, Anderson, SC after high school then later voluntarily joined the Force in 1971. He attended basic training at Lackland Air Force in San Antonio, TX and was stationed in London, England, Sicily Italy, Andrews Air Force Base, and Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC and the Pentagon. Tom served 20 years of military service and retired in 1991. Throughout his military and federal career, Tom received many citations, accolades, awards, promotion, and honorable mentions for his exceptional work performance. After military retirement, he worked for the Veteran Affairs Administration for 25 years, as a Supervisor Program Analyst and retired in 2016. Always striving to improve and better himself, during his employment, he graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

As a child, Tom joined New Hope Baptist Church, Clemson, SC. He later joined Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Fort Washington, MD, where he accepted the Lord as his Savior. Just as he was passionate about life, he rejoiced in serving God in his daily life.

Tom and Vonita's love life began in the summer of 1976, and their love and friendship sustained them until he took his last breath on Thursday, October 14, 2021.