



Cruz Lancaster

December 7, 2010 - September 4, 2023

Jaxon Bentley-Cruz Lancaster blessed his family with his earth-side arrival on December 7th, 2010, completing the family of his parents Jason Travis and Michelle Sanders Lancaster, and siblings, Hart Lancaster and Dizzy Lancaster.

“Cruz” was a boy of many loves: football; animals; Legos; but his biggest loves of all were his people and his God. Cruz had an infectious joy that could not be contained by any attack of the enemy. To know Cruz meant that you knew unconditional love & wisdom. His classmates looked up to him for his bravery to persevere through not only medical diagnoses, but also through the typical stressors of being a high achieving student. Cruz humbly led his peers by modeling for them what it means to not be defined by a bad test grade nor a “disability.” His sly chuckle and witty humor made gloomy days bright and bright days brighter.

On August 9, 2022, Cruz prayed the salvation prayer to receive Christ Jesus into his heart and soul. Just as Jesus said, “It is finished.” On the cross, the battle for Cruz’s eternity was “finished” and won that day. Hallelujah for the cross! Hallelujah for an eternal home in a restored Eden. While Cruz is celebrating being made whole with Jesus as of September 4th, 2023, his best guy, Cookie the Pug, is residing with his family at 23 Arbolado Way, Greer, SC. While everyone who loves Cruz longs for the awaited Heavenly reunion, Cruz wants each of us to be #CruzStrong, to yell “Go Tigers!” and to remember that “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand

years are like one day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting any soul to perish, but for every soul to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:8-9).”

Also surviving are his maternal grandmother, Elaine Sanders; paternal grandmother, Cindy Lancaster; paternal grandfather, Glenn Lancaster; uncles, Bobby Sanders (Lindsey) and Will Sanders; aunts, Tiffany Moore and Keely Horrell; and several cousins.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 10, 2023, at The Wood Mortuary conducted by Mr. Carl Reid with webcasting available at www.thewoodmortuary.com

Visitation will be held 5:00-7:00 p.m. Saturday, September 9, 2023, at The Wood Mortuary.

Memorials may be made to #CruzStrong at www.gofundme.com

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **9**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

The Wood Mortuary, Inc.
300 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650
(864) 877-3351
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

Service

SEP **10**. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Wood Mortuary Chapel
300 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650
(864) 877-3351
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

Tribute Wall



“ *The Wood Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of Cruz Lancaster*



The Wood Mortuary - September 10, 2023 at 09:03 AM

JA

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ *In our hearts forever!! Go Tigers #7 4-Life*

Jackie - September 10, 2023 at 02:17 PM

KP

Praying for the family in Ringgold, GA

Kathy Poarch - September 10, 2023 at 05:59 PM

CM

Such a strong warrior. He was such an inspiration to so many. He will be in our hearts forever ❤️

Carolyn McGinnis - September 10, 2023 at 07:11 PM

MS

I met Cruz only once. Before her was hospitalized, in a movie theater to watch on of the Marvel movies: Dr. Strange 😊 He walked straight up to me and introduced himself: Hi, I'm Cruz and then gave me a big hug 🤗 I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT MOMENT 💖 I Knew Then, This Is An Amazing Little Man. Then from the time he was hospitalized until the day he went to be with JESUS. I followed his journey. I introduced him to soooo many others that followed his journey. He was Prayed for by individuals and Churches from IN, TN, KY. CRUZ was not only a Warrior for his HLH, He was a Warrior for The Lord. Prayers for Strength, Courage, and Peace. For Michelle, Travis, Dizzy, Hart, and the Rest of the Family. 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Marlene Stevens - September 10, 2023 at 09:02 PM

SB

Beautiful service always in my heart fly high Cruz

Stephanie bonds - September 11, 2023 at 12:10 AM

CB

What a beautiful service. What a blessing it was to have Cruz on this earth to touch so many lives He truly is an angel 😊 Knowing he is healed now and playing in Heaven gives me great joy. Praying for all of Cruz family and friends during this season. Until we meet again. It's not goodbye just see you later 😊💖💗🐱

Cassidy Blanton - September 12, 2023 at 10:18 PM

SS

“ I am so sorry about the great loss of Cruz. He was a truly special person. I immensely enjoyed being his hospital teacher. He was bright, hardworking, inquisitive, and funny! Witnessing his interactions with his family always brought a smile to my face as I observed interactions that exuded immense love and shared joy. We learned so much together (yes I learned from him)! I will always remember learning about the weather balloons together, making and flying paper airplanes together and making a volcano on Sea Crest studios as a team. I looked forward to my time with Cruz and so did the volunteers. My heart aches for your family. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Sarah Steinke

Sarah Marie Steinke - September 30, 2023 at 01:06 AM

MN

“ Sending my condolences to the Lancaster family. I met Cruz when he was two years old and I was a Nurse working with one of his siblings. He was such a joy to be around. Every day when I got ready to leave he would say “bye bye Ms. Maleika I love you”. So long Cruz I love you. See you on the other side.



Maleika Norris - September 24, 2023 at 07:11 PM

HC

“ Cruz was one of my 5th grade students. He was a light to us all! He never let any of his medical issues stand in the way of his positive spirit and drive to learn. He had the best sense of humor, and no matter what he was going through, he was always there to help others and make them happy. I’ll never forget after Cruz’s initial diagnosis of HLH, he was lying in the hospital bed, and he still tried to attend classes. I may have been his teacher, but he taught me more than he’ll ever know! He will forever hold a special place in my heart! His precious smile, laugh, and spirit will never be forgotten! Thanks for making me a better person, Cruz!

Heather Cannon - September 15, 2023 at 07:58 AM

MB

“ Please find the peace lily that we sent to be something that will ease your anxiety as they bloom. My family did this for us when I had to lay down my baby to rest. Know your in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Mechelle Brandon - September 13, 2023 at 11:52 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Cruz Lancaster.



September 13, 2023 at 11:40 AM

PB

“ *Peggy Bodiford lit a candle in memory of Cruz Lancaster*



Peggy Bodiford - September 10, 2023 at 03:14 PM

AS

“ *In memory of Cruz!!! Such a strong angel!
Love the Stephens family!*



amy stephens - September 10, 2023 at 02:06 PM

KP

“ *Sending love and prayers to Michelle and family.*

Love Karmen Poole



Karmen Poole - September 10, 2023 at 02:02 PM

MB

“ *So sorry for your loss! Cruz, weather a strong and carougious 12 year old. Many lives have been touched through his journey. Giving God the glory that he is with his Heavenly Father now. No more pain and illness. You all are in my prayers today and days to come. Love Missy Bodiford*

Melissa Bodiford - September 10, 2023 at 11:45 AM

RM

“ *Rebecca Myers lit a candle in memory of Cruz Lancaster*



Rebecca Myers - September 10, 2023 at 08:45 AM

DK

“ *Darlene Key lit a candle in memory of Cruz Lancaster*



Darlene Key - September 10, 2023 at 08:27 AM

SM

“ *You may not remember me, but I was the EMT who escorted Cruz from Greenville Memorial to Levine Children's Hospital. Cruz was asleep most of the ride, but I will never forget the amazing sendoff he was given at GMH and the staff lining the halls to cheer for him. I got to hear a little of his story on the way to Levine and I have been following on Facebook ever since, cheering him on in my heart. Cruz, you are just one more of my patients I look forward to meeting in heaven! You were such an inspiration to me and you will be missed! I give all my love to the family, especially Mom. Your son was a hero.*



Shannon Elizabeth Makujina - September 09, 2023 at 11:35 PM

CD

“ Carol Duncan lit a candle in memory of Cruz Lancaster



Carol Duncan - September 09, 2023 at 08:53 PM

MC

“ Please know your family is in our prayers.

Meredith Orr Cotton
Andrew's Aunt

Meredith Cotton - September 09, 2023 at 06:55 PM

CH

“ My name Is Charles Hayman Jr . I Had The Pleasure Of Serving Cruz When He Was A Patient At Greenville Memorial . He Was A Bright Kid , Full Of Life & Very Sweet . He Was One Of The STRONGEST Kids I Knew . He Fought So Long & Hard . He LIT My Face Up Everytime I Saw Him & I Was Praying For Him To Beat and Overcome This Sickness . My Heart Is Crushed and Broken . I Send My Prayers and Condolences To His Family 💙 Sleep In Peace Cruz

Charles Hayman - September 09, 2023 at 04:47 PM

SB

“ Stephanie bonds lit a candle in memory of Cruz Lancaster



Stephanie bonds - September 09, 2023 at 03:33 PM

SB

“ *The family has my deepest condolences. I have been following Cruz and his awesome mom; you will be deeply missed lil worrier, deeply missed.*

Stephanie bonds - September 09, 2023 at 03:32 PM

RG

“ *Ricky Guthrie lit a candle in memory of Cruz Lancaster*



Ricky Guthrie - September 09, 2023 at 01:48 PM

AS

“ *Cruz was a very strong and bright brother to me; even though I know many people are heartbroken by Cruz passing but he is definitely in a better place making the sky beautiful everyday !*

Anius Smith - September 09, 2023 at 01:16 PM

MP

“ *Misty Pruitt lit a candle in memory of Cruz Lancaster*



Misty Pruitt - September 09, 2023 at 11:35 AM

CG

“ *Cincinnati Children's Hospitalist Group purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Cruz Lancaster.*



Cincinnati Children's Hospitalist Group - September 08, 2023
at 08:15 PM

TG

“ *The moment Cruz walked into my classroom and I met him, I knew he was going to be a joy to teach. His contagious smile and laugh was the best. He was kind to everyone and we loved him. Even though he had some differences than his classmates, he was accepted just like part our class family. One of my favorite things to hear was his beep to remind him to go the nurse and his friends would all say, "Cruz, it's time." Then, they would go right back to what they were doing. He was also an extremely smart boy. He would gladly help a classmate when they needed it. His hugs were the best! Another favorite memory of Cruz was after he had left my class for higher grades. I would hear him coming down the hall beeping and I would turn and see that bright smile. I would say hey I recognize that beep, then he would smile and come and hug me so tight. It always made my day. He never got too old or too cool to hug me. He was a precious part of my life and I am honored to have been a small part in his journey. I am blessed to have known and loved Cruz.*



Terri Gilbert - September 08, 2023 at 06:47 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Cruz Lancaster.*



September 08, 2023 at 06:34 PM



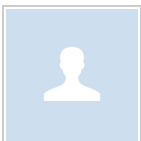
“ *Wow, where do I even start. I have been knowing this amazing family for years. I will miss coming into your room being all loud and hearing your laugh that I can still hear. I'm going to miss me looking at those off brand chips wondering what they were lol. I know you are in a better place, it still hurts. I'm praying for the Lancaster's during this difficult time. I love you guys*

Tasha McDowell - September 08, 2023 at 02:36 PM



“ *Maureen B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cruz Lancaster.*

Maureen B. - September 08, 2023 at 02:11 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Cruz Lancaster.*



September 08, 2023 at 01:53 PM

TA

“ Tom A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cruz Lancaster.

Tom A. - September 08, 2023 at 01:22 PM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of Cruz Lancaster.



September 08, 2023 at 12:30 PM

JM

“ Joshua M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cruz Lancaster.

Joshua M. - September 08, 2023 at 11:08 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Cruz Lancaster.



September 08, 2023 at 09:42 AM

FC

“ From Buford and Salem Austell, GA crew purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Cruz Lancaster.



From Buford and Salem Austell, GA crew - September 08, 2023 at 09:12 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose* was purchased for the family of Cruz Lancaster.



September 08, 2023 at 07:03 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Cruz Lancaster.



September 07, 2023 at 09:16 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of Cruz Lancaster.



September 07, 2023 at 07:26 PM

AS

“ For me to be around this beautiful baby boy Cruz he was so sweet and loving. He was just the cutest. This weighs on my heart but I know he in the good hands of the lord and not hurting anymore. Sending my condolences. I love you guys☐-Aniyah Smith



Aniyah Smith - September 07, 2023 at 04:49 PM

AB

“ Much love to all of you; Cruz was a blessing to our Virtual Program in countless ways. He will be missed by so many but now an angel for ALL! It was a gift to know him. Ms. Brenegan



Amy J Brenegan - September 07, 2023 at 04:25 PM

AY

“ April Y. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cruz Lancaster.

April Y. - September 07, 2023 at 04:05 PM

DC

“ Cruz, I hate I did not have the privilege of meeting you in person this side of eternity. I work alongside your dad and your brother and have heard many stories of your strength, courage, and faith. What an awesome legacy and mark on this planet you have made for the glory of God. My heart goes out to your family with much hurt for them. But I also take great joy in hearing of your faith in Christ, and that now, finally, you get to experience Romans 8:18 in its fullness... 'For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.' Thank you for running your race well, Cruz. You have impacted many lives for the glory of God. May those of us who have been impacted by your story go out and do likewise. -Dan Carroll

Dan Carroll - September 07, 2023 at 12:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Cruz Lancaster.

September 07, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cruz Lancaster.



September 07, 2023 at 11:33 AM

JF

“ Jamie Munro and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cruz Lancaster.

Jamie Munro and Family - September 07, 2023 at 11:20 AM

JF

“ *Jamie Munro and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Cruz Lancaster.*



Jamie Munro and Family - September 07, 2023 at 11:20 AM

RS

“ *You are free and pain free. Running and enjoying your life with no concerns. Love Stretch*



Ron Stretch Stanley - September 07, 2023 at 10:21 AM

AZ

“ *My condolences to the Lancaster Family. I know Cruz through my grandson , Joshua, and the EOE group. We were all blessed with an angel in our midst. My prayer is for courage for the family as they forge ahead with memories of the past year. Lord give them strength.*

Andrea Zarate - September 07, 2023 at 05:12 AM

AS

“ *Our deepest condolences 🙏*

Amanda and Teddy Stephens



Amanda Stephens - September 07, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Cruz Lancaster.*



September 07, 2023 at 03:34 AM



“ *I remember the first time I met Cruz. He was just a newborn baby. Hart and Sarah had just met and you came by the house. He was so sweet and so tiny. How can I forget how much he loved Sarah growing up? He was always so happy to see her when she came over your house and upset when she was leaving. I remember when he learned the song "You are My Sunshine" and sang it allllll the time LOL*

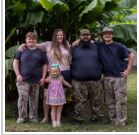
Mary Lukomske - September 06, 2023 at 08:33 PM

TA

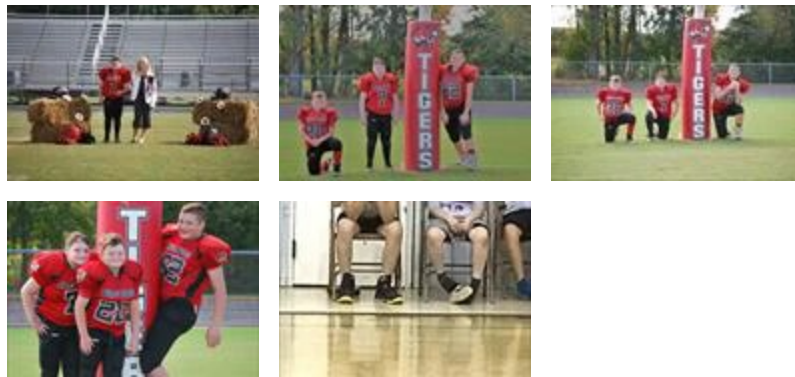
“ Cruz-I first met you last October doing pet therapy with Mollie at Greenville Children's Hospital. It was such an amazing surprise b/c I had no idea I would see you that day.

When I first met you, I felt this connection to you, which seemed odd to me at the time. Other than knowing you and your Mom had recently joined the pug meetup at that time, I had no knowledge of you or any reason to have any type of connection. It didn't dawn on me until recently why. When I was 16, one of my best friends in high school Brad Crews, was in remission from cancer and his parents got him a black pug named Waldo. I fell in love with Waldo and that's what started my love of pugs. Sadly, Brad lost his battle, and at 16 I lost one of my best friends. So the other day, looking at pictures of Cookie reminded me so much of Waldo. And then realizing Brad's last name Crews and your name Cruz. And what an amazing person Brad was, just like you. Both angels that impacted my life. Thank you Cruz!

Taryn - September 06, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ It is hard to find words to say in a moment like this. Cruz was the sweetest and best little boy to have around. He was so kind-hearted and funny. These boys love being on the field and on the court. As you can see in the one picture the disappointment of being on the sideline. Watching Cruz play was so much fun. He has all the passion in the world for what he loves. My boys loved spending time with Cruz. I loved having Cruz over. He was a true joy. I was very hopeful Cruz would be coming home to make more memories but we are going to cherish the memories we received with him. I am grateful that his parents shared him with us.



Candace Epps - September 06, 2023 at 07:18 PM

RS

“ I had the pleasure of teaching Cruz’s Homebound lessons for 2 years, on the days when he had to go to doctors appointments. He would always have such a positive attitude, and his smile lit up the room! He truly is a special boy, whose strength was seen by many at Skyland Elementary. Love you buddy❤️

Rachel Stripling - September 06, 2023 at 07:12 PM

CG

“ *The Glitzygirl Family
Love's you Cruz*



Chrystal Waller Gonzales - September 06, 2023 at 06:23 PM

CG

“ *Cruz you're a True Warrior, one of the strongest person I ever known, even tho we have never met you're truly one of my own, and a hero for more people than you know and SO GREATLY LOVED, You will be greatly missed but baby you're the lucky one, you're face to face in the arms of our LORD GOD ALMIGHTY. FLY HIGH WARRIOR CRUZ*



Chrystal Waller Gonzales - September 06, 2023 at 06:21 PM