



George Robert "Bob" Crain

August 6, 1942 - June 6, 2015

Bob Crain passed away peacefully at his home on June 6, 2015. Born in Greer, SC, on August 6, 1942, Bob was the only child of Mamie Sara Gay Crain and the late George Andrew Crain. He graduated from Greer High School in 1960. He earned a BA from USC in 1965. An avid Gamecock football fan, Bob had the same seats at William Brice Stadium for 40 years. He received his MEd from Clemson in 1971.

Bob began his teaching career in Pickens County and later taught briefly at Greer High School. He was selected in 1973 to be a history and French teacher at a new school in Greenville County, Riverside High. He was a valued member of the energetic, dedicated, and creative faculty who selected the school's mascot and alma mater. Bob thrived and grew as a young professional. His love for history and his dedication to students and teaching cemented his emerging reputation as a legend. As an AP US History teacher, he challenged and inspired students to study diligently. Students feared his class, but they loved the teacher. He loved all his classes and encouraged and motivated his students to develop a love for history, good study skills, and confidence in themselves as emerging adults. During his recent illness, he enjoyed reading the loving and appreciative comments former students wrote on his Facebook page. He was a gifted teacher who touched many lives and had a positive impact on so many young people.

Teachers remember Bob as a gracious and friendly Southern gentleman who never left school on a Friday without wishing everyone he saw a "Happy

Weekend". Teachers selected him RHS Teacher of the Year in 1981, and he remained the Social Studies Department Chair for several decades until his retirement in 2004. RHS established the Bob Crain Award for Excellence in Social Studies which NHS will now fund annually as a scholarship award. Before his recent illness, Bob was a beloved substitute teacher at RHS and Bond's Career Center.

Bob's love and concern for people also radiated in his relationships with many friends. He was a consummate host at many joyful parties at his beautifully appointed home, especially during the holidays when he meticulously decorated Christmas trees in every room. His compassion and loyalty to friends was always present in his visits to hospitals to cheer them, in his phone calls to encourage them, and in his attendance at their family members' funerals to comfort them. They, in turn, have been an enormous comfort to Bob in his final days. Bob left this world knowing how very loved he was with his beloved and devoted godson Sean Mcleod at his side. Sean has been a most capable caregiver since Bob returned home from the hospital and is most appreciative of the assistance Open Arms Hospice has provided. Bob is survived by his mother, Sara Crain; his godson ,Sean Mcleod; his cousins, Ann Gay; Jean Gay Hodgens (Neil);Jimmy Gay (Mary);Buck Gay (Loretta);Debbie Crain Turnage (Alfred);Richard Crain (Joan) and their families.

Bob was a faithful communicant at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church where he served as lector, usher and greeter. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated there on Saturday, June 13, at 2 p.m. A reception will follow in the parish hall. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1002 S. Main St., Greenville, SC 29601 or to Greenville Animal Care, 328 Furman Hall Rd., Greenville, SC 29609. Online condolences may be sent to www.thewoodmortuary.com

Previous Events

Service

JUN 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
1002 S. Main St.
Greenville, SC 29601

Tribute Wall

BD

“ I only knew Bob for a very brief time. He kindly offered me a place to stay when I came to town to conduct a teacher seminar (I work for the Anne Frank House). You could see he put much love into his home. In that short time I was so impressed by his kindness, sincerity and eloquence. We talked about his love for Delft Blue (I live near Delft) and his love of the world. We need more people like Bob.

Barry van Driel

Anne Frank House

Barry van Driel - June 14, 2015 at 02:09 PM

OS

“ Bob was a great man! Hey treated everyone the same no matter if you swept the floors that Riverside or if you was one of the teachers he opened his home to everyone I will never forget the Christmas parties that I was invited to at his house. RIP my dear friend Rest in peace

olivia (register) spires - June 14, 2015 at 11:43 AM



Marissa Hudson

“ I had Mr. Crain for AP US History. He was one of a kind and true gift to all of us who had he privilege to sit in his classroom. My thoughts and prayers are with all his friends and family.

Marissa Hudson

Riverside Class of 1995

Marissa Hudson - June 12, 2015 at 12:11 AM

BV

“ The class of 1960 has lost a dear friend and classmate. I was looking forward to seeing Bob at our upcoming reunion. I was able to talk with him when he was in the hospital, and would have loved to come and see him. He knew I was having radiation and was more concerned about me than he was about his own illness. I remember the last time we saw each other. It was at our last reunion. He hugged me so tightly and told me, as he always did, that he loved me. I loved him as well. I remember so well the dramas we were in at Greer High, and the friendship we shared. I knew he was a great teacher, because Bob threw himself into everything he did. And his biggest trait was he loved people. The picture captured that wonderful smile that he exhibited all through his life. I believe that everyone who ever met Bob will miss him greatly. Goodbye dear friend, we shall see you again when we pass from this life.
Friends forever,
Billy Vaughn

Billy E. Vaughn - June 11, 2015 at 06:46 PM

JA

“ Bob was a truly great friend, We at St. Andrews will miss him greatly! may he rest in piece and rise in glory!
Joseph and Connie Austin

Joseph 7 Connie Austin - June 10, 2015 at 08:19 PM

HC

“ I met Bob Crain at USC in 1964 and we were members of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He was smooth as silk and a wonderful person. God bless Bob Crain and all his friends and family.

All the very best and AEKDB,
Herbie Cuthbertson

Herbert Wilson Cuthbertson - June 10, 2015 at 06:01 PM

FC

“ sorry to hear about bob. he was a kappa sigma fraternity of mine at usc.rip. flip cuthbertson

flip cuthbertson - June 10, 2015 at 04:15 PM

E2

“ Mr Crain was one of my favorite teachers. Truly, his class was an influence on me, as I later majored in history in college.

Eric, 2000 - June 10, 2015 at 03:13 PM

JA

“ Sorry for your loss. Mr crain was the most amaizing and coolest substitute everyone wanted him to be their teacher he was a kind and sweet hearted man . He is gone but never forgotten .may his soul rest in peace

Janet - June 10, 2015 at 02:29 PM

RS

“ Sorry to hear about loss Bob. Very good teacher and also real nice person. Was a teacher of mine in 1969 @ PHS. My thoughts and prayers will be with the family.

renee cassell stewart - June 10, 2015 at 11:27 AM

DD

“ As they say, *It's not what you take with you but what you leave behind that tells your life story. Well Bob Crain left a wealth of knowledge to many people. I had him for French in 67-68 at pickens high school. His class was always entertaining and a lot of fun. I did not like French but I sure liked his class because he just had a way of teaching that few teachers have. He gave his all in every class and made it interesting. I saw him at our 2 last class reunions and even though his looks had changed his since of humor and his outlook on life had not. RIP Mr. Crain. You may be gone but you are not forgotten. Thank you for a job well done. Dale Davis PHS class of 69.*

Dale Davis - June 10, 2015 at 10:18 AM

KH

“ *As with many of my classes at RHS, I didn't realize until well after graduation what a great staff of teachers I had. Mr. Crain was an intelligent, funny and very engaging gentleman. I had the opportunity to speak to him at Mike Farmer's service and commented how he and Mike were both examples of the excellent teachers available to us during my years at Riverside. I had no idea he was ill. I'm glad for the opportunity to have spoken to him that day. I know his family will miss him and at any future reunion, I know I will miss him, too.*

Kenneth Harper - June 10, 2015 at 07:38 AM

DM

“ *He made US History come alive and he drive home the importance it played in our lives. His sarcasm and wit made it even better. The last time I saw him is when we sat together at Mrs. Griggs funeral a few years back. I can't believe how many role models from my years at Riverside have passed. May they all rest in peace.*

Dawn Bolick McEwen - June 10, 2015 at 12:46 AM

ER

“ Some teachers lessons stay with you beyond the classroom. Mr. Crain was one of those teachers. He made history come alive with his passion for it. RIP Mr. Crain.

Emily Davidson Rhodes - June 09, 2015 at 09:19 PM

KB

“ May you slowly rock along.

Kaci Copeland 1988

kaci berry - June 09, 2015 at 08:22 PM

BO

“ Sadly, I did not know that Mr. Crain was ill, and ironically the night before I learned of his passing, I was watching a history documentary and commented to my husband that my AP US History teacher was one of the best teachers I've ever had-- including those that I had in my doctoral programs. I loved how he would sit back in his office chair, cross his legs, and talk about history throughout his entire lecture as if he was actually there. It was like hearing a story and not just a lecture. He practiced the **art** of lecture. His passion was contagious to his students, and he truly cared about us and our performance/grasp of the content. I loved how he even came to our wedding showers as we got older! What gift he has been to my life. My sympathy and prayers go out to his loved ones as you grieve this loss-- far too soon.

Bonnie - June 09, 2015 at 07:11 PM

TS

“ *Mr. Crain was such an amazing teacher! He prepared me for the real world and taught me so much. His legacy will live on through the many lives he touched. Prayers and sympathy to all his family. He will be greatly missed.*

*Tara Walters Somers
Riverside Class of 1995.*

Tara Walters Somers - June 09, 2015 at 06:09 PM

FG

“ *A great friend and a wonderful person. Will be missed by many.*

Francis and Lea Grant

Francis Grant - June 09, 2015 at 04:15 PM

MZ

“ *I was inspired by Mr. Crain to be the person I am today. I was blessed to have the opportunity to meet with him last week. Prayers continue to go up for the family. Melinda (RHS 1996)*

Melinda Zietz - June 09, 2015 at 04:08 PM

PG

“ *My wife and I will miss Bob greatly for many, many reasons. Bob gave me encouragement and support over the years! He helped me be a better person and teacher! It wasn't Christmas until we had been to Bob's house and seen his Trees in EVERY ROOM. Life will be different without him, and Christmas will never be the same! Our love and condolences to Sean and the rest of Bob's family. Pat Grills*

Pat Grills - June 09, 2015 at 03:51 PM



“ I had Mr. Crain for history. He was definitely unforgettable and loved what he did. Today, I am a teacher. Thanks Mr. Crain for all your incredible years of service. You will be missed..... Chrissy (Cody) Respass - class of 1996.

Chrissy Respass - June 09, 2015 at 01:30 PM

SL

“ I was a substitute teacher at Riverside and Bob was a class act teacher. His students loved him and he cared deeply for them. Our oldest son had him and learned a lot from his classes. He will be missed.

Susan Linn - June 09, 2015 at 01:01 PM

LF

“ He was my favorite teacher at Riverside! Sorry to hear he is gone. My thoughts are with his friends and family. Mr Crain, I still remember who won the French-Indian war. Thank you for making me love History 😊

Lynn Savaria Freeman - June 09, 2015 at 12:23 PM

CM

“ RIP Mr. Crain. Thank you for being my American History teacher in 1988-89, your support of Riverside's Academic Bowl team, and your help in making my adjustment from Knoxville to Greer much easier my junior year of 1988-89. Chris Miller - Riverside 1990.

Chris Miller - June 09, 2015 at 12:01 PM

ME

“ *Mary Anne Ennis lit a candle in memory of George Robert "Bob" Crain*



Mary Anne Ennis - June 09, 2015 at 09:20 AM

TH

“ *Rest in peace Bob. You will be missed. Even after graduation, it seems like I ran into you over every Christmas holiday at Belks in Greer and we would catch-up. It was always fun reminiscing about the "good ole days". The Johnson kids (Keith, Julia, Craig, and myself) have fond memories of you and Riverside!*



Teresa Johnson Hendrix - Class of 80.

Teresa Hendrix - June 09, 2015 at 08:22 AM



“ *I never had Mr. Crain for a teacher, but did have many a quip in the hallway. He was hilarious and a huge presence at RHS. - Vicki (Simms) Rhodes, Class of '99*

v - June 09, 2015 at 07:57 AM

 Stacey McMinn

“ *Mr. Crain was the first and only teacher who never made you feel like a 'kid'. He talked to us like adults, made jokes with us like adults and didn't coddle us or treat anyone like they weren't completely capable of doing what he asked. He was tough but fair. A truly great man. Prayers to his family. Stacey Grier McMinn, Class of '87*

Stacey McMinn - June 09, 2015 at 06:41 AM

KV

“ Katherine Vaughn lit a candle in memory of George Robert "Bob" Crain



Katherine Vaughn - June 09, 2015 at 12:01 AM

CH

“ Rest in peace, Mr. Crain. You were an inspiration to all students in your class. For eternity, you will always remain my favorite teacher.

Cindy Henderson - June 08, 2015 at 11:48 PM

DT

“ I remember having to share with Mr. Crain my honest opinion of not enjoying learning about History. He never batted an eye and with a smile, replied "as long as you show effort and do the best you can"....I had so much respect for him because he gave me the freedom to express my feelings without persecuting me for it!!! I did enjoy listening to him speak. -----Dawn Thomas



Dawn Thomas - June 08, 2015 at 10:03 PM

PJ

“ Peg Johnson lit a candle in memory of George Robert "Bob" Crain



Peg Johnson - June 08, 2015 at 08:59 PM

LF

“ We will miss you Mr. Crain. So many find memories of you from Riverside. God Speed....
Louise and Joe Fleming

Louise Fleming - June 08, 2015 at 08:45 PM

DM

“ Bob was a great help to me as I started my career at RHS. I also remember our Clemson vs USC "battles" an as was stated in the obituary, his "Have a happy weekend"..Thanks for being a great colleague and friend.

Don Moore - June 08, 2015 at 08:14 PM

MC

“ I remember living next door to George, Sara and Bob Crain on Hilton Street Greer many, many years ago. No greater family could be found. My sympathy to all.
Mae Beth Morgan Cox, Greenville.



Mae Beth Cox - June 07, 2015 at 03:36 PM

 Wendy
Levi

“ A great teacher and mentor. RHS has lost another beacon of light that it shown to the world to prepare and send us out into the world. He made AP US HI story fun, and was a fun tour guide in Europe. Many fun and fond memories. Wendy Phillips Levi '87

Wendy Levi - June 07, 2015 at 11:17 AM

BR

“ *Beth Roberts lit a candle in memory of George Robert "Bob" Crain*



beth roberts - June 07, 2015 at 09:49 AM

BJ

“ *Our earthly loss is heaven's gain. RIP George Robert Crain!*



Bryan Scott Johnson - June 07, 2015 at 02:14 AM



Loved Mr Crain, he taught me Gov. at Pickens High

Doug Holcombe - June 08, 2015 at 08:55 PM

WM

RIP Mr Crain. You will be missed. Wendy Mitchell, RHS 1979.

Wendy Mitchell - June 09, 2015 at 10:19 AM

LM

Bob was always a kind, caring friend to everyone. He made me feel so welcome and connected at RHS as a colleague. Our two sons had him for history at RHS and enjoyed his class. Also, it was so fun when he opened his beautifully decorated home at Christmas to his fellow teachers and friends. He will be missed.

Luis and Dianne Moreno - June 09, 2015 at 12:51 PM

LM

Bob was a kind, caring friend to everyone. He made me feel welcome and connected as a colleague at RHS. He taught our two sons history at RHS, and they enjoyed his class. Also, he opened his beautifully decorated home at Christmas for fellowship with his fellow teachers and friends. He will be missed.

Luis & Dianne Moreno - June 09, 2015 at 01:03 PM

LW

Had Bob Crain as a teacher when he started his career at Pickens High School. He was a wonderful teacher whose energy and vibrant personality was contagious! Loved his yearly extra credit question "What was the score of the USC-Clemson game?"
Linda Wortman - Class of 1968 PHS

Linda Wortman - June 09, 2015 at 07:25 PM

CF

Deepest Sympathy! Mr. Crain was Outstanding teacher and mentor. He made transfer students feel especially welcome at RHS as we transitioned to fit in to our new HS. He loved USC and his passion for USC was instrumental in checking the school out! Class of 1981 RHS, 1985 Alumni of USC.

Chris Folkman

Chris Folkman - June 11, 2015 at 03:22 PM

AC

Bob was a stalwart supporter of our small choir at St. Andrew's, which was very much appreciated by those of us who are not blessed with gifted voices, but have lots of dedication to the cause! He is my idea of the ultimate Southern gentle man. We were so blessed to have him amongst us at St. Andrew's. So wish I had known he was bilingual, que la paix soit avec lui!

Anne Marie Currier - June 11, 2015 at 08:35 PM

SS

Mr. Crain and his AP US History class was one of my favorite experiences at Riverside High. His influence was clearly not limited to the classroom. I appreciated his wit, his charm, his ability to tell a great story, and his love of the Gamecocks! My son attends RHS now, and I am ever so grateful he had the chance to meet Mr. Crain as a substitute in his Honors World History class this year. Mr. Crain will never be forgotten. Rest in peace.

Susan Polo Sheeks - June 13, 2015 at 07:20 AM