



Martha Crawford

July 24, 1916 - May 22, 2011

Martha Evelyn Crawford passed away peacefully at the age of 94 on May 22, 2011. Martha “Marty” was a firecracker who lived her life with vigor, determination and joy. She had great creativity and celebrated the beauty of nature and people through painting and teaching, two of her great passions and talents. Marty was a “go-getter” who possessed a “can-do” attitude and unmatched inner drive.

Martha was born to Worthy Fleener and Maude Ethel (Steele) Todd in a log cabin in New Ross, Indiana, on July 24 1916. The third youngest of six siblings, she graduated from Fair Oaks High School and derived much of her remarkable energy, strength and zest for life from the lessons she learned growing up on a farm. She started painting at age 7 with water colors. Martha’s teachers recognized her talent and encouraged her to continue developing her artistic skills. Martha was awarded two college scholarships, graduated from what is now Indiana State Teacher’s College with a major in education, and taught elementary school in Indiana for many years.

She married Jennings A. Crawford in 1939 and they moved to Chicago to raise their two children, Peggy Sue and David, who went on pursue medical and veterinary degrees, respectively. Jennings preceded Martha in death in 1980, after which she continued to reside in Illinois but traveled frequently to San Francisco where her children had relocated. She made hand-sewn

Halloween costumes every year for her grandchildren, cooked elaborate Thanksgiving dinners, and baked dozens of her famous chocolate chip cookies. She eventually moved to San Francisco in 2003 to be closer to her family.

Martha's artistic work, which extended beyond water colors to include oil painting, china painting, sculpture, needlepoint, macramé and designing and making jewelry and clothing, resulted in many awards and continued without pause until her death. She loved painting landscapes in particular, and she loved Halloween, Thanksgiving, the 4th of July and almost everything American. Her award-winning Halloween outfits for the last four years were the Statue of Liberty, Abraham Lincoln, Uncle Sam and Betsy Ross.

Martha is survived by her loving children, Peggy Sue Crawford and David Jennings Crawford, her son-in-law, Bruce F. Scharschmidt, her two grandchildren, Tiffany C. Scharschmidt and Brent C. Scharschmidt, a large and loving family in and around Rensselaer, Indiana and a San Francisco Bay Area fan club with members too numerous to mention.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 28. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Martha Crawford



Jackson Funeral Chapels - May 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so sorry for the loss of your Mother and Grandmother.##imported-begin##Randy and Sue Doyle##imported-end##

June 04, 2011 at 05:34 PM



“ daughter of diana lou guedesse marthas niece from florida##imported-begin##laura diana luckey##imported-end##

May 31, 2011 at 10:27 PM



“ Dear Family,
Our daughter Jessie told us of the wonderful artist and lovely person Martha was. Jessie said she always took the art classes at CEYA and was such a joy. Please know you and your family are in our thought and prayers.
Sincerely, Bill and Louise McCracken##imported-begin##Bill and Louise McCracken##imported-end##

May 27, 2011 at 08:03 PM



“ I am deeply saddened by the loss of such a beautiful person. Mrs. Crawford has taught me so many unforgettable life lessons throughout the years...always encouraging me to become the best person that I could be. She was honestly and truly the grandmother that I never had and will always have a very special place in my heart.##imported-begin##David Hartman##imported-end##

May 27, 2011 at 01:01 AM



“ I have many wonderful memories of Martha and our CEYA arts program. Most notably the special events where Martha often cut the ribbon thus officially opening the gallery. She always greeted me with a smile, a story, and something to show me. Martha will be missed.##imported-begin##Jessica McCracken##imported-end##

May 26, 2011 at 03:35 PM



“ She was a wonderful lady and will be greatly missed by her family and friends##imported-begin##Roger, Mary, Nick and Samantha Clark##imported-end##

May 26, 2011 at 09:14 AM



“ Rest in peace, Martha! We love you!##imported-begin##Jeff
Chapline##imported-end##

May 25, 2011 at 05:36 PM