

Acknowledgement

The family of Ira Cross Jr. would like to thank everyone who sent food, drinks, cards, calls, condolences, and prayers. The support and help offered to the family will never be forgotten. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and sympathy during this time.

I Am Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.*

*If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free*

Afterglow

*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.*

To offer condolences to The Cross Family,
visit www.TheChapelofPeace.com



IN LOVING MEMORY OF



MARCH 25, 1942 ~ MARCH 7, 2022

~Service~

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 ~ 11:00 AM

MARLAN J. GARY FUNERAL HOME

Chapel of Peace North

2500 Cleveland Avenue
Columbus, Ohio

Obituary

Ira Cross Jr. was born on March 25, 1942 in Greenville, Alabama to the late Ira and Ethlene Cross, and was the oldest of four children. In 1961, Ira moved to Columbus, Ohio. He transitioned peacefully on Monday, March 7, 2022 at the Ohio State University at the tender age of 79.

Ira, affectionately known for many names including "Slim", "Ivy", "Dude", "Jr", and, of course, "Paw Paw", retired from Delille Oxygen after forty years of service. Ira had a passion for bowling, fishing, and hunting. In his spare time, he loved to sit on his porch and wave to everyone, play board games with his grandchildren, cut grass, grill, cook, play his numbers, listen to gospel, and deliver bounce houses with his son. He was often known for his favorite sayings of "Gots to be more careful" and "I'm telling you the truth".

When not watching his favorite television shows, he would watch his favorite sports teams: the Cincinnati Bengals, Cincinnati Reds, and Ohio State. Most of all, Ira cherished his family.

Ira is preceded in death by his parents, Ira and Ethlene Cross and brothers, Gene and Wylie Cross Sr.

Ira leaves a legacy and precious memories to be cherished by his wife, Celestine Cross of 33 years; children, Ira Freeman (Miranda), Leah Lomax, Wanda (Ronald) Hilliard, Christine (Jerome) Woods, and Joshua Chafin; brother, David (Kim) Cross; sisters-in-law, Irma Cross and Sharon Cross; grandchildren, Taylor Lomax, Dejah Freeman, Ira Freeman, and Isaiah Freeman; goddaughter, Regina Jackson; caregivers, Schneada Chavis (niece), Paula Massey, and Jackie Gwynn; special friends, Debbie Twosome and Steve Hairston; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Ira will be truly missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing and loving him.

May I Go Now?

*May I go now?
Do you think the time is right?
May I say goodbye to pain filled days
and endless lonely nights?
I've lived my life and done my best,
an example tried to be.
So can I take that step beyond
and set my spirit free?*

*I didn't want to go at first,
I fought with all my might.
But something seems to draw me now
to a warm and loving light.
I want to go, I really do.
It's difficult to stay.
But I will try as best I can
to live just one more day.*

*To give you time to care for me
and share your love and fears.
I know you're sad and afraid,
because I see your tears.
I'll not be far,
I promise that, and hope you'll always know
that my spirit will be close to you
wherever you may go.*

*Thank you so for loving me.
You know I love you too,
that's why it's hard to say goodbye
and end this life with you.
So hold me now just one more time
and let me hear you say,
because you care so much for me,
you'll let me go today.*

Order of Celebration

ORGAN PRELUDE.....	Music Ministry
PARTING VIEW	Immediate Family
SCRIPTURE READING.....	Dr. Elon Meeks
Old Testament	
New Testament	
PRAYER.....	Dr. Elon Meeks
SELECTION.....	Emanuel Calloway
POEM.....	Taylor & Dejah
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/CONDOLENCES	Kristina Booker
REMARKS	Family & Friends (2 minutes please)
OBITUARY	Silently Read
SELECTION.....	Emanuel Calloway

The Eulogy

Dr. Elon Meeks
Senior Pastor, Pilgrim Baptist Church

BENEDICTION.....	Clergy
RECESSIONAL.....	"I'll Fly Away" Emanuel Calloway

Repast

6561 E. LIVINGSTON AVENUE
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068



*I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in me
though he were dead yet shall he live.
And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*
~John 11:25-26

*As transparent as your pain was
And the many nights spent in an unfamiliar, chilling bed
I thought my prayers would revive you
I thought that if I prayed to God
That He would take half my youthful strength
And transfer it into your wailing body
That maybe you would live to see your birthday
Or God willing, your children's weddings
I felt everything you felt without feeling a thing
Your accent and stubborn ways will haunt me through the night
And walking into your house will no longer feel the same
How can I walk into your house when the home itself is gone
You always liked your house hot, like me
And although it will still remain hot, in it I will forever be cold
I will cherish our memories together until the day we meet again,
and even after that
And your spirit will forever shine through me
Funny how you lived 79 years, yet it wasn't long enough for me
Twenty years with you just wasn't enough
And although I'm grateful for the years well spent
My tears won't stop, my throat will burn
and my heart will re-shatter again and again
Visit me in a dream and let me know you're doing okay
Go bowling with your late siblings or fishing with your friends
And when you do, I expect nothing but strikes
And although I will cry until my tears wash me whole
I am thankful that you're no longer in pain
I'm not sure how I will continue without my twin being around
Because that thick Southern accent is something you just can't forget
How can I view the world the same
When I go to buy Christmas gifts
How can I accept the fact that the ones labeled 'Pawpaw' won't get opened
Or that when I see a Bengals shirt
The touch of it won't bring you back to me
How can I accept the fact you being gone is real
When I'm used to you being right around the corner from me*

Love, Your Twin, Dej

