



## Thomas "Tom" B. Crump

July 8, 2014

Thomas "Tom" B. Crump, Sergeant Major, USMC Pearl Harbor Survivor On 8 July 2014, Sgt Major Thomas B. Crump took leave from this life to fulfill the ranks of Heaven's Marine Corps Detachment, leaving the world with one less true American Hero. Sgt Major Crump passed away peacefully at Oaklawn Nursing and Rehab Center surrounded by the ones who loved him most, Veterans. Thomas B. Crump was born on February 25, 1921 to James and Carrie Lee (Meek) Crump. He was the 9th of 10 children. He has now joined both parents and 9 siblings. Tom leaves behind a devoted wife of 32 years, Ida Amy (DeAngelo) Crump, his granddaughter Kara Fautz; He also leaves behind many friends. On August 9, 1940 Tom made one of the most important decisions of his life, to join The United States Marine Corps. In 1940 at the age of 19, Tom became Private Crump. After completing basic training at MCRD San Diego he was assigned to the USS Saratoga then transferred to Marine Barracks Navy Yard, Oahu, Pearl Harbor where he was assigned to Navy Yard Police, Naval Intelligence. Tom was standing guard on the dock next to the USS Pennsylvania directly across from "Battleship Row" on the "Day of Infamy," December 7th, 1941 when the Japanese attacked U.S. military forces at Pearl Harbor. The USS Pennsylvania was the flagship of the Pacific Fleet and frequently used by high ranking flag officers and the President. In 1942 he participated in the Guadalcanal campaign. He went on to fight in the Battles of Bougainville, Peleleu and Okinawa. In 1945 he was transferred to Norfolk, VA then to Washington D.C. where he was assigned to

the security of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz's quarters. In 1947 he was transferred to Kodiak, AK then Adak, AK. His follow-on assignments took him to Parris, Island, SC in 1948; Camp Pendleton, CA in 1952 and Korea in 1953 where he saw combat again. Tom was promoted to the highest enlisted rank of Sergeant Major in 1960. During the next 15 months of overseas duty he would cover over 16,000 miles aboard 5 different ships. In 1964 "The Corps" would send the Sgt Major to the place he would call home for the rest of his life, Louisville, Kentucky to serve as a recruiter. Even after retirement, "The Corps" would not be through with him. In 1967 he was fortunate enough to open the first JROTC program in the United States of America at Seneca High School. It has been the longest running JROTC program in the nation. This was one of his greatest challenges and most rewarding experience. In 1970, after 30 years, Sgt Major Crump retired from The United States Marine Corps, earning what few Marines had ever seen, a 30 year gold pin. The next 36 years saw Tom dedicate his talents to the real estate sales industry. Tom carried the same devotion that he had for the Marines over to many military and civic organizations. He was Life Member of the Marine Corps League (Kentuckiana Detachment #729) where he devoted many years to community service regarding Veterans and was very involved with the TOYS FOR TOTS program. He was a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Shrine, commonly known as Shriners. He was also a member of the Free Masons since 1951, earning his 60 year pin in 2011. His devotion to community service was undaunting. One of his greatest passions was service to young people and they adored the Sgt Major in return. He was a beloved friend of the Boy Scouts of America and many other civic organizations. He left his mark on many communities in Kentucky and his home state of Mississippi as a motivational speaker in schools and churches. Tom enjoyed spending his time at the VFW Post, which was known as his second home where he was a great friend to all. He left his footprints firmly across many communities, the country and THE United States Marine Corps. Sgt Major, you are wished a speedy

return to your Heavenly Father and you will truly be missed. God Bless You. His service will be 10am Saturday at Owen Funeral Home – Jeffersontown, 9318 Taylorsville Road, with burial in Calvary Cemetery. Visitation will be 11am-8pm Friday at the funeral home. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Kosair Charities. Condolences may be shared via the online guestbook at [www.owenfuneralhome.com](http://www.owenfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Thank you for your service. R.I.P.

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**Brian Sperry** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

GG

“ God bless this hero and his family..

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**George Gilkenson** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

TC

“ Being a retired DOD employee as well as a military supporter, this obit brought tears to my eyes. I am so proud of our military men, all ages. I thank them for their service and support. Prayers and kind thoughts go out to Mr. Crumps family. We appreciate his service and all he did for our country. God Bless him.

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**Terri C.** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

AN

“ My deepest sympathies to Sgt. Major Crump's family and friends. I am very grateful for his great service to our country. He died a hero, a man of honor.

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**Anita** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

MK

“ Dear Crump Family,

*I believe that all those who live under the flag of freedom of the United States should not only pay, but out of their own free will, provide honor to those who have fallen that have served in our armed forces. I do not know a single family member of the Crump family. However, I enjoy and am blessed with the freedom that Sgt. Major Crump provided to each and every one of us.*

*I never served in the military, but my appreciation for the service provided shouldn't be appreciated. Thank you Sgt. Major Crump for protecting me and our country.*

*Mark*

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**Mark Kohler** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

RA

“ *Unfortunately I never had the opportunity to meet you, however, my husband serves here in Canada and I saw your Obituary on facebook. Thank you for being that type of man to serve and put others before yourself. We are forever grateful for your service. Peace to all of your family and friends and brothers in arms. RIP*

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**Robyn Van Alstine** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

BH

“ *RIP Marine, May the heavenly gates be your solace. We have it from here our Brother now onto sit at the feet of our Lord.*

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**Beth hill** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

LM

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Sgt. Major Thomas B. Crump. Know that I am thankful for his service and pray for his soul to be at eternal peace and I also pray for his family. God bless you all.*

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**Linda McAleer** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

JK

“ *RIP Sgt. Major Crump, after a long and distinguished service to our country! This Retired Navy SEABEE Chief salutes you! Go in peace now to your eternal reward. My condolences to all his family and friends. We have lost another fine WARRIOR!!!*

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**James J. Kennedy** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

WR

“ *As I read of your loss, I am reminded of my Great Uncle Okey DeRaimo, who was a prisoner of war for over two years during WWII. We're blessed that he is still with us. I hold a deep respect & heartfelt appreciation for our veterans. I would loved to have met Sergeant Major Crump. You are in my prayers. Wanda Rowe, Beaufort, S. Carolina.*

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**Wanda Rowe** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

JG

“ *Thank you for your service to our country. You were a man among men!*

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**Jacki Gothard** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

BL

“ *Sgt Major Crump...thank you very much for your brave and courageous service to our country. May God Bless You and may you sit next to His right hand!*

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**Bob Lavallee** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

BM

“ *I read of Sgt. Major Crump's passing. There is a joyful celebration in Heaven as one so dearly loved is welcomed home.*

*Thank you for your service, Sir! Rest in peace.*

*His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Matthew 25:21 King James Version*

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**B. A. McLain** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

TA

“ *To his family.....SOOO sorry for your loss. Thank you for the sacrifices you have made.*

*To Sgt Major. Thank You for your service and sacrifices. You will never be forgotten.*

*I am the Mother and Mother-in-law of Marines...so Sgt. Major.....Semper FI !!!! and Thank You!!!!!!*

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**Tammy** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

MH

“ Sir, you surpassed the term "the greatest generation" and in my book you are in the category of "America Hero". When we all arrive where you are now. I am sure you will be there greeting us in as we enter, as a leader would do. Bless you and my sincere condolences to the friends and family who have been left behind.

Melissa Holbein - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

TB

“ I want to take this time to thank you for serving our country, and blessed to have brave men and woman like you to fight for our freedom. I appreciate everything you do! may you R.I.P. and keeping your family and friends in my prayers :(

Terri Brooks - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

CS

“ I read of SGT Major Crumps Passing and was amazed at his service to our Wonderful Country .. He was a real American Hero as far as I am Concerned .. I served in the Viet Nam Era and was happy to have been able to serve my Country .. I know SGT Major Crump felt the same way .. May He Rest In Peace !! Semper Fi !!!!

Chuck Stanley - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

KS

“ Rest in peace. You will always be a hero! Semper-Fi

Kevin Stuart - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

SA

“ Take five Marine, ground your gear and grab a spot, you have faithfully and honorably served your God, Country and Corps. Semper Fidelis

SgtMaj Joe Armstrong - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

DA

“ Thank you for your service and may you rest in peace with your fellow Marines.

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**Daria** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

DR

“ *Semper Fi my brother, Semper Fi.  
It is written, the streets of Heaven are guarded by United States Marines.  
You will always remain "Sweet in The Memory" of those who knew you and loved you.  
My Prayers and thoughts are with those who mourn.  
Semper Fi,  
Sgt.David Ringley, USMC, P.I. Class of 1953*

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**David Ringley** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

DJ

“ *My condolences go out to the family of Sgt. Crump..He did our country good. May the Lord be with you and give you comfort and strength during this time and the days ahead...  
Dee Jackson*

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**Delores Jackson** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

ER

“ *Thank you for your service Marine. RIP Semper Fi*

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**Edward Robinson** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

DH

“ Tom was as fine of a man I have ever known. I worked at the doctors office he went to. He was always smiling and talking with all of us. He even brought in his scrap books for me to look at. He was so proud to be a Marine. The United States is a better place because of his service to this country. I am so proud of him and honored to have met him. May he rest in peace.

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**Diana Hepler** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

BU

“ Semper Fi, Rest in Peace, Brother. You're Watch is over.

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**Bobby Kuzniar, Sgt. USMC** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

JO

“ Although I do not know you, I read your story and want to express my gratitude for your service, sir! My condolences to your friends and family. Stand proud, Marine!

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**Joyce** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

LB

“ Thank you sir for your service to our country and in all that you did in civilian life. I am sure you will continue to be an inspiration to the many lives that you touched. May you rest in peace sir.

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**Lori Brogan** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

BW

“ God Bless

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**Bonnie White** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

KE

“ Thank you for your service and bravery Thomas and may you forever rest in peace!

Kevin - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

ME

“ Thank you for your service. I am forever grateful that you dedicated your life for my freedom and we never met. May you rest in Gods arms now.

mel - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

AH

“ Thank you for your service sir. From a Marine mom to a Marine and his family. Thank you for leading and leaving a fine legacy for my son to fallow in. OOOORAHH

April Hilliard - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

SH

“ We have lost a true hero. God bless you and your family!

Stacey Henline - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

SH

“ *Semper Fidelis!*

*We as Marines live by this simple motto. It's not just a Latin phrase (as some see it) but rather how each and every Marine oldest to youngest treat everyday life as well. Sergeant Major Crump was the first "old school" Marine to introduce himself to me when when I joined VFW POST 1170. Crump is the ideal image I see when I think about how we as Marines carry on in our civilian lives. Sgt Major Crump will be missed by all. He was truley a God send. When I marched to his casket, snapped to attention and him a final hand salute, I made him a promise to carry on his mission. I saw it only fitting that lay my personal Eagle Globe and Anchor aside the Marine that I so deeply respect, admire, and am so greatful of having the personal priviage of knowing...  
Semper Fi Sgt Major Crump.*

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**Steve SC Hall** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

BC

“ *It was a honor when you spoke on campus previously to our Student Veterans Group. We admired you then and will think of you always Sergeant Major. It meant so much to us, that you were able to inspire those in attendance. Sincerely the Brown Mackie College Student Veterans of America Chapter - Louisville campus.*

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**Brown Mackie College~SVA** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

GS

“ *Saddened by the news of your passing Sergeant Major - you were such an inspiration to some many of us near and far. You will forever be in my thoughts. Rest in Peace. Genine Sauer*

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**Genine Sauer** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

SC

“ *Semper Fi my brother. Fair winds and following seas. God bless!*

Sean Corriveau - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

RN

“ *My mother and I had the pleasure of meeting SgtMajor several times. He was a wonderful man to talk with over breakfast at McDonald's. We will miss him and his smile.*

Ronda Nissen - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

DM

“ *I sadly only knew Sgt. Major Crump as a teacher in Seneca's R.O.T.C. program in 1969/70. He was an excellent teacher, and aside from the program's training, I learned much from him about honor, duty, and responsibility that carried me through my duties as a Firefighter and in my personal life. I still carry what I learned from him with me today. My condolences to his family. You have lost an honorable man.*

David Miracle - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

SG

“ *Thank you sir for your service in the armed forces. May you rest in peace.*

Shaneika G - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

LI

“ *Thank you for your service, Marine. Semper Fi. Rest in peace.*

Lisa - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

LS

“ I want to say that it was an honor to take care of him. He was such a gentleman with a heart of gold. He had so many friends that were devoted to him and loved him and we were very fond of him. His stories to us were a part of history that only he could tell. RIP in Sgt. Major. You will never be forgotten! Thank You for the time you served!

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**Linda Smith** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

PL

“ I met Sargent Major Crump several times while I was working for the City of Jeffersontown. He was a true gentleman and I enjoyed talking with him very much.

*My sincerest sympathies.*

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**Paul J Long** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

A(

“ I met Mr Crump after my parents looked at his RV he had for sale. My Step Dad was wearing a USAF jacket that I had bought him. Of Course, Mr. Crump asked him if he was in the AF, but My step-dad (Bill Davis) explained that I was active and that I had bought it for him. Little did I know that would lead to having a role model, a friend, and a hero in my life. Mr. Crump came to my "see ya later" party before I left for my deployment to Iraq. He came dressed in full service blues and spoke for only 10-15min. You could hear a pin drop! Even the children were silent as he spoke. He was a true leader, a REAL american hero, and one of the most down to earth people I have ever had the pleasure to meet. Heaven received an angel that is for sure! My deepest condolences to his surviving family and friends.

Very Respectfully,  
Ashley Lyons(Atkinson)

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**Ashley Lyons (Atkinson)** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

JA

“ It was, truly, an honor to have known SGM Crump. He was an iconic and inspirational individual. The consummate Marine. He has gone to stand watch with Him. My condolences to his family and friends.

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**Jack** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

JG

“ Tom you will be truly missed by so many who loved and valued everything you gave to all who entered your life. Rest in peace my friend and always know it was an honor to have known you.

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**Jan Guinchigliani** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

DB

“ *My deepest sympathy for your loss. The world is truly a better place for his contributions to it.*

*Fair winds and following seas, Sgt. Maj.*

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**Don Bourbon** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

RG

“ *Semper Fidelis Marine.*

*Sgt. Richard Grimes Lima3/2 1973 -1979*

*When I get there I will relieve you!*

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**Richard Grimes** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

BF

“ *A good friend and mentor I met as a youngster at the J.I. Joe American legion.. RIP Sgt. Major... Brian*

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**Brian Flinn** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

SU

“ *My husband & I met Tom when we moved down the street from Tom 20 yrs ago. He helped us with some of the paperwork that we did not understand with the house we bought down the street from him. That was around the time my husband decided to go back in the Navy Reserves & Tom was all for that. He watched all 4 of my children grow up to be adults & for Mark & I to have 5 grandchildren so far. He was there for me when Mark had his accident & helped both Mark & I through the rough patches. He will be greatly missed!! Our prayers to his wife & family.*

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**Shiela Ulrich** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

TT

“ Seven years ago, our children were looking to perform community service. They decided that a meaningful way to invest their time and energy would be to help local veterans. Our neighbors are retired Marine Corp officers, so we asked them if they had any suggestions. Immediately, they said Sargent Major Crump. Our children called Mr. Crump and arranged to meet him at his home, and happily set off to their community service. The first time they met Mr. Crump they realized they were the ones being blessed. He was an amazing example of dignity, honor, and kindness! The Sargent Major was a strong role model and friend to our son in particular.

Having heard unimaginable accounts of his great service and duty, we are very grateful to have known Sargent Major Thomas Crump and for his personal investment in our lives and community.

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**Tom & Gail Turi** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

TB

“ Thank You Sir, R.I.P. We Salute You.

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**the Blackwelders** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

GB

“ On behalf of the Board and Members of Chapter 454, Vietnam Veterans of America, we honor SGM Thomas B. Crump, who was a Vietnam-era Veteran and member. Those who served during Vietnam-era share a knowledge and understanding of the uncertainty and ambiguity of war. Though not assigned to service in Vietnam, SGM Crump served his nation in the Marine Corps in two other wars, WWII and Korea. He knew the mixture of relief and disappointment that came when orders arrived that sent some to Vietnam and others to different assignments. He understood the demands that military life made.

On this day, however, we know one thing. SGM Crump has left us. In years gone by many men and women, responding to the call of our nation, answered the summons given and left family and familiar surroundings, people and places loved, to serve in a far off lands, returning home to an uncertain reception. Now SGM Crump has left us once more, answering a roll call we all must face, and as we remember him, trusting that he has found a reception, a homecoming of gentleness, health, peace and love.

One by one, as years roll by, our numbers decrease, and we who survive gather to mark the end of the earthly tour of duty of those who have departed. As we honor the life of one who served our nation, our prayers reach out to all those among us, family and friends, who are bereaved by his passing. May God comfort and console them with his presence and tenderness. May SGM Crump rest in peace.

Gregory M. Bethards

President

VVA, Chapter 454

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Gregory M. Bethards - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

ML

“ Dear Ida,

*We all want to offer our prayers along with those of a grateful nation, for the great sacrifice SM Tom Crump made in service to his country.*

*The Bible says "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted" I believe God will shed his blessings on you at this time. Theses are times when our faith is tested the most, and yet if is Faith that will see us through the sorrow and agony of this tragedy.*

*I pray that your Faith will keep you strong. Please know that the prayers of so many people are with you and your wonderful family. I hope that you can find some solace in knowing that your loss is shared so deeply.*

*I pray that God gives you the grace to carry on, you can be prod of Tom and his ultimate service to his country. I will miss listening to his war stories at American Legion GI Joe Post #244.*

*In Deep Faith*

*Mike Lyall USA (Retired)*

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**Michael Lyall** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

KB

“ *HOW WONDERFUL IT MUST HAVE BEEN TO HAVE SUCH A WONDERFUL AND DEVOTED HERO IN YOUR LIFE ALL THESE YEARS! I KNOW YOU WILL MISS HIM, BUT THINK OF ALL THE GOOD THAT HE DID FOR OTHERS, AND WILL DO IN HEAVEN FOR US! HE WAS A HERO.*

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**KATHY BENTLEY** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

PA

“ The US Marine Riders Association ([www.usmarineriders.com](http://www.usmarineriders.com)) wish to express their sincere condolences to the family and sympathy to the friends of Thomas B. Crump, Sergeant Major, USMC, Pearl Harbor Survivor. His service as a Warrior and the many personal sacrifices he made are truly worthy of the title "American Hero". We all thank him for defending the United States of America, her freedoms and interests. His outstanding devotion to God, Country, Family and the Marine Corps will not be forgotten by those who have gone before him, those currently serving and those who will step up in the future. His Mission Is Complete. Stand Down Sergeant Major Crump and rest in peace! Semper Fi!

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**Pete Heiss - US Marine Riders Association** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

EH

“ I will miss you! My daughter still talks about how you stopped the Middletown parade just to talk to us. She thought you were the "most awesome" person and she was right. Heaven gained a hero.

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**Erin Morgan Hosking** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

MO

“ *W. J. Norris Detachment #804, Inc.,  
Marine Corps League  
C/o 4100 Kipling Drive  
Owensboro, Kentucky 42303-7220*

*In recognition of SgtMaj Thomas B. Crump's  
honorable service to the United States of America,  
and the United States Marine Corps; We extend our appreciation  
and gratitude for his service to God, Country, and Corps.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of sorrow.*

*Semper Fi, The Marines of Detachment #804.  
Hugh Wade, Commandant*

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**MCL, Owensboro** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

LL

“ *Crump Family. Tom was an amazing gentleman whom I had the  
honor to work with at Semonin Realtors. He always was willing to  
share his life story & was a true inspiration. Heaven received the  
best when he arrived. Peace to your family.*

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**Lisa Lindell** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

ED

“ *Deepset sympathy to Amy & family. Sorry at your loss. Always loved  
Toms sea stories at Hopewell mens prayer breakfast cooking crew.  
Tom will be missed, dedicated Marine, veteran, neighbor & friend.*

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**Ed & Sylvai Dengg** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

RW

“ Some of the best memories of my life were founded in your program. Semper Fi, Sgt. Major.

*Rachael Waldo (Crump)  
Seneca High MCJROTC Executive Officer  
Class of 1994*

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**Rachael Waldo** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

BA

“ Sgt. Major Crump has been a neighbor for 38 years and a very good one at that. It was my pleasure to work with him on his "museum"...a collection of photos, awards and memorabilia of his life, especially with the Marines. He will be missed in the neighborhood and the military has lost a very proud and dedicated soldier!

*Thank you for your service to this country..you will be missed!*

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**Barbara Aronhime** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

MM

“ Marine, you've put aside your sword and shield, rest now. I salute!

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**Marvin Meyerhoffer** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM

ND

“ My condolences to the family of this departed Brother. May you find comfort from the Almighty during this time. God Bless you.

*Nathan Dison (PM, Secretary)  
Crystal Lodge #616 F.&A.M.  
Briceville, TN*

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**Nathan Dison** - June 28, 2018 at 03:58 PM