



Min. Earl J. Crocker

April 5, 1931 - January 22, 2026

Earl James Crocker was born on April 25, 1931, in Atlanta, Texas, to George Jolly Crocker and Rosalie Nard. He was raised in Pontiac, Michigan, and was baptized into Christ in 1944.

Earl began his career with General Motors in 1950, pausing his employment in March 1952 to serve his country as a United States Marine. During his military service in Korea, he worked as a communications expert in combat zones, where his hearing was severely compromised. He was awarded three medals, including the Korean Service Medal with two stars. In 1954, he transferred to the United States Marine Corps Reserve and resumed his employment with General Motors. He was honorably discharged in 1960 and later retired as a Manager from General Motors in 1981.

In 1956, Earl married Helen Jones, whom he later baptized into Christ. From their union, two sons were born, James Allen and Joel Patrick. Earl and Helen shared 55 years of marriage, marked by unwavering faith, collective strength, and a deep commitment to serving God. Together, they built successful entrepreneurial ventures and were instrumental in bringing many souls to Christ. They were passionate advocates for Southwestern Christian College and Christian education. Helen preceded him in death in 2011.

In 1965, Brother Crocker preached his first sermon at the Hughes Street

Church of Christ under the direction of Dr. Roosevelt Wells. In 1966, he enrolled in Michigan Christian College to further equip himself to preach and lead God's people. Later that year, he was asked by Hugh Street Church of Christ to lead the establishment of a congregation in Monroe, Michigan. Under his leadership, the congregation grew through organization, evangelism, and baptisms, becoming a richly diverse congregation. During his 14-year tenure, he served as an ambassador for the Church of Christ throughout Monroe and the state of Michigan. He also established the \$1,000 Minister Appreciation Service, honoring a local preacher annually.

In 1980, Brother Crocker was called to serve as Minister of the Lemay Church of Christ in Detroit, where he faithfully served for more than 35 years. During his early years, many were baptized, and others placed membership in a church committed to soul-saving and community impact. Under his leadership, a 500-seat worship facility was constructed, and the former building was repurposed as a community resource center. The center offered daily Bible classes, two free hot meals each week, clothing distribution, and free tutoring for students.

Brother Crocker intensified his work across the state, helping to establish the Michigan State Lectureship and Michigan State Singing. He assisted Brother West and Brother Swanigan with the First Sunday Singing and continued in leadership after they were called to their reward. He was an active participant in the Concerned Brothers Breakfast and served as Chairman of the Calendar Committee. The name "Concerned Brothers" proved fitting, as he suffered a stroke during one of their meetings, and their swift response ensured he received timely medical care. He cherished these gatherings of faithful men and their shared mission to strengthen and expand God's kingdom.

Brother Crocker was instrumental in bringing the National Lectureship and the Crusade for Christ to Detroit. His love for Southwestern Christian College

(SWCC) ran deep, and he served faithfully as a Board member. Over the years, he also supported the efforts of the Wonderful Ladies of Michigan, helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars on behalf of SWCC.

Following his retirement from full-time preaching, he remained active in the Lord's work, assisting the leadership at Elmwood Park Church of Christ and teaching weekly Bible classes at Russellwood Church of Christ in Detroit and North Central Church of Christ in Flint.

As his health declined, Earl relocated to California, where he enjoyed watching the news and westerns and spending quality time with his family—especially Ruth, Joel, and his three beloved grandchildren, Camryn (Taylor), Chanelle, and Cailyn, who affectionately called him “Papa Earl.” He was especially excited to learn of the upcoming arrival of his great-granddaughter, and his family now joyfully anticipates her birth—a beautiful reminder that life and love continue.

Earl James Crocker will be remembered for his unwavering love for Christ, his bright smile, his can-do spirit, and his generosity toward others. His legacy of faith, service, and devotion to God's people lives on.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 6. 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Oakland Church of Christ
23333 West Ten Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Family Hour

FEB 7. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Oakland Church of Christ
23333 West Ten Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Funeral Service

FEB 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Oakland Church of Christ
23333 West Ten Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Tribute Wall

EB

“ I have so many memories of Bro. Crocker. Some of my earliest memories of traveling to Detroit include seeing him. Today we thank God for lending us his faithful servant and we send prayers of comfort to the family and all who loved him.



Elena Bond - February 07 at 09:25 AM

MH

“ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.”
Ecclesiastes 12:7 NKJV
<https://bible.com/bible/114/ecc.12.7.NKJV>

Marquita Harrison - February 07 at 07:45 AM

IG

*Earl will be missed.
Iris.*

Iris Green - February 07 at 10:13 AM

LC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lakeisha Conley - February 06 at 09:48 PM

LC

Five years ago Bro. Crocker retied our knot even tighter for our 25th anniversary than he did in 1995!❤️

Lakeisha Conley - February 06 at 09:52 PM

LC

“ Thank you to the Crocker Family for sharing Earl J. Crocker with so many of us here in Detroit, Michigan. He definitely helped shaped my Christian walk. He was the most generous man in the city. I would see that red Dodge Daytona all over the state doing good for people! I could go and on about his goodness, but will say I love him and will miss him, his voice, encouragement, presence, and him just being him! I remember a few years ago before he left Michigan, he came to our congregation for my birthday and preached one of my old favorite sermons from when I was a teenager (over 30 years ago) called, “Mr. Death, where is your sting?” He hadn’t missed a beat from when I first heard that sermon!

Lakeisha Conley - February 06 at 09:39 PM

CG

“ Uncle Earl, you were a God fearing man. You worked tirelessly for the Lord’s Church. Your hard work and dedication will truly be missed.

On a personal note, I’ll miss your long sermons/prayers at the family dinners. (Everyone was starving). I’ll miss you calling me Cymmpy as a child. I’ll miss your laugh and your loud voice. Rest peacefully



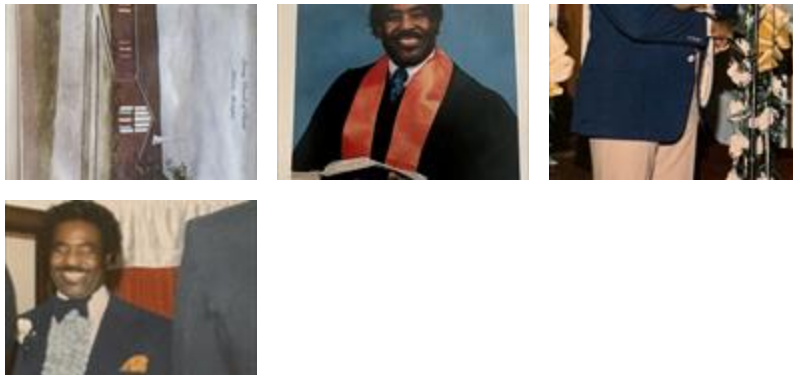
Cynthia Gregory - February 06 at 06:08 PM

EC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Crocker family. We are former members of the Lemay C of C and fondly remember when Bro. Crocker first came to serve as our minister. He was always smiling, full of joy, and carried such a kind spirit. In 1984, we were the very first couple he married at Lemay.

One of his favorite songs was “I’ll Be Somewhere Listening,” a beautiful reflection of his faith, which he sang with deep conviction. Bro. Crocker was indeed somewhere listening for his name, and now Jesus has called him home. Rest in peace, Bro. Crocker. 🙏🙏

Love,
Bro. Willie & Sis. Elaine Curtis



E. Curtis - February 06 at 02:27 PM

CB

“ Bro Crocker was a pillar of truth and Loved his family and church family with Joy! He touched my life with the Love of Jesus that he demonstrated. Getting to be with him in non preacher mode will always be my favorite times with him. Hearing him bring the word and pray will never be forgotten. The Southside Family and Baccus family grieve today but rejoice in his place in Christ. Thank you brother Crocker rest well.

Chris Baccus - February 06 at 12:22 PM

KW

“ *Kaye James Witherspoon lit a candle in memory of Min. Earl J. Crocker*



Kaye James Witherspoon - February 06 at 10:25 AM



“ *Michael Williams lit a candle in memory of Min. Earl J. Crocker*



Michael Williams - February 05 at 09:04 PM

JC

Thank you!

Joel Crocker - February 06 at 02:42 AM

FJ

“ *Hey Unc,
I want to thank you for being a large part of the village that helped raise me. All the time I spent after school at your house when I was young, you provided a great example of what it was to be a man and take care of your family and community. You will always be remembered and live on because a part of you and your life lessons continue on in me.*

Frank Jones - February 05 at 06:35 PM

JC

Thank you for your comments. I'm so happy you will serve as a pallbearer.

Joel Crocker - February 06 at 02:37 AM

BB

“ We know God was listening and brought Bro Crocker home from illness and suffering and greeting him with well done my good and faithful servant. A wonderful Brother in Christ. Love 💕 and comfort to his family. Sis Brenda Braceful

Brenda Braceful - February 05 at 05:51 PM

JC

Thank you for your comments

Joel Crocker - February 06 at 02:41 AM

DC

“ 🌸 The Cole & Kellar Family sends our Most Sincerest Condolences to the Crocker Family! May Father God wrap His arms around you and give you His Peace and His Strength in Jesus Mighty Name. Much Love ❤️🌸❤️🙏



Dianna Cole - February 04 at 03:12 PM

JC

Thank you for your comments

Joel Crocker - February 06 at 02:33 AM

“To my longtime friend Joel Crocker, his wife Ruth, and his children: Minister Earl Crocker was a faithful servant of God, a loving husband, a devoted father, a trusted confidant, and truly a friend to so many. He was a servant leader with a genuine heart for the Lord’s church and for people in need. He took his calling as a minister of the gospel of Christ seriously, yet he never forgot how to enjoy life and help others do the same.

I first met Minister Crocker in June of 1981, when I was just a teenager. He was the guest speaker for Homecoming Sunday at the East Main Street Church of Christ in Benton Harbor, Michigan. My home church, the Maywood Church of Christ, attended that Homecoming for many years. That year, Brother Crocker preached for nearly two hours. And what always stayed with me was this—no one complained, no one grew restless. We were simply listening. The only thing that changed was the fellowship meal afterward, which had to be shortened so the afternoon program could stay on schedule. Then, after all of that, Minister Crocker came back and preached a short twenty-minute sermon for the afternoon fellowship, and everyone was surprised—and delighted. lol

Ten years later, I was blessed to begin what became a 35-year friendship with his son, Joel. Joel, your parents poured into you, and it shows. Thank you for your servant leadership in the Lord’s church. Thank you for being a faithful husband and father. Thank you for honoring both of your parents and for making your father’s final years rich with life, love, and joy. You and your family gave so much, and you led the way with grace.

As the Scripture reminds us, “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap!” Minister Crocker sowed faith, love, and joy—and the harvest is all around us.

Rest well, Minister Crocker.





Wendell Hart - February 04 at 12:22 AM

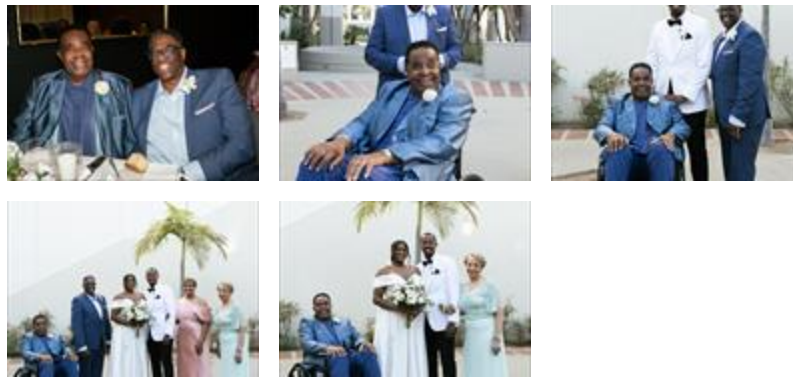
JC

Thank you for your friendship! I remember that Sunday in Benton Harbor. Longest sermon of his life and mine too! My mother gave him wise counsel and as you expressed he gave 20 minutes that afternoon. I'm blessed God has allowed you to be apart of so many milestones in my life. You are a true friend!

Joel Crocker - February 06 at 02:17 AM

TC

“ 6 files added to the album Earl Crocker



Taylor Crocker - February 03 at 09:26 AM

JC

Thank you for posting the beautiful pictures

Joel Crocker - February 06 at 02:43 AM

AB

“ February 7, 2026

*THE BEREAVED FAMILY, RELATIVES, AND FRIENDS
of Br. Earl Crocker,*

Dear Family,

Grace and peace be with you during this time of sorrow.

Please accept our heartfelt condolences as you mourn the loss of your loved one. In moments such as these, words often feel inadequate, yet it is our prayer that you feel surrounded by God's comfort, strength, and unfailing love.

Brother Earl Crocker faithfully served the Lord, dedicating his life to spreading the Good News and nurturing others in the Christian faith. His unwavering commitment to Christian education empowered countless individuals to grow in knowledge and understanding of God's Word.

Through his ministry, he touched lives with compassion, wisdom, and a heart for service, leaving a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations. Though he has departed from this earthly life, his example of devotion, integrity, and love for Christ remains with all who knew him.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." — Matthew 25:23

SINCERELY,

Br. Amir Brackcen D. D.

&

North Broadway COC Leadership

Amir B - February 02 at 08:14 PM

JC

Thank you for your comments. May GOD bless you and your ministry.

Joel Crocker - February 06 at 02:31 AM

AS

“ *I will always remember Brother Crocker on my Marriage day Brother Crocker took me and my husband, Arthur Smith into his office and talked to us as if we were his children. I'll always remember that and forever grateful for that because that was the foundation to put God first in our marriage.*



Alessandra Smith - February 01 at 04:50 PM

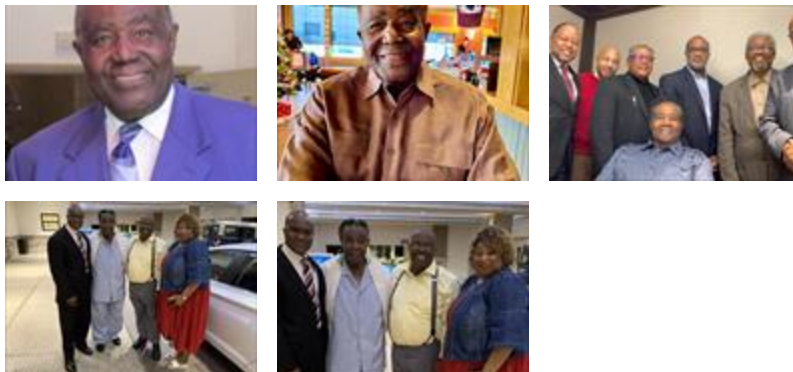
JC

Thank you for sharing your photos and memories from your wedding day

Joel Crocker - February 06 at 02:25 AM



“ *10 files added to the album Earl Crocker*



Edward Cribbs Sr. - January 31 at 02:15 PM

JC

Thank you for your care and concern during this difficult time.

Joel Crocker - February 06 at 02:22 AM

JC

“ *The Crocker Family appreciates your support during this difficult time. Please flood this page with pictures, videos and your memories. May GOD bless you and keep you. In lieu of flowers we ask you give a donation to Southwestern Christian College in memory of Earl Crocker.*

Joel Crocker - January 30 at 05:32 PM