

# I'M 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 Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way.  
I found that place at the close of 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 hearts and share with me  
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

*Your wings were ready, but our hearts were not...*



*God hath not promised  
Skies always blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways  
All our lives through  
God hath not promised  
Sun without rain  
Joy without sorrow  
Peace without pain,  
But God hath promised  
Strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor,  
Light for the way  
Grace for the trials,  
Help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy,  
Undying love.*

*The Family*



SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO  
**CUNNINGHAM & SONS FUNERAL HOME**  
3809 Raeford Road • Fayetteville, North Carolina  
**(910) 433-2616**

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# CELEBRATING THE LIFE & LEGACY of

**PHOTO  
Here**

**SUNRISE**  
AUGUST 20, 1929

**SUNSET**  
MAY 14, 2020

***Hosea Cromartie***  
**FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS**

**Thursday, May 21, 2020 • 12:00 PM**

**CUNNINGHAM & SONS**  
**FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL**  
3809 Raeford Road • Fayetteville, North Carolina

*Reverend Kenneth Carter, Officiating*

## Order of Service

Processional

Introduction

Song . . . . . “THE OLD RUGGED CROSS”  
Marion Williams

Scriptures:  
OLD TESTAMENT . . . . . *Psalm 116:15*  
NEW TESTAMENT . . . . . *John 11:23-26*  
*2 Corinthians 5:6-8*

Prayer . . . . . Michael Cromartie  
Info to Be Provided,  
XXXXXXX, GA

Acknowledgements

Obituary (*Read at your Leisure*)

Song . . . . . “BLESSED ASSURANCE”  
LaRue Howard

Eulogy . . . . . Reverend Kenneth Carter  
Associate Minister  
Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church  
Fayetteville, NC

Benediction



## Hosea’s Life...

*In my Father’s house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there may ye be also.*  
JOHN 14:2-3

**H**OSEA CROMARTIE was born to the late Duncan C. Cromartie and Kinnie S. Powell Cromartie on August 20, 1929 in Clarkton North Carolina. Hosea was the oldest of eight siblings, three of whom preceded him in death, sisters, Kinnie Wilson and Catherine Cromartie; brother, Franklin D. Cromartie. Hosea grew up in a warm, caring and loving Christian home where he was nurtured and encouraged to always trust in the Lord and be the best he could be.

He accepted Christ Jesus as Savior at an early age and joined the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church where his father was Deacon (chairman) and his mother was a Missionary, choir member, Sunday School Teacher, and more.

**H**OSEA graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1949 at the top of his class. While in high school he drove the school bus, taught his brother how to drive the school bus as well as several other schoolmates. He was involved in extracurricular activities, which included the debate team. He was accepted to the Agricultural & Technical College (A&T) in Greensboro, NC in the fall of 1949. He majored in History, loved studying, researching and fact finding. While in his 2nd year of college(1951), he was drafted into the US Army, during the Korean Conflict. During his tour of duty in the Army, Hosea was wounded and was later honorably discharged on disability.

**H**OSEA loved his family dearly and he loved his church (New Hope Missionary Baptist), under the pastorship of the late Reverend N.B. Benjamin, where he developed a deep spiritual desire to learn more about Jesus. He

studied his Bible diligently, and became rooted and grounded in the word of God.

**H**OSEA spent most of his adult life mentoring and having fun with his nephews, and there were many. Even though he had no children of his own, he was a loving father figure to them. Education was very important to him, and he instilled this same value in the children. He was such a great uncle that whenever the children would miss the school bus, he would take them to school himself. Not only did he do this for his own family, he would do this for others in the community. Hosea was highly respected by all. He loved music and he loved to sing. His favorite artists were Nat King Cole, Sam Cook and Mahalia Jackson. His favorite saying, “*I would like to live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man*” (by Sam Walter Foss).

Hosea married the love of his life, the late Tonita McMillan Cromartie, 15 years ago, in Fayetteville, N.C. They had a beautiful life together, sharing in birthday celebrations, traveling, dinner cruises (on the Henrietta Cruise Boat/Wilmington, NC, Odyssey Cruises/Washington, DC), with family and friends. They enjoyed the Cromartie family reunions as well as entertaining family and friends at their beautiful home.

**H**OSEA was a member of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC until his health declined.

His testimony: “*I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a Crown*”

**H**OSEA leaves to cherish his memory: brother, John D. Cromartie (Winnie) and sisters, Bevie C. Johnson, Ida DeCosta of Clarkton, NC, sister, Magdalene Fitzgerald (James I. Fitzgerald) of Washington, DC.; step daughter, Ayana Robinson; step grandchildren; nephews, Stephon Johnson, Michael Cromartie, Winston Johnson, Mark Johnson, Erecell Cromartie, Chris DeCosta, Kevin DeCosta, Gregory DeCosta, Mervin DeCosta, Julian Wilson, Jayson Wilson, Victor Cromartie and Julius Cromartie and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives.