

CROSSED THE BAR

George Wills Crook

To our Belvedere Family,

We've received word that Mr. George Crook passed away yesterday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

George Wills Crook, 74, died Monday October 29, 2012 from complications of lung cancer at his home in Nashville. He was preceded in death by his parents Mamie Craig Wills Crook, Senter Cawthon Crook and Clinton Pennington "Ted" Clark all of Nashville. He is survived by his wife of 45 years Emily Keeble Crook, his daughter Katherine K. Crook of Winston-Salem, N. C. and his son George W. Crook, Jr. and his wife Kristin of Franklin, TN. George had a special bond with his grandchildren Walker Dean of Winston-Salem, and Wills Crook III, David Crook and Anna Claire Crook of Franklin. He is also survived by his sisters Eleanor Clark Kelley and her husband Everett of Franklin and Phoebe Clark Nischan and her husband Marvin of Nashville as well as eight devoted nieces and nephews.

Born on March 12, 1938 in Nashville, George graduated from Oxford Academy in Westbrook, CT and attended Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. In the early 60s George was employed by WSM Radio and TV first as a camera man then in radio sales. At this time he began to work with Paul Harmon who was in the advertising business. In 1963 they started their own ad agency Buntin, Crook, Harmon and Smith, later renamed Harmon and Crook. The agency received numerous awards on both local and national levels. George was president of the Nashville Advertising Federation in 1976. He retired from the firm in 1976 to focus on his other business interests which included Scott Welch Motors (later Thoroughbred Motorcars), Ebbtide Boats, and Marine Concepts in each of which he was a founding partner. George was a creative thinker who, with his SkyCar Corporation, conceived the idea of shared private aircraft.

In 1986 he founded The Motorcar Company, an automobile brokerage business, which he managed until his retirement in 2004. Until his death he remained active in the car business as an associate at Dixie Motors.

In 2000 George was elected as a Commissioner of the City of Belle Meade and later served two terms as Mayor. He served as president of the Belvedere Club in Charlevoix, MI for four years. In addition he was very active in the Nashville Humane Association, was president of the board

and remained a lifetime board member. He was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Exchange Club, Belle Meade Country Club and the Belvedere Club in Charlevoix.

George was happiest when he was with his family, his friends and his pets especially his Wheaten Terrier Sadie. He was passionate about his antique cars, his model trains and his antique wooden boats which he enjoyed at his summer home in Michigan.

Visitation with the family will be Thursday November 1st at his home. A memorial service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Friday, November 2nd at 2:00 pm. Burial will be private.

Honorary pallbearers will be W.L. Bainbridge III, James Blackmon, William L. Brooks, Jeffrey W. Buntin, David P. Caldwell, Wentworth Caldwell Jr., Picksley Cheek, Jr., James S. Frazer III, George E. Gifford, Paul W. Harmon, E. Randall Henderson, Jr., Franklin M. Jarman, Alex J. Joyce, John W. McDougall, Jr., C. Norris Nielsen, Alex S. Palmer, Christopher Simonsen, Thomas M. Trabue, Jr., William M. Ward, all of Nashville; Thomas T. Alexander, J. Peter MacCarthy, John B. McKinney, Edward J. Mannion, all of St. Louis, MO; Hugh Hunter Byrd, Charleston, MO; William M. Claggett, Palm Beach, FL; A. D. Crichton Jr., Columbia, TN; Robert A. Dunlap, Jr., Vero Beach, FL; P. D. Houston III, Centerville, TN; Dr. Donald E. Kelley, Grand Rapids, MI; Mathias B. Murfree III, Murfreesboro, TN; E. Gray Smith, Jr., Croton on Hudson, NY; J. Richard Tomkinson, Ft. Wayne, IN; Ralph D. Whaley, Atlanta, GA. The family would like to thank special friends Linda Carter, Theresa Eurton, Rosie Lovell and Tony Cook.

Memorial contributions may be made to Salama Urban Ministries, 1205 8th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203; Nashville Humane Association, 213 Oceola Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209; Belvedere Club Memorial Fund, P. O. Box 218, Charlevoix, MI 49720 or Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, % Gifts Processing, PMB 407727, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240.