

Mr. William E. 'Bill' Cross

Mr. William E. "Bill" Cross, 93, of Delray Beach, Fla., and formerly a longtime resident of Montgomery County, died Friday, April 16, 2010, at Bethesda Memorial Hospice, Boynton Beach, Fla. He was the husband of the late Eleanor Cross.

Born Oct. 11, 1916, in Blue Ridge, Ga., he was the son of the late Clifford E. and Martha Jane Underwood Cross.

Mr. Cross graduated from Mars Hill College in North Carolina with a degree in mechanical engineering and retired following a distinguished career with the Department of the Navy.

All the while working for the government and after retirement, "The Cider Barrel Man," as he was fondly referred to, owned and continued to operate until 2002 the Cider Barrel cider and fruit stand. It was a family business, located on Md. 355, Germantown, that is a Maryland Historic Site.

Mr. Cross also owned the mobile home park adjacent to the fruit stand. His degree in engineering enabled him to make modern updates and maintain the park with only the highest standards.

He was not a stranger to hard work and was regarded as a warm, friendly and gracious individual who was well-liked by patrons and tenants.

Mr. Cross is survived by several cousins; a host of friends; and a longtime friend and companion, Louise Anderson, who helped him greatly with his business affairs and to maintain his independence in later years.

Friends may call beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 1, at Neelsville Presbyterian Church, 20701 Frederick Road, Germantown. The funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church. The Rev. Andrew W. Nagel will officiate. Interment will follow in the churchyard.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Mr. Cross' name to the charity of one's choosing.

Arrangements are by Molesworth-Williams Funeral Home, Damascus.

Condolences may be made online at Molesworth-Williams.com.