



Michael J. Cross, age 75, of Latham, Ohio passed away Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Adena Regional Medical Center in Chillicothe, surrounded by family.

He was born on January 31, 1951 in Greenfield, Ohio, the son of James Arthur and Nellie Mae (Oiler) Cross. He was a 1969 graduate of Edward Lee McClain High School and was a lifelong member of the Archaeological Society of Ohio. He worked at G.T.E./Verizon for 20 years, then as a contractor/home builder for the remainder of his life. Some of the most remarkable people we meet in life are the ones whose names you haven't heard. They are the steadfast, kind and humble ones whose legacy is left behind in the lives they have touched. Mike's family will remember him as a builder, painter, and creator of everything from whimsical birdhouses, miniature cabins, hand-made furniture, cabinets, shelving, as well as houses to which he always added an extra personal touch, and jeep murals that were one of a kind. Some of his best days were spent with his son, Willie, walking through freshly plowed fields with his self-professed "eagle eye" looking for the arrowheads he loved collecting. He spent countless summer weekends in the 70's with brothers, sons, and his nephew, Jeffro, turtlin', swimming and carrying on in the creeks. He enjoyed wading the creek beds, taking kayak trips down the local creeks with his wife, family and anyone else he could talk into going. He loved to spend summer evenings on the porch with friends, family, his coffee-flavored sugar water, and sharing stories, including his Bigfoot sighting with humor and conviction in his voice. He was always ready with gentle or not so gentle words of advice and wisdom when they needed it. But the most remarkable thing about people like Mike isn't just who you see when you look at them, but the generosity of spirit that they inspire in the people around them. In the course of his illness, his family gave selflessly of themselves to care for him and keep him comfortable, knowing that he wouldn't hesitate to do the same for them. He is survived by his wife, Penny Lee Cooper whom he married on November 7, 2015; one son, Willie Cross (Danika Rinehart) of Chillicothe; one daughter, Emilee Cross of Dayton; one stepson, Heath Rawlins (Kamy Brown) of Bainbridge; one stepdaughter, Amanda Rawlins of Bainbridge; three grandchildren, Cyrus Cross of Leesburg, Harper Cross of Grove City, Seth Cross of Beavercreek; three step grandchildren, Keegan Rawlins of Seaman, Kade Rawlins of Hillsboro, Deegan Brown of Chillicothe; one brother, Frank Cross of Greenfield; two sisters, Susie (David) Shuster of Morehead, KY, Shirley Carter of Greenfield; numerous nieces and nephews; and his beloved wiener dog, Lucy.

He was preceded in death by one son, Eddie Cross; three brothers, Charles "Poon" Cross, John T. Cross, and William "Billy" Cross; two sisters, Wilma "Jeanie" Richter, Marilyn "Katie" Everhart; and both parents.

Cremation will take place and there will not be a service observed.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Adena Hospice, 2077 Western Ave., Chillicothe, OH 45601 or the Archaeological Society of Ohio, 1161 Bean Oller Rd, Delaware, OH 43015.

The Murray-Fettro Funeral Home in Greenfield is serving the family.

Condolences may be sent to www.murrayfettro.com