



## Mr. Christopher "Chris" Cross

March 28, 1955 - May 8, 2024

UTICA – Mr. Christopher “Chris” Cross, age 69, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, in the comfort and dignity of his home with his loving family by his side.

Born in Bronx River, NY on March 28, 1955, Christopher was the son of the late Willie, Sr. and Inel (Adams) Cross. He was raised and educated in Bronx River and was a graduate of James Monroe High School. He furthered his education at a college in Waco, TX, taking advantage of a basketball scholarship he earned due to his gifted athleticism. Looking to make a new life, he came to the Utica area in 1989 where he has since resided. At one time Chris held a position as a security guard with the Insight House. He then was employed as a treatment counselor with the Rescue Mission up until his illness. On November 22, 2010, he wed the former Peggy Belinda Smith with whom he shared a loving a devoted union.

A man with a generous heart, Chris loved and adored his family. He had a magnificent way of telling stories and always invented memorable quotes and meaningful words to live by. One of the most famous was “be firm, fair, consistent, and remain charitable.” He also often said “I laugh and joke, but I don’t play!” He was a quiet and gentle person, and a good soul. He had a way of making a lasting impression on people and once you met him, he made an indelible mark on your soul.

In his youth, Chris was an exceptional athlete, excelling in basketball and boxing. He also loved watching professional basketball and rooted for many of his favorite New York sports teams. Chris also enjoyed social media and keeping in touch with loved ones and friends. He was quite stylish and had a vast and sharp wardrobe. He also appreciated the beauty of a great time piece. Chris held a Brotherhood with his "Brothers for Life" in Bronx River, NY, relationships that he honored and adored. He was a faithful member of Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Chris is survived by his wife, Peggy; step-children, Tyra Gray, Donesha and Malachi Dawkins, twins Chanei John, and Chanel Jones, and Leondrey Smith and Linda; step-grandchildren, Kevin, Talia; Madison, Major, Maxine; Natasha, Knowledge, Neyomiah; John, Jr., Janae, Makayla; Devin, Aariah, Amarius, Ariveaha, Deyannaee, Dehydra, Dezetennee, Dezerraee, and Bronx; sister, Sarah Bostick; and brother, Melvin Cross. He cherished the memories of his siblings who preceded him, Mary Francis, Ann, Willie, Jr. and Barbara, David, and Danny; and sister-in-law, Elisa Smith. His loss is also felt by his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; in-laws, Cookie Pierce, twins Kimberly and John Bradley, and Karen Thomas and her late husband George, Frederick Smith and Loretta Jones, and Nicholas and Annette Smith; and goddaughter, Kyiona Jones.

The family extends their gratitude to Dr. V. Kandiah, MD for his care and compassion, and to Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc., especially acknowledging R.N. Crystal for her loving care. Thanks and appreciation are also extended to Chris' neighbors who assisted him and his family at times of need.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to Chris' Memorial Service and Celebration of Life, which will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Lighthouse Baptist Church, 701 Kossuth Ave. Those unable to attend

may be present virtually at <https://www.lighthousecnychurch.com/live-stream/>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

Lighthouse Baptist Church  
701 Kossuth Ave  
Utica, NY

# Tribute Wall

EL

“ *My sincere condolences to the Cross family especially Peggy my co worker. May God hold you close during this time. I'm so sorry.*

Elisa - June 10, 2024 at 03:31 AM

CM

“ *My condolences to the family and wife peggy. I will miss seeing you chris and his beautiful wife. May you rip chris pleasure working and knowing you. May gods blessing be with the family*

Charlene miller - June 03, 2024 at 06:54 PM

NV

“ *Our very sincere condolences to the family of our dear neighbor Chris from Nadya and Vova. We met you only three years ago, but it feels like we've known you for many more years as you've become our best neighbor and wonderful friend. You were always attentive, fair and a very good person. We can't believe that you are no longer with us, and you will never wave to us and check on us anymore. You will forever remain in our hearts, dear Chris! 🙏🙏🙏  
Nadya and Vova*

Nadya / Vova - June 01, 2024 at 11:58 AM

MP

“ *I was introduced to you through my sister, Sheree and we clicked from that point on. You were my predecessor, brother, and friend and will be truly missed but forever loved. We called each other beloved because it was real and authentic because that was who you are. SIP, Beloved, until we meet at the crossroads for you have earned your infinity coin.*

Maurice Pauline - June 01, 2024 at 05:58 AM

DS

“ 2 files added to the album a cherished visit



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**Don and Sharon** - May 28, 2024 at 12:09 PM

DS

“ We were blessed to work with Chris at Insight House and are grateful for his friendship through the years. Our lives were made better by knowing Chris. He was a great person devoted to his family- he was always eager to show us the latest pictures of his wife and family whenever we met. Our most sincere condolences to Peggy, the children and family. We will miss him dearly and will keep him in our hearts.  
*Don and Sharon*

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**Don and Sharon** - May 27, 2024 at 10:35 PM

NV

Our very sincere condolences to the family of our dear neighbor Chris from Nadya and Vova. We met you only three years ago, but it feels like we've known you for many more years as you've become our best neighbor and wonderful friend. You were always attentive, fair and a very good person. We can't believe that you are no longer with us, and you will never wave to us and check on us anymore. You will forever remain in our hearts, dear Chris! 🙏🙏🙏  
*Nadya and Vova*

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**Nadya and Vova** - June 01, 2024 at 09:50 AM

JW

“ My Chris from the group home. We started our recovery together over 30 years ago. I was trying to make to see you last week, but car trouble delayed me. I just got the word today. we always appreciated each other. God is Pleased you finished the race and you did it well with Grace. You will always ❤️ be a part of my life and Journey. SLEEP IN PEACE MY FRIEND

Joyce Williams - May 17, 2024 at 12:37 PM



“ Chris was an amazing man. He would always come in to Hannaford and always talk to all the staff and was just so kind. Chris use to always give me a good laugh or smile every time you came into the store. I will really miss seeing you all the time and hearing your stories.



Janessa James - May 15, 2024 at 01:15 PM



I'm so sad to see this 😞 He was so nice and super funny, always tried to skip in front of everyone with the numbers so he called for you 🤪 We will surely miss you Mr. Cross as I called you ❤️ May you rest in peace 🙏❤️

Ebony Ramirez - May 15, 2024 at 01:24 PM

KD

“ My condolences to Peggy & Family. Chris you will be missed. I had great moments cashing you out at Hannaford. Rest in peace my Aries twin.

keisha Danois - May 15, 2024 at 12:27 PM

AR

“ Chris, it was a honor to have known you. You are a true gentleman and friend

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**Arthur Rapp** - May 14, 2024 at 02:20 PM

GC

“ I had the pleasure of working with Chris at Insight House for many years. He was a wonderful person and co-worker. Condolences to his wife and family. Rest in peace my friend.  
Gina Cardillo

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**Gina Cardillo** - May 14, 2024 at 10:19 AM

KM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Kim Mason** - May 13, 2024 at 07:24 PM

CM

“ My condolences to peggy and the family. Chris you will truly be missed.i definitely enjoyed working with you @ insighthouse. May you Rip Chris

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**Charlene miller** - May 13, 2024 at 06:36 PM

LA

“ Chris will truly be missed. He was the cousin that I could always count on to check in on me and my family. He wasn't just my cousin he was my friend. He was the true example of a “Gentle Giant”. I'll cherish each memory we've shared. SIP

~Dwasha

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**LaDwasha Alexander** - May 12, 2024 at 07:39 PM