



Henry Cruz

July 14, 1934 - April 1, 2024

Henry Cruz, 89, died at 5:00 a.m. Monday, April 1, 2024 at his home in Alton. Henry was born in Fairmont City on July 14, 1934. He was the sixth child out of eleven born to Ysidro and Carlotta (Soto) Cruz. He remained in Fairmont City until the age of ten where the family moved to Wapato, Washington. At the age of 15 he began to work in the farm fields of Washington State to provide for his siblings. Years later at the age of 21, entered in the U.S. Air Force where he was assigned to Parks Air Force Base for basic training. After leaving basic training he was stationed in various Air Force Bases such as Chanute, Larson and Charleston. While in the Air Force, he earned his GED. Soon after leaving the Air Force in 1959, he returned to Fairmont City where he met his future wife, Juanita Gonzales. They met at the Mexican Dance Hall where they danced, dated, fell in love and where they became engaged and married in the same year. The very same year, he began working at Laclede Steel.

Henry always took an interest in keeping his yard clean and cut along with keeping his vehicles washed and pristine. He was always known to tell his children to check their oil frequently, which became a family joke.

He was an avid sports fan, especially a devoted Cardinals fan. It was very common to hear the ballgame on the radio while he was outside grilling for his family or have the ballgame playing on the TV when you enter the living room. His love of sports carried on into his Air Force years where he played on various basketball and softball teams. After leaving the service, he continued

to play on various Mexican and Laclede Steel softball teams. Eventually he became a pitcher for The Patriots and other slow and fast pitch teams.

He also played on league sponsored basketball teams where his signature Hook shot made him a standout amongst his fellow ball players.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita, children, Michael (Linda) Cruz of Alton, Daniel Cruz of Bethalto, Connie St. Peters of St. Louis, Julie (Matt) Weiner of Jerseyville and Ken (Kristin) Cruz of Bethalto, grandchildren, Trisha Cruz (Brock Smith), Kelsey (Tyler) Hawkins, Morgan (Kyle) Deardeuff, Alex St. Peters (Elizabeth Hawkins), Juliana Weiner (Jonathan Siddell), Emily Cruz, Zach Weiner and Abby Cruz, and great grandchildren, Kaden Hawkins, Jackson Hawkins, Rainah Deardeuff, Vada Hawkins, Weston Haley, and Rylah Deardeuff. Also surviving are his siblings, Lola Douglas, Gloria Davis and Nancy Comstock.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Mary Quintana, Tomasa (Mattie) Moralez, Lino Cruz, Ysidro (Chito) Cruz, Robert (Bobby) Cruz, Anthony (Tony) Cruz, and Manuel Cruz.

Visitation will be from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 7, 2024 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. A Mass of Christian burial will be at 12:00 noon Monday, April 8, 2024 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton. Burial will be at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Autismspeaks.org in the name of Abby Cruz, his granddaughter. The family would like to thank BJC Hospice for their care and support during this time. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph's Cemetery

525 East 4th Street
Alton, IL 62002

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002

Mass

APR 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
4th and Henry Street
Alton, IL 62002

Tribute Wall

GS

“ Gregory S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Cruz.

Gregory S. - April 08, 2024 at 01:25 AM

CM

“ I knew Henry for over 20 years and he was the nicest guy and always stopped and said hey no matter where I saw him. RIP Henry Buddy. Sure going to miss him. 🙏 Thoughts and prayers sent to his family and friends. God Bless you all.

Charlie Morton - April 07, 2024 at 12:26 AM

TH

“ Taylor Hayes purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Henry Cruz.



Taylor Hayes - April 06, 2024 at 02:16 PM

TH

“ Taylor Hayes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Cruz.

Taylor Hayes - April 06, 2024 at 02:16 PM

LH

“ Love Vern and Laurie Van Hoy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Cruz.

Love Vern and Laurie Van Hoy - April 06, 2024 at 11:20 AM

LH

“ Love Vern and Laurie Van Hoy purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Henry Cruz.



Love Vern and Laurie Van Hoy - April 06, 2024 at 11:20 AM

DE

“ The Moralez family has so many great memories of Uncle Henry. We all enjoyed his visits to Indy with his family. We will remember his sweet smile and kindness. Mom (Mattie) loved him very much. He will be missed and always loved. We will see you again some day. Love to Aunt Juanita and family. Dee, Tomas, and Mike.

Dee Emmert - April 06, 2024 at 08:22 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Henry Cruz.



April 05, 2024 at 10:00 PM

FJ

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Cruz Family. May God Comfort you in your time of need. Frank and Cherie Rogg

Frank J. Rogg Jr. - April 05, 2024 at 01:39 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Henry Cruz.*



April 05, 2024 at 10:43 AM



“ *Dr. Sherwood's office purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Henry Cruz.*



Dr. Sherwood's office - April 04, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ *Dr. Sherwood's office planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Cruz.*

Dr. Sherwood's office - April 04, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Henry Cruz.*



April 03, 2024 at 10:10 PM

SN

“ Dad (Chito Cruz) always enjoyed visits with Uncle Henry and family. He always had nice things to say of him. Uncle Henry and Aunt Juanita always treated our family with respect and love. We will miss him. Shelia (Cruz) Newman

Shelia (Cruz) Newman - April 03, 2024 at 08:45 PM

SN

“ Shelia N. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Cruz.

Shelia N. - April 03, 2024 at 08:40 PM

NA

“ Nancy purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Henry Cruz.



Nancy - April 03, 2024 at 05:26 PM

NE

“ Sincere condolences to the family and prayers for comfort. Elson Family

Nancy Elson - April 03, 2024 at 03:33 PM

LJ

“ Lynda Marie & Rita Jo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Cruz.

Lynda Marie & Rita Jo - April 03, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Henry Cruz.*



April 03, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ *Leo Cruz Jr. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Henry Cruz.*



Leo Cruz Jr. - April 03, 2024 at 11:27 AM