

NOTABLE MILITARY AND HONORARY AWARDS: SPACE AND MISSILE SYSTEMS DIVISION (AFMC), Air Force Commendation Medal W/2 Devices, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal W/4 Devices, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon w/2 devices, NCO Professional Military Graduate Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon



Family Visitation: 1:00 P.M.
Funeral Service: 2:00 P.M.

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Sunrise - April 12, 1958 Sunset - October 19, 2025

CROCKETT

Elmer RAY

OF *Life*

CELEBRATING THE

1958 ELMER RAY CROCKETT 2025

**A LIFE WELL-LIVED:
A TRIBUTE TO ELMER "RAY" CROCKETT**

He walked with both strength and grace,
A steady heart in every place.
From Murfreesboro's southern skies,
To distant lands where duty lies.
In uniform, he stood with pride,
With honor burning deep inside.
Korea's winds, Guam's distant shore,
He served with courage, and so much more.
In England's mist and Florida's sun,
His faithful work was never done.
Through every post, through every year,
He led with love, cast out all fear.
But more than ranks or medals won,
Ray's truest legacy was one:
A husband's vow, a father's care,
A soul who showed how much he'd bear.
He gave his name, he gave his heart,
To daughters who became his art.
Natasha's love, Adreena's light
Reflections of his guiding might.
With Ora Jean, his lifelong bride,
He walked in faith, stood side by side.
Their bond endured through time and test,
A sacred love divinely blessed.
He leaves behind a trail of gold,
In stories lived, in hands he'd hold.
In Chloe's laugh, in Eden's eyes,
In every child, his spirit flies.
Though now he rests in heaven's peace,
His love and light will never cease.
For those who knew him, hearts still sing
Of Ray, the man, the soul, the King.
Because his death has no sting,
He lived a life worth remembering!



NELSON & SONS CHAPEL MURFREESBORO • 448 EAST BURTON ST • MURFREESBORO, TN



Murfreesboro • Shelbyville
Funeral Directors: Albert, Demetrius & Brandon Nelson
(615) 494-5001 (931) 685-4200
www.nelsonandsons.net



NELSON & SONS

Order of Service

Pastor Elder B.L. Russell, Sr., Officiant

Processional (Musician, Steve Norman Playing Falling In Love w/Jesus).....	The Family
Scripture & Prayer.....	Pastor Elder B.L. Russell, Sr.
Family Tributes	Charlie Crockett, Natasha Desai, Nala Perry, & Adreena Perry
Selection (Live Musician Soloist).....	“Ribbon in the Sky”, Steve Norman
Words of Encouragement & Comfort.....	Natasha Desai
Reflections (2 mins).....	Family & Friends
Acknowledgments & Resolutions.....	Mother Flora McCullough
Selection (Live Musician Soloist)	“Thank You Lord”, Steve Norman
Eulogy.....	Reverend Alex Perry
Closing Selection.....	“Lace Up Your Boots”
Interment.....	Lovvorn Cemetery, Murfreesboro, TN

Active Flower Bearers
Family & Friends

Active Pallbearers
Family & Friends

Honorary Pallbearers
Charlie Crockett, Terrell Crockett, Eshua Desai, Timothy Lawrence
Alex Perry, Charleston Smith, Mitch Smith

Elmer Ray Crockett

Elmer “Ray” Crockett entered the world on a warm spring Saturday, April 12, 1958, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, born to Annie Marie Smith and Charlie Lee Crockett. As the fifth of nine children. He attended school in Rutherford County and graduated from Oakland High School with pride.

In July 1977, shortly after graduating, Ray enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, answering a higher calling to serve. While stationed across Korea, England, Guam, Florida, and California, he pursued his education at Miami Dade Community College. Rising to Staff Sergeant (E-5), he retired in 1992 after 15 years of distinguished service, and consistently embodying excellence, humility, and commitment.

Ray’s service continued at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where he supported fellow veterans with benefits and healthcare until retiring in 2023. He worked in various roles, always bringing a strong work ethic and quiet leadership. Whether mentoring or lending a hand, Ray remained a steady presence. In all, he devoted over 45 years to serving his country. Ray’s devotion to family ran even deeper than his service. He met the love of his life, Ora Jean Crockett, formerly known as Ora Jean Lawrence, during his adolescent years; a connection that, though tested by time and distance, never faded. The Lord blessed them with 45 years of marriage.

In 1979, Ray brought Ora Jean and her daughter, Natasha Desai, to California, beginning a new chapter of love and unity. On February 17, 1980, Ray and Ora Jean were married in holy matrimony, sealing a lifelong partnership rooted in faith and devotion. He adopted Natasha and lovingly gave her the Crockett name, embracing her not only in name but in spirit as his daughter, his pride, and his joy.

On December 19, 1983, God sent an angel from above. The perfect addition to complete their family; Adreena Bianca Crockett was born, now known as Adreena Bianca Perry. Her arrival deepened Ray’s joy as a father and expanded his legacy of love. He embraced his role as husband and father with unwavering devotion, leading with integrity, wisdom, strength, and a heart full of unconditional love.

Ray and Ora remained committed and devoted to one another in marriage up until Sunday, October 19, 2025, when the Lord welcomed Ray home to be reunited with his older brother, Freddie Smith; his beloved mother, Annie Marie Smith; his adored sister, Candace Marie Pettus, his Uncle Elmer Smith, Aunt Mildred Smith- Bey and a host of other loved ones.

He leaves to cherish his memories to his dear wife, Ora Jean Crockett; his two loving daughters, Natasha (Vikram) Desai and Adreena (Alex) Perry; siblings, Bonita Smith, Charlie (Norma) Crockett, Jerry Crockett, Teresa King, Darryl Crockett, and Carolyn Crockett; grandchildren, Chloe Desai, Eshua Desai, Nala Perry, Eden Perry, and John Perry; a host of nieces, nephews, relatives; his devoted friend Clinton Garrison and various other friends whose lives were touched by his kindness, wisdom, and unwavering presence.

Ray’s legacy is one of service, perseverance, strength, courage, and faith. He will be remembered not only for his accomplishments but for the character he carried through every chapter of his life with authenticity, humility, grace, and a spirit that uplifted everyone around him. He wasn’t a perfect man, but he was a “GREAT” God fearing man, who loved his country, family and the LORD!

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the family of the late Elmer “Ray” Crockett, we would like to express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all our family and loved ones. We are overwhelmed and thankful for the overflowing prayers, love, flowers, support, calls, cards, and meals we have received. Your presence in our time of grief allowed us to truly experience the love of Jesus. We are so thankful to have been blessed with an amazing village. May the Lord bless you all in abundance for being the hands and feet of Jesus and tending to our family in a time of need.

Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, we offer our sincere gratitude for your support and gracious hearts of service. Your care and compassion have been a source of peace and comfort for our family.

A very special thank you to Nelson & Sons Chapel for your exceptional dedication, attention to detail, and tender care in honoring Ray’s life. You helped us create a service that was not only beautiful, but deeply meaningful and a true reflection of the man we loved so dearly.

Though our hearts are heavy, they are also full of gratitude for each of you who stood beside us, and with love for the legacy Ray leaves behind. Thank you for helping us celebrate his life with dignity, grace, and warmth.