

# U-HAUL<sup>®</sup> NEWS

## In Memory of Velva Crahan

**PHOENIX**—U-Haul pioneer Velva Crahan has passed away. She was 91 years old.

Velva joined the U-Haul family in 1963, shortly after her husband, Pat Crahan, was hired as marketing company president (MCP) of what was then UHC of Oklahoma and Arkansas. Velva ran the marketing company office because the person who had been managing the office got very sick.

“Neither Velva nor I had planned for her to come to work for me,” Pat explained in 2006. “It was an emergency situation.”

Though it wasn’t a planned career move for Velva, she soon discovered that it was a role she was made for.

“We always worked very well together,” declared Pat, who passed away in 2017 after a 54-year U-Haul career. “And, Velva always made friends with the dealers, which really helped me out as MCP.”

### A love story

Pat and Velva met when Pat’s previous employer sent him to Beaumont, Texas, as part of a management training program. He rented a room in Beaumont from Velva’s aunt, and Pat and Velva eventually started dating. A few months later, in 1956, they got married, and as they say in fairy tales—and as is certainly true here—they lived happily ever after.

Pat summed up their relationship in 2006, when he and Velva celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

“What’s blessed our union,” he told *U-Haul News*, “is the fact that we’ve always supported each other in all areas of our lives. Velva gives me the confidence that helps me succeed in my negotiations for U-Haul.”

### “A true force”

In 1974, Pat was named vice president of Government Relations. During the next several decades, Pat and Velva worked with mayors, city councils and zoning officials, and attended municipal league conferences, meetings of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) and other government-relations conferences and meetings, all on behalf of U-Haul.

“Velva was a joy to know and work with,” U-Haul CEO Joe Shoen declared. “She treated you as family and because of that, we became family. Velva was a consummate professional, representing U-Haul to lawmakers and law enforcement across North America. My family and I will miss her.”

“Pat and Velva were instrumental in many areas,” UHI President John “J.T.” Taylor added. “For many years, they worked with multiple government agencies across North America, representing U-Haul with dignity, intelligence and grace. They were the consummate Mr. and Mrs. U-Haul among the community of government agencies that they worked with.

“Velva was a true force in her own right,” Taylor continued. “She had total love for Pat and U-Haul Company, and that shined through to everyone they worked with. She demonstrated a level of selflessness that was unmatched and made this partnership effective in every way. Sadly, all of us and the world have truly lost a person with a huge heart and compassion for all.”

“For more than four decades, Velva was the face of U-Haul to motor vehicle administrators across North America,” added Joe Cook, who succeeded Pat Crahan as VP of Government Relations.

“Velva represented the Company with class and excellence. Pat would be the first to say that any success he had was because of the love and support of Velva. Of course, Velva was a force in her own right and worked hard to stand up for the needs of U-Haul customers. I’m a better person because of Velva and blessed to have worked alongside her. I will miss her dearly and do my best to represent U-Haul as well as she did.”

Pat and Velva Crahan were married for 61 years before he passed away in 2017. They’ve survived by their four children, many of whom have worked for U-Haul over the years, along with several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



The Crahans share a laugh at Pat’s 50<sup>th</sup> U-Haul anniversary celebration in 2013.



Pat and Velva celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2006.



Velva samples some local cuisine in St. Johns, Newfoundland, in 1984. This was one of many events Velva and Pat Crahan attended on behalf of U-Haul over the years.