



## Mr. William Robert Craig

October 16, 1946 - August 23, 2019

Mr. William Robert Craig, 72, passed away after a brief illness on August 23, 2019, at Brookwood Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Craig was born October 16, 1946, in West Point, the son of John Clayton Craig Sr. and Eleanor Maude Love. He graduated from West Point High School in 1964 and attended David Lipscomb College where he met Claire Gill. They were married December 16, 1967, and after Robert graduated from college, the couple made West Point their permanent home. He was a member of the Old Aberdeen Road Church of Christ in West Point where he served as deacon and later as elder. The Old Aberdeen Road church family surrounded Robert with their love and support throughout his illness and prayed fervently for him.

Robert worked as a teacher and administrator before joining his father in the scrap metal business. After many years in the business, Robert joined Greg Rader in 2005 at Columbus Scrap Material and worked with renewed energy for the next 14 years helping Greg to grow the business that became known as Columbus Recycling. Robert enjoyed his work and throughout his years in the scrap metal business, he developed deep and lasting friendships.

Robert was a devoted family man and cherished the times that the children and grandchildren gathered on special occasions and holidays. His Saturday morning tee time was something he always looked forward to and the

camaraderie he enjoyed with his friends on the golf course. His regular habit was early morning walk around the golf course with his wife and their friends, Doug and Gail Thompson. As a member of the Class of '64, he enjoyed regular reunions with classmates and cherished the friendships that developed over the years.

Survivors include his wife Claire of 52 years, three children, Robert Gill Craig (Jennifer) of Canton, GA, Caroline Craig Sawyer (Jay) of Bentonville, AR, and Nancy Craig McClain (Chris) of Birmingham, AL; seven grandchildren, Marlie, William, and Evan Craig, Emma Claire and Lily Sawyer, Avery and Audrey McClain; two brothers, John Clayton Craig, Jr. of Franklin, TN, and Terry Lane Craig of West Point; one niece, Lana Catherine Sawtelle, five nephews, John and Philip Craig, Riley, Allen, and Jim Gill. He was preceded in death by his parents John Clayton Sr. and Eleanor Love Craig.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at 2 p.m. at Old Aberdeen Road Church of Christ with Mr. John Bauer officiating. Visitation will be Monday, August 26, 2019, from 5 until 7 at Calvert Funeral Home and a brief visitation will also take place from 1 to 2 pm, prior to the service at the church on Tuesday. Pallbearers will be Danny Bailey, Lynn Davis, Eddie Decker, Bobby Graham, Buddy Sanders, Kenny White and John Bauer. Burial will follow in Greenwood Cemetery in West Point, MS. Calvert Funeral Home of West Point is honored to be entrusted with the arrangements. Memorials may be made to the Benevolent Fund at the Old Aberdeen Road Church of Christ, 2456 North Eshman Avenue, West Point, MS 39773.

The Craig family wishes to express their deep gratitude to all those who reached out to them and prayed for Robert and the family during his illness. The family also wishes to express their gratitude to the staff and nurses of Brookwood Baptist Medical Center and especially to Dr. John Ward, Dr. Eima Zaidi, and Dr. Tom Watson, and Dr. James Sosnowchik for their

compassionate and attentive care throughout his hospitalization.

Friends may leave an online condolence at [www.calvertfuneralhome.com](http://www.calvertfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

DR

“ To the Craig family and Claire, I just now brought this site up. I know it has been awhile since Robert's entry into heaven. The Richey family passes along what a great mentor Robert was to our family and Claire to my now Ex wife Melinda, while we attended C of C in West Point, Ms. Blessings to all: Dana

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**Dana Richey** - January 27 at 10:54 AM

CM

“ So very sorry for your loss. I don't think Robert ever met a stranger. He and I worked together on some recycling committees and on projects at the cement plant. It was always a pleasure to be around him. I will keep you in my prayers during this difficult time. Curtis Middleton

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**Curtis Middleton** - August 27, 2019 at 01:43 PM

JW

Went to West Point High with Robert. He was a 167 pound starting tackle. Was a tough as nails football player. He played on defensive line beside Bubba Davis, Ronnie Herring, Larry Moore, and Alan Flowers. They were among best players ever to play at West Point High Coaches Harper Davis and Charlie Newell were so proud of them. Harper Davis said Robert's success as a football player was based on "intestinal fortitude ".  
Over the years, I was always hearing of something Robert had done for his church or community.  
May God bless him and his family  
Jim Waide

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**Jim Waide** - August 28, 2019 at 11:41 AM

RB

*So sorry for your loss. Robert was a wonderful person in which I was blessed to know him and be around him. His life is so much larger than the sum because he gave so much of himself. He will always be missed. May God comfort the family with his passing. Rest in peace my dear friend*

*Robert Bryson*

**Robert Bryson** - August 31, 2019 at 06:59 AM

BA

*Mr. Craig taught me Math in the 7th grade at Beasley High School, at that time I was Benita Neal. He gave me my beloved Siamese cat Thomasina when I was 8th grade, she lived until I finished school at The W and began my first year of teaching. My condolences and my prayers to the family.*

*Benita Neal Autry*

**Benita Autry** - September 18, 2019 at 06:22 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



August 26, 2019 at 03:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



August 26, 2019 at 03:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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August 26, 2019 at 01:21 PM



“ *Scott & Nikki Martin purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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**Scott & Nikki Martin** - August 26, 2019 at 01:20 PM



“ *I appreciated Mr. Robert's kindness, intelligence, and especially his sense of humor growing up. I know he will be missed on earth by so many people. These words are not sufficient, but my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

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**Melanie Spradling** - August 26, 2019 at 01:14 PM



“ *Robert taught me how to lead singing. I have used that skill for 42 years.*

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**Bobby Ricks** - August 26, 2019 at 12:33 PM



“ *Sorry to hear about Robert, he was a wonderful man and will be missed by so many. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

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**Linda Rhea** - August 26, 2019 at 12:06 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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August 26, 2019 at 11:06 AM



“ *Gerdau purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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**Gerdau** - August 26, 2019 at 10:52 AM



“ *Frank, Henry, and everyone at Liberty Recycling purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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**Frank, Henry, and everyone at Liberty Recycling** - August 26, 2019 at 10:34 AM



“ *Russ, Brian and Trivest purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*

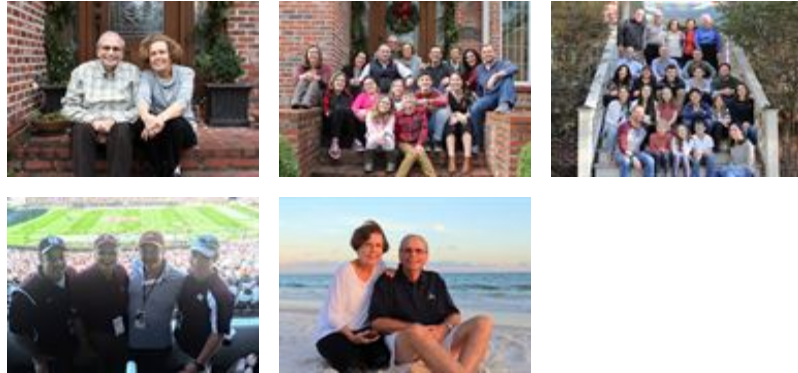


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**Russ, Brian and Trivest** - August 26, 2019 at 10:21 AM



“ 41 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Calvert Funeral Home** - August 26, 2019 at 10:02 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.



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August 25, 2019 at 05:33 PM



“ *Claire and Family,*  
*You are in my thoughts and prayers. I always enjoyed visiting with Robert at the Wellness Center.*  
*Juanita O'Brian*

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**juanita O'Brian** - August 25, 2019 at 01:58 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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August 25, 2019 at 12:35 PM



“ *Janet And Randy Wallace lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Robert Craig*



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**Janet and Randy Wallace** - August 25, 2019 at 12:19 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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August 25, 2019 at 12:10 PM



“ *Metro Community Group Family purchased the Glorious Grace Bouquet for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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**Metro Community Group Family** - August 25, 2019 at 11:33 AM

PL

“ *Paul and Chris Lynes purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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**Paul and Chris Lynes** - August 24, 2019 at 06:24 PM

JW

“ *Claire and family~*

*We are so sorry for your loss. We did not even realize Robert had been sick. John has many baseball memories of playing WPHS baseball with Robert. We enjoyed reconnecting with Robert when we moved back to West Point and making friends with Claire. We are sending our heartfelt sympathy to all his loved ones and we are praying for God's comfort during this sad time. May your sweetest memories always be a precious treasure and source of comfort.*

*Love and Blessings~*

*John & Linda (Blankenship) Woolbright  
Benton, Arkansas*



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**John and Linda Woolbright** - August 24, 2019 at 05:29 PM

LC

*To Claire and family.. I was so very sorry to hear of Roberts's passing. I did not know he was sick until recently. My heart goes out to all of you, and I will pray for you during this difficult time. With loving thoughts,  
Linda Taylor Campbell*

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**Linda Campbell** - August 26, 2019 at 09:33 AM

CP

“ *Craig, Ticia, Jackson & Spencer Payne purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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**Craig, Ticia, Jackson & Spencer Payne** - August 24, 2019 at 04:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



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August 24, 2019 at 04:08 PM

DF

“ *Robert was the one you just knew would be there for what you needed. Class reunions when we talked about the price and if we could afford it his faith was so much greater and just said it will be ok like he knew just putting a basket there everyone would pay their share and then some.*

*He always had that big smile, I never heard him say anything bad about anyone. He love his family, even after he was sick I saw he and Claire at the Farmers Market, when ask how he felt he played it down by saying oh I am ok, a pat on the arm and away he would go. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.*

*God bless his family for their loss.*

*Darrellene Thompson Fulgham*

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**Darrellene Fulgham** - August 24, 2019 at 12:09 PM

AT

*“ You and family are in my prayers. I will always cherish the wonderful time we all had at the Welty Symposium. Love you, Alma*

Alma Turner - August 24, 2019 at 12:03 PM



*“ Rays of Light Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Craig.*



August 23, 2019 at 10:36 PM

JM

*“ Sincere condolences to Claire, Gil, Caroline, and Nancy and their families. Karen and I are deeply saddened by this news. We grieve with you all, but we also join you in celebrating Robert's Homegoing, although it came way too soon.*

Johnny Melton - August 23, 2019 at 10:35 PM



*“ Love and prayers to Claire and the rest of the family. My heart breaks for your loss, yet it also rejoices with you that there is no doubt where Robert is; that he is whole and healthy and that you will one day be reunited with him. Now, I pray for God to hold you close and give you peace and strength in the days ahead. Love, Prayers, and Blessings!*

Kathleen Griffin - August 23, 2019 at 10:22 PM

JL

“ Terry and Jenny Lawson and family send their sincere and heartfelt love and sympathy to Claire, Gil, Caroline and Nancy and all family. We are so sorry for the loss that is felt; we also rejoice in Robert's love for Jesus and his dedication in service to Him. Who can ever forget Robert as deacon over education at church, pondering over all of the big plans for 'Family Week' each summer at Old Aberdeen Road! Many fond memories of his dedication to God, the body of Christ, and his wife and children. We love each of you and will continue to pray for strength and help from the Lord.

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**Jennifer Lawson** - August 23, 2019 at 09:18 PM

EF

“ Ellen Criddle Turner And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Robert Craig



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**Ellen Criddle Turner and Family** - August 23, 2019 at 09:08 PM

VR

“ A kind sweet man. So sorry for your loss.

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**Velma Robinson** - August 23, 2019 at 08:44 PM

ST

“ With sympathy and friendship, Love to this precious family,

*Susanne Allen Thomas*

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**Susanne Allen Thomas** - August 23, 2019 at 07:28 PM

CS

“ *It was a privilege to have known him. A friend gone too soon.*

**Craig Smith** - August 23, 2019 at 04:47 PM

BA

“ *Praying for comfort, strength and peace. We Love this family, and we will miss Robert.* 🙏❤️🙏

**Beverly R. Allen** - August 23, 2019 at 04:34 PM

BL

“ *We are so thankful for many wonderful memories of Robert. This family has been so important to this community. Praying for this family. Bill & Judy*

**Bill Ladd** - August 23, 2019 at 04:17 PM

PH

“ *Bob joins me in sympathy and prayer that you will feel God's love and comfort as you face this time of great loss. Christ's Peace. Priscilla*

**Priscilla Harper** - August 23, 2019 at 03:42 PM

MS

“ *Melanie Snow lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Robert Craig*



**Melanie Snow** - August 23, 2019 at 03:32 PM

LA

“ *Lucille Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Robert Craig*



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**Lucille Armstrong** - August 23, 2019 at 03:13 PM

RS

“ *Rick & Rhonda Stafford lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Robert Craig*



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**Rick & Rhonda Stafford** - August 23, 2019 at 02:08 PM