



Gary Howard Craig

June 29, 1946 - September 21, 2025

Gary Howard Craig, 79, of Rockford, passed away on September 21, 2025. Born June 29, 1946, in Rockford, Gary graduated from West High School, class of 1964. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force before beginning his career as a member of the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union, Local 23.

Gary was a lifelong sports fan and athlete. He enjoyed playing and watching football, basketball, baseball, and softball, but his greatest love was cheering on his Chicago Bears. In his younger years, he also enjoyed swimming, tennis, and spending time with friends at the bowling league at Fairview. Above all, Gary loved his family. He will be deeply missed by his children, Michelle (Kurt) Wilson, Danelle Mangruem, Nicole Ponds, Jennifer Caple-Craig, John (Cortney) Craig, and Ryan (Ashley) Craig; his 12 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law, Jill Craig; and the family dog, JoJo. He is reunited in peace with his parents; brothers, Johnny Craig and Don "Bob" Craig; his son-in-law, Calvin Mangruem; sisters-in-law, Laurel (Randy) Gardner and Martha Weber; his beloved wife, Peggy Craig; and his beloved dog, Bear. Gary's family extends a huge thank you to his primary care physician, Dr. David Jeong as well as the staff of Northern Illinois Hospice, with a special thanks to his nurse, Drew, CNA Michelle and CNA Shamir. A memorial visitation will be held on Friday, September 26, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 4301 N. Main St., Rockford. A Celebration of Life will follow at 6:30 p.m. Celebrant Jennifer

Thompson will officiate. Live Stream of the service can be viewed here: <https://my.gather.app/remember/gary-howard-craig> Grace Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family. Share a memory or condolence at www.gracefh.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

SEP **26.** 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Celebration of Life

SEP **26.** 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Tribute Wall



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Gary Howard Craig



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - September 26, 2025 at 01:29 PM

JJ

“ My father and I were reminiscing the other day about hanging out with Peggy, Gary, Michelle, Dani, and Nikki when we lived down on Oakley and the Craigs lived behind Church School. We had good times together. The families lost touch. We are saddened to hear of Gary's passing and hope the whole family is doing well with their loss. We miss you all. James "Fred" Matheson, Jr.

James F Matheson, Jr. - April 12 at 03:56 PM

JP

“ JD, Kyera, & Phoenix purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Gary Howard Craig.



JD, Kyera, & Phoenix - September 26, 2025 at 11:02 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gary Howard Craig.

September 26, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Howard Craig.



September 26, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ Dennis, Sally Amdur and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary Howard Craig.

Dennis, Sally Amdur and Family - September 25, 2025 at 02:04 AM



“ Dennis, Sally Amdur and Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Gary Howard Craig.



Dennis, Sally Amdur and Family - September 25, 2025 at 02:04 AM