



Dale W. Craig

September 13, 1940 - August 26, 2016

Dale W. Craig, 75 of Willoughby Hills formerly of Mentor, died Friday August 26, 2016 at home. He was born September 13, 1940 in Bellaire, OH.

Dale was a retired Executive Director for the Mentor Public Library for 25 years. Before his career in Mentor, Dale, an early proponent of the importance of library services for kids, built a revolutionary children's library at the main branch of the Erie County Library System in Erie, PA that allowed children to check out not only books, but games and pets.

After a birding trip at Lake MetroParks, Dale became a devoted birder. He set up multiple bird feeders at his home, and took many trips to places such as Cape May, NJ and Magee Marsh, OH.

Known for his generous soul, Dale volunteered for Lake County History Center, Hospice of Western Reserve, United Way of Lake County, Lake MetroParks, League of Women Voters, and for the social justice committee at East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church.

Survivors include his children: Lisa (John Semilia) Craig and Bryan (Myla Goldman) Craig, grandchildren: Rowen & Greta, brothers: William E. & Donald R. Craig and his former wife: Sharon Craig.

Preceding Dale in death are his parents: Waldo & Elizabeth Craig.

A Memorial Service will be held 4 pm Saturday September 10, 2016 at East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 10848 Chillicothe Rd. Kirtland, OH 44094..

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dale's name to Lake MetroParks, 11211 Spear Rd., Concord Twp., OH 44077 or East Shore UU Church.

Arrangements entrusted to Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Avenue, Mentor OH 44060.

Offer condolences at www.brunners.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **10**. 4:00 PM (ET)

East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church
10848 Chillicothe Rd.
Kirtland, OH 44094

Tribute Wall

ES

“ I was blessed to work under Dale Craig for many years at the Mentor Library in the 70s and 80s. Dale embraced the Mentor community and selflessly devoted countless evenings and weekends to civic projects and committees. Dale's generous spirit fostered a happy and effective workplace. In those years, he navigated the Mentor Library through several major building projects and the catalog automation, while constantly pushing to increase the budget for books, CDs, and other materials used heavily by a well-educated library-frequenting population. I often speak of his encouraging leadership style and I am truly thankful for the way he made my years in library work productive, meaningful, and enjoyable.

Lisa and Bryan,

I hope it brings you comfort to know that so many of us loved and appreciated your father and feel a real loss at his passing. Your father often shared his pride in your accomplishments. His face would glow when he spoke of you. No doubt you brought him much happiness. I'm sure his love expanded to embrace each of you, as your family grew. You and your extended family will be in my prayers.

Elizabeth Schmidt

Elizabeth Schmidt - September 08, 2016 at 10:13 PM

TH

“ We have many fond memories of working with Dale. First I had the pleasure of serving with him on the Wildwood Commission and later he joined Jane and me working with the Mentor Performing Concert Series. I always valued his thoughts and ideas. He was a special asset to Mentor as the community was growing.

Ted Hieronymus

Ted Hieronymus - September 07, 2016 at 11:01 AM

SE

“ I was with Dale throughout the 25 years he was Director at Mentor Library. He was my friend, my mentor, my confidant, and Director. He directed with ease and never a sharp word only encouragement, praise and suggestions. He was always open to new ideas and plans. It was my pleasure to be part of his caring staff and my pleasure also to have such a fine role model in my life. For the family, please know that he touched so many lives in so many ways. He will always be remembered and always affectionately loved.

Suzanne Earle

Suzanne Earle - September 06, 2016 at 05:46 PM

SF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Craig family. Dale was a wonderful person who will be missed by many. We were very lucky to have him as a part of our family. He always had a smile on his face. I have a lot of great memories of family outings and vacations together. He will always have a special place in my heart.

*With love at this sad time,
Shelly Fletcher*

Shelly Fletcher - September 06, 2016 at 04:44 PM

DF

“ I knew Dale when he was just retiring from the Mentor library and he was looking for a way to give back to the Lake County community. He started volunteering with the United Way where he brought with him experience, wit, laughter and a sense of purpose. Library patrons still talk about his kindness and easy way of working with people. After working with him, I truly understood the quiet power, intellect and sincere goodness that he gave to everyone around him. Dale was just a wonderful person and when I think of him I simply smile. It's a wonderful reaction and memory.
Deborah Foley

Deborah Foley - September 02, 2016 at 01:35 PM