



Craig Cuddy

October 12, 1949 - June 10, 2018

Craig Cuddy

Jefferson, Iowa

Date of Death: June 10, 2018

Craig Cuddy was born October 12, 1949, the second of Jim and Lorna Cuddy's five boys. Craig had a tough start in life, as asthma kept him down often. Consequently, he grew into a teen fueled by an uncertain longevity, so he decided to do as much as he could -- back to that in a minute. Craig's journey ended June 10, 2018, at the age of 68. He lived a lot in those years, as a fearless adventurer, but foremost as a great son, brother, dad to Chad, and partner to Susan DeWitt.

Craig touched many on his journey. A few highlights: ice cream cone jockey at Bud Lange's Creamery in Dayton, Iowa (while brother Dick worked across the street at Carson's Hardware and Funeral Home), bartender somewhere, respiratory therapist (self-help), aspiring writer, mortuary student, meat cutter, Jerry Brown political activist, taxi driver (photo evidence), property manager (in Hawaii), Twin Lakes skiing enthusiast, probation officer (thin line between crime and justice), home health care dude, dedicated oppositional defiant, realtor, land developer, NASCAR race host, rodeo TV cameraman (bull riding), tequila taster in Mexico (8 months), EMT in California, caregiver to his parents (payback), Greene County census director, harvest scale operator, golf course marshal, secret shopper, drug trial guinea pig, lifelong wandering soul.

His brother Joe says Craig had the ability to argue with anyone at full blast and they never seemed to stay mad at him, because he smiled as he made his point. Brother Dick has dozens of stories, but please ask him in person, as most are unprintable. When Craig's fate was sealed a week before he died, he called his brother Mark to say, "And then there were four," followed by a hearty laugh. That was Craig's brand of humor. He said his goal was to make it to his 50th class reunion. Five days later, the hayrack carrying the class of '68 paused in front of Craig and Susan's house on the Mahanay Bell Tower Festival parade route, and his classmates chanted Craig's name and cheered. He made his 50th. The next morning, his memorable life stopped, and the legend of his life took flight. His parents, Jim and Lorna Cuddy, preceded Craig in death. Craig is survived by his son:

Chad (Becky) Cuddy of St. Helena, CA; 2 granddaughters: Morgan Cuddy and Mila Cuddy of St. Helena, CA; his life partner: Susan DeWitt of Jefferson, IA; Susan's daughters: Nicole (Eric) Campbell; Chrissa (Travis) Lowe; Susan's grandchildren: Gavin, Grant and Gage Campbell; his four brothers: Dick (Marge) Cuddy of The Villages, FL, Steve (Kathy) Cuddy of Jefferson, IA, Mark (Kitty Sheehan) Cuddy of Hurley, NY, and Joe (Susan Timmerman) Cuddy of Jefferson, IA; his aunt: Janice (Jerry) Kennedy of Grand Junction, IA; nieces; nephews; cousins; other relatives; and many friends.

Following cremation, a visitation for Craig will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2018, at Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home in Jefferson, with the family present to greet friends from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and featuring story telling at 3:30.

Burial will take place at St. Mary's Cemetery, in the Cuddy plot south of Cooper, Iowa, in Greene County. His great-grandparents, James Dominic Cuddy and Ann Cuddy, have been waiting for Craig since 1907, in the little Irish Catholic cemetery, where the church burned down in 1954. We swear Craig had nothing to do with that. The view is beautiful. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Jefferson Public Library in Jefferson. We will miss Craig's smile and humor, his edginess and kindness, and most of all, his laughter.

Breathe easy, brother Craig.

Cemetery

St. Mary's Cemetery

Greene County, IA,

Comments



“ I was a member of the :“Dead End Gang” as Craigs ' father refered to us. One early morning, after a night at the Larmar Ballroom in Ft. Dodge, we stopped for breakfast at a local café in the same town. We were harassed by the locals. A "Battle Royal" broke out lasting for seconds, but seemed like minutes. After the smoke cleared a policeman offered to the group that maybe Craig should go to the hospital because his teeth were crooked. Nick Richardson replied, his is fine as his teeth naturally look like that. Craig was one of a kind, never knew a stranger he wouldn't talk to. He will be missed by all who knew him. I will always remember Craig as Dan Murphy chose to remember him. Many a summer night and dawn setting at the Murphy house watching the sun come up!

Bill Daubendiek - June 25, 2018 at 12:29 PM



“ Mark and Family,
Bryce and I send you our heartfelt thoughts and prayers at the loss of Craig. Brothers are special and he sound like a great one!

Randy and Bryce Bunker

Randy Bunker - June 18, 2018 at 05:51 PM



“ Craig and I were always on different ends of the political worlds but he worked very hard to try to bring back form the dark side. Jon and I very good times. We will always thinks of him when we are in Las Vegas. I worked for him, partied with him, and always made me feel like a friend. The Tiffanys

Jayne Tiffany - June 16, 2018 at 01:04 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jayne Tiffany - June 16, 2018 at 01:01 PM



“ I met Craig while pouring beer at the ISF Grandstand several years ago. He was so funny and full of stories as well as determined to enjoy life. I was so happy for Susan to have such a great guy in her life. Craig was one of a kind. He was the guy that never met a stranger and could talk to anyone. I'm glad I had the chance to know you Craig, you will be missed by all who were lucky enough to enjoy your company! Susan...love, prayers, hugs and kisses,
Mindy, Travis, Nick and Jase and Parker

mindy jordan - June 16, 2018 at 09:41 AM



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



June 15, 2018 at 12:58 PM



“ Uncle Dave, Aunt Gigi, Brett, Tony and Dalyn purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Craig Cuddy.



Uncle Dave, Aunt Gigi, Brett, Tony and Dalyn - June 15, 2018 at 10:06 AM



“ Dick, Steve, Mark and Joe, was so sorry to hear about Craig. We always enjoyed visiting with him when we went back to Iowa in the summer. I know y'all will miss him, but from reading the obituary you have lots of memories. Prayers for you and your families. Love you, Kay and Bob Maddux

Kay Maddux - June 15, 2018 at 09:18 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Craig Cuddy.



June 14, 2018 at 08:01 PM



“ To all of the Cuddy family, I wish you peace and healing in your loss of Craig. As Chad's mother, my heart breaks that he has had to lose his father too soon.

In our younger days we had some adventures and of course there are many stories, as Dan mentioned in his memory of Craig. I was there for the famous Jimmy Carter statement!

In memory of Craig, who was a voracious reader, I am making a donation to the Jefferson Public Library from his two granddaughters Morgan and Mila.

Love,
Kathy

Kathy Lighthall - June 14, 2018 at 01:12 PM



“ Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of Craig Cuddy.



June 13, 2018 at 12:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Craig



Mark Cuddy - June 12, 2018 at 03:35 PM



“ Where to begin? Perhaps in Regina and Leo Murphy's North Chestnut home for wayward boys and girls where Craig seemingly took up residence in the mid 60's. Craig has been an extended member of the Murphy clan since I can remember.

After he left high school I don't think I saw Craig until he, Cathy and Chad rolled thru Iowa City as he was on his way to take a job in Wisconsin. We had a memorable evening and Craig decided "what the heck, I think I'll enroll in school at the University of Iowa." Carla and I thought, "good luck" as the term was already almost a month underway and late enrollment wasn't an option. WRONG! Same with married student housing...and the Cuddy clan settled a block from us.

We really sealed the deal those years as we argued, drank, smoked, and otherwise carried on like crazed Irishmen. Among our MANY experiences a few stand out that characterize my relationship with Craig: When my car ran out of gas early in the morning (Ok, VERY late at night) in the middle of a snowstorm. I called Craig and asked for help. He never hesitated and was there as soon as he could buck his little car over the drifts. On our way back home he nicked me for gas money...Another time Craig was picking up a half rack of Old Mill at the grocery store. The tab came to \$1.99 and Craig asked me if I had any money. I looked at him sideways as I bought the beer and he said "I didn't want to break a \$10!" Another time he called us and asked us if we had any plans for the evening. When I said "no" he invited us over...and asked if we could pick up some beer on our way. And I'll never forget when Chad, perhaps 3 years old and still in his pj's, crawled up on their kitchen counter and proceeded to make himself a p b and j sandwich while the "adults" in the room went about their business. It's no wonder Chad has done so well, LOL.

In fairness to Craig...nah, forget that! These remarks may seem disrespectful to casual friends and acquaintances of Craig who are reading this. If so, that is EXACTLY how they are intended. Those who knew and loved Craig as I did understand. As Pat McNulty recently opined and to which I wholeheartedly agree: "Craig is the undisputed World Heavyweight Champion of taking crap!"

The man loved to laugh...and proved over and over to be the king of self-degradation even when he was attempting to demonstrate his towering intellect. Craig was often wrong, but only once can I recall him having ANY doubt: when debating the merits of President Jimmy Carter Craig adamantly stated: "Jimmy Carter is going to prove to be the best President in history...possibly! As often happened, he rolled his audience with glee.

My hope is this short and ornery tribute to Craig will stimulate memories and stories and much laughter. Craig would enjoy that. He was my 4th brother, a one of a kind buddy and he will be sorely missed.

Dan Murphy



“ Mark -- Sue and I send over the miles our genuine feeling of loss, but also rejoice that your brother touched so many lives. You painted a wonderful obituary as a loving tribute to Craig and your family. We hope God's comforting arms support you.
Fred and Sue Bachman of Battle Creek, MI

Fred and Sue Bachman - June 12, 2018 at 02:19 PM



“ Mark and family, thinking of you in the loss of your brother. May God's peace cover all of you at this time.

Tres Hewell - June 12, 2018 at 02:03 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Craig Cuddy.



June 12, 2018 at 01:47 PM



“ Hi Mark,

Sorry to hear of your loss. Reading the obit, sorry to say, was a pleasure, it gave me a true sense of who Craig was, his spirit and sense of humor. I'm sure his memory will live on, and at your family get togethers he will be fondly and lovingly remembered.

Eric

Eric - June 12, 2018 at 01:43 PM



“ Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Craig Cuddy.



June 12, 2018 at 01:26 PM



“ Hey Dick:

I am thinking of you, Marge and Mark - on this very sad occasion! May God bless you all as you remember your dear brother.

Rick Baldwin

Rick Baldwin - June 12, 2018 at 01:10 PM



“ Susan, Mark, and family,
Andrea and I send our sympathy. After reading Craig's obituary, it's easy to see he will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,
John and Andrea Horan
Denver, Colorado

John Horan - June 12, 2018 at 01:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Craig Cuddy.



June 12, 2018 at 01:07 PM



“ Our sympathy to the entire Cuddy family and to Susan DeWitt. Craig always had a smile and a laugh when we saw him. He will be missed.

Deb & Marc McGinn - June 12, 2018 at 12:19 PM



“ Dear Susan, Mark and the Cuddy Boys,

I got to know Craig hanging out at Bruce Banister's farmhouse and when our mothers were at the Gardens. He had a huge personality, feisty and friendly at the same time. I've always liked the Cuddy boys and know Craig will continue to play a big part in all of your lives. Good stories. My love to all of you.

Nancy Oatts

Nancy Oatts - June 12, 2018 at 11:51 AM



“ You fought for life even as a baby. Then, your personality and caring touched many. Enjoy your new life with your creator and the fullness of your unique being. Love and good memories forever.
Sister Celesta Day

S. Celesta Day - June 12, 2018 at 10:01 AM



“ Sending peace, love and my sympathies to the family and especially to Susan. I am sorry for your loss.

cheryl Stidwell Parker - June 12, 2018 at 09:16 AM



“ What a beautiful obituary. I am saddened to hear of Craig's passing. The last time I saw Craig was a couple of years ago at the GCMC emergency waiting room. Craig was with Sue Dewitt and Steve Cuddy. They were there with their mother Lorna as she had fallen and was getting x-rays. My wife & I were there because my dad, Bud, needed some x-rays too. Had a very nice visit with Craig, Sue, & Steve about the good days in Jefferson growing up which made the time in the emergency waiting room fly by. Our condolences to the Cuddy family and friends. Bill & Tammy Tasler

Bill Tasler - June 11, 2018 at 11:51 PM



“ So sad to hear of Craig's passing - he was such a very good guy. Thoughts and prayers to all his family.

Jane Stapleton Coyne Stroud

jane - June 11, 2018 at 08:30 PM



“ What a wonderful tribute to Craig in his obituary. I am a 1968 classmate & we so wanted to be able to see him outside as we rode in the parade. Hopefully he heard us, somehow, & felt our love for him.....we will miss him so much.....

Karen McCoy - June 11, 2018 at 03:10 PM



“ One of my parents' favorite friends. I have lots of memories of him as a fun guy, who'd come over and say silly things, and help do the dishes, and make us all laugh. So glad he made it to the 50th reunion. That's a beautiful farewell!

Jackie Coyne - June 11, 2018 at 03:00 PM



“ Mike & Patty Grooms & Family purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Craig Cuddy.



Mike & Patty Grooms & Family - June 11, 2018 at 10:21 AM



“ Craig was in the class ahead of me in school. So sorry to see this news.



Marilynn Rapp Buxton - June 11, 2018 at 08:50 AM



“ Dear Cuddy family and Susan,
So sad to hear about Craig. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.
Ellen Perry Crayne

Ellen Perry Crayne - June 10, 2018 at 08:19 PM



“ That is the "BESTEST OBIT" for Craig that ever could have been written. Praise for the family brothers who wrote the piece!
So WONDERFUL that the Bell Tower parade passed his house and genuflected!! He was a fun loving, friendly guy that deserved such recognition. We are all sad. Wish his family love, blessings and wonderful memories. God Bless, Jackie & Larry

Jackie Fie - June 11, 2018 at 07:02 PM