



## J. Brad Craig

November 10, 2014

### Obituary of J. Brad Craig

J. Brad Craig, 84, passed away peacefully on November 10, 2014. Born and raised in the Pittsburgh area, Brad graduated from Duke University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1954. He married Thirza Benedict, of Kingsport, TN in the spring of 1954. His career was spent largely in the metal construction industry as Sales, Training and Marketing Manager. Additionally, he taught the Dale Carnegie Course and the Dale Carnegie Management course for 16 years. Brad was an active participant in Community Theater and Church Leadership. Brad and Thirza moved to The Villages in 1994 where Brad became very active as a VNN volunteer, interviewing newcomers and reporting on Villages activities. He learned to clog with Eldon Sheldon's clogging team. Brad also contributed to the Village Theater and the "Funny Five". He was a spokesman for Angel Flight and instructed Name Memory Classes for several years. Brad loved a challenge and was often found playing golf as well as many other activities. Brad is survived by his wife Thirza of 60 years, son's David (Mary Lou) of Pittsburgh, PA, Daniel (Shawn) of Rochester, MN, daughter's Rebecca (Joe) of Atlanta, GA, Barbara (Mark) of Stuart, FL, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at 10:30AM on Friday, November 21, 2014 at Beyer's Funeral Home in Lady Lake. In lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations be made to The Villagers for Hospice, 601 Casa Bella, The

Villages, FL 32162.

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ We only knew Brad casually. We thought he was a delightful man. He was always upbeat and happy whenever our paths crossed. Linda took one of his classes and enjoyed her time there. Our condolences for your loss.

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**Sam & Linda Crowell** - November 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ My deepest sympathy Thirza to you and your whole family. Brad was a very nice man. Ralph and I always enjoyed any time spent with both of you. I remember coming to The Villages and you taking us on a tour and out to lunch. Brad is at peace now and of course you will be together again. It will be beautiful! 60 years was a long time..... but oh the joy of Eternity! My love and prayers to you and yours. Terri Sollie

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**Terri Sollie** - November 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Our deepest condolences go out to my Grandmother and the entire family. We are saddened by this tremendous loss and promise to always uphold my Grandfather's legacy. As a young kid, his card tricks amazed me and I tried to replicate his clogging skills. When we would go out in the Villages, I used to feel like I was with a celebrity. He was an Actor, a Broadcaster and the waitress' adored him. My favorite activity was him walking me through his office pictures as it highlighted the beautiful life he lived. He will continue to inspire me and I was lucky to have such a strong, smart and fun Grandfather. All our love, Julia, Adam and Taylor

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**Adam, Julia and Taylor Ross** - November 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Even though I moved away and haven't seen Brad in over 12 years, I still have vivid memories of him. I considered him a friend and feel blessed to have known him. We were in the same clogging group. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone, My heart goes out to Thirza and the family. Thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Gaylene Schnell** - November 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ I just learned of Brad's passing. Please accept my condolences. Brad was a very very dear friend. We met at Angel Flight and soon became fast friends. The last time I saw Brad was when I surprised him by returning to Florida for Brad and Thirza's 50th wedding anniversary. I will never forget his kindness and just the sound of his voice. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

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**Linda Marks** - November 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ I'm so so sorry to hear of Brad's passing. He helped me so much at The Villages with speaking on TV and radio. He was so talented .What a great person inside and out. Thank you Brad, for all you have done for me! Rest in peace and may God Bless you! Love, Martha

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**Martha Gjurich** - November 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Dave and MaryLou are our best friends and they are in our thought and prayers as well as your whole family. Paula and Scott

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**Paula & Scott Breen** - November 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Dad, You will be sadly missed by our family and your friends. We will always have a special place in our hearts remembering all the good times we have shared. You have showed us how to live life to the fullest. You loved to act, clog, speak at functions, help others at your church or whenever our family had a need you were there to help us. Retiring at the Villages was a wonderful place for our family to travel to. We have so many fun memories, Disney World, swimming, golfing, riding the golf cart, showing us card tricks, enjoying Thanksgiving together and many more memories. You have been a caring father, father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather. We love you. Love always, Dave and Mary Lou Craig

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**Mary Lou Craig** - November 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ J. Brad Craig

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November 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Memories of you are vibrant, the feeling of your presence; palpable. Forever I'll carry the warmth of your winning smile. Your journey was traveled well and was met with tremendous strength, courage, and grace. I look forward to the day we are all together again.

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**Mark Hayward** - November 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ We remember with great warmth the times at Heritage Church, way back when. So sorry for your loss. Blessings.....

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**Joyce and Vaughn Knapp** - November 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ *Thirst and family, Rest assured that you have been and will continue in our prayers. We have so many wonderful memories of those days we shared at Heritage Church. Our prayer is that He give you peace, a peace that He alone can give. Brad has run the race and won his crown. His aches and pains are no longer of any concern whatever. He is with those he loved in earlier times and, one day, we'll all be reunited! What a day that will be! Blessings in Jesus,*  
*Irene & Ron Reibie*

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**Irene & Ron Reibie** - November 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM