



Craig Richard Banko

November 8, 1953 - November 11, 2020

Craig's sudden, unexpected passing 2 days after his 67th birthday has left his family devastated: son Todd, parents Marge & Russ and sister Nancy Jo. He was a man of faith, strong convictions and a firm moral compass.

Growing up, family vacations were spent camping, arguing with his sister in the back seat of the station wagon over who was touching who or who was in who's space –in the days before seat belts. Later camping included boating; Craig was a great water skier – fiercely jumping wakes on one ski; he eventually bought a ski boat of his own.

He enjoyed sports and received an athletic scholarship to Long Beach State to play water polo and swim [backstroke]. He graduated with honors with a degree in psychology. He enjoyed mentoring and teaching but found that he couldn't help someone unless they actually wanted to change. He went into the manufacturing industry [foundries], working in-side sales and later technical production manager. He enjoyed the creative work involved in making molds and parts and gifted the family with horse-hoof handled letter openers. He also had experience in construction, truck driving, apple marketing/sales, house painting & car repairs. This made him the go-to guy for advice on just about everything.

Craig was a true family man: he loved spending time with his family, rather than golfing on weekends. He loved having the kids' friends around, BBQing and was proud the kids liked to hang at his house. He said he raised his sons Kyle and Todd to be eagles – strong enough to fly the nest and he did.

Tragically, we lost Kyle in a motorcycle accident in 2013. .. Craig was so proud of the fine young man Todd has become, thoughtful, knowledgeable, starting his own business.

After retirement, Craig enjoyed being home, tending his garden: apple and plum trees, “ugly gourds” this year and building a greenhouse “the girls”. And oh yes, his arborvitae trees.

Craig regularly visited his parents and sister in Santa Clara, completing his Mom’s to-do lists and joking with his Dad. Once or twice a year joined by dear cousin Dave and his wife Marilyn, there was a lot of laughter and fun playing cards.

He loved Jake, who he considered an “adopted” son, and enjoyed motorcycle rides with Alan, breakfasts with Mark and Friday drinks with Owen, Debbie & Nancy.

Craig imprinted our hearts and he is already greatly missed.

Tribute Wall



“ *Craig Richard Banko*

November 04, 2023 at 08:25 PM



“ *Craig Richard Banko*

November 01, 2023 at 12:58 PM



“ *I just saw this looking up an old friend from college days at Long Beach State. We were on the swim team together, and became good friends. We lost touch, and went our separate ways. Wish I had looked him up so much sooner. Sorry to see you've gone my friend. It looks liked you lived a solid life with a family to be proud of.*

Ron Hosler - October 31, 2022 at 08:52 PM



“ *To Todd and all of Craig's family. I was a far away friend ,I met Craig threw work at the foundry he was my inside guy, I was a buyer. And he was a dear friend I Cherish our friendship for so many years, he would send me picture of wild horse out his window from work hot air balloons , we seem to have a dear friendship from the east coast to the west coast , he would send me pictures when he was in CA beaches and I would send him pictures of Cape Cod MA. Once he retired we spoke to finally try to make it happen and meet up someday. My heart sadden to find out the loss of my dear friend as I would call him my pen pal from afar. I send my deepest sympathy to the family he was a wonderful man I will miss him dearly know that I never had the chance to meet God Bless you all. Be Safe. I will miss you Craig. Sending love to heaven. 🙏❤️🙏 Sandy Bielanski*

Sandy Bielanski - December 10, 2020 at 08:10 PM

GM

“ I am so sorry to hear this news. My thoughts and prayers to you and your family. God Bless.

Grant McCauley - November 17, 2020 at 06:20 PM

OC

33 years of friendship
I will truly miss you my friend

owen craugh - November 17, 2020 at 07:46 PM

LD

I met Craig last year at his mother's memorable birthday party. I was sitting alone at one of the tables, and he came by, introduced himself and we had a wonderful time talking about anything and everything, mainly family. He made sure that I was getting some of the hor d'oeuvres that I liked so he would go look for them and bring them to me. My deepest condolences to his parents Russ and Marge, and his sister Nancy Jo.

Lidia Donez - November 19, 2020 at 04:58 PM

KJ

I am so sorry to hear about your brother, Nancy Jo. My prayers are with you and your family.

Karen Johnson - November 20, 2020 at 11:41 AM

 Colleen Stanley

Oh Nancy, you know my heart is there with you and your mom and dad. I am just so very sorry. Know that our thoughts and prayers are there for you and the family! Much love to you all.

Colleen and Doug Stanley and Bob O'Connellly

Colleen Stanley - November 22, 2020 at 09:42 PM

PA

I met Craig thru Owen, my brother-in-law. He was a very kind man with a great sense of humor. He will be greatly missed.

Patricia - December 03, 2020 at 11:47 AM