



John Paul Craft

December 8, 1945 - September 12, 2019

John Paul Craft, age 73, of Berkley, passed away September 12, 2019 at his summer home in Canada. Beloved husband of Christine (née Simonson). Loving father of Jason (Danielle), Bethany (Marcus) Klinger. Dear grandfather of Edith and Elliot. Dear brother of Jim (Peggy) Craft, and Tom (Anna) Craft. Predeceased by his parents, Marion and Thomas Craft, and his sister, Irene (Leon) Wylie. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Visitation Wednesday, September 18, 4 - 8 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd., Royal Oak (4 blocks E. of Woodward). Additional visitation Thursday, 10 a.m., until the time of funeral service, 11 a.m., at the funeral home. Memorial contributions to HBMO, Canada or Kingsville, Ontario Pickleball Inc. (Please make checks payable to Christine Craft.) Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **18**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Visitation

SEP **19**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

SEP **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
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Tribute Wall

BW

“ *To all the Craft Family, our deepest condolences.*

We met John (Broken Bow) and Bethany (Princess Raindrop) through the Indian Princess program. The Ottawa Tribe with John's contributions and leadership had many enjoyable outings. Camping at Camp Ohiyesa & Copneconic, Father/Daughter Dances, field trips, adventures and fun with our daughters.

I think often about those times and how "Broken Bow" added fun and laughter to the tribe.

Prayers to all of John's family.

Bill Wright, Suzy, Patty, Amy

Bill Wright - September 19, 2019 at 10:13 AM

KH

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of John. He was full of life, love, and laughter on the Pickleball courts. He had a wonderful sense of humor, (playing Pickleball in his "Superman" cape?). I will miss his smiling face on the courts.*

-Kathy H

kathy heikkila - September 19, 2019 at 07:30 AM

DA

“ *I only knew John a short time but I never saw him when he wasn't full of life.*

We met playing pickleball and I soon found out he had a love for birds.

I will miss his wonderful spirit and joyful ways.

DAVID ANTOFF - September 17, 2019 at 09:14 PM

DH

“ To Chris and all the Craft family, our sincerest condolences.

John will be missed by all who knew him.

One short adventure from time together with our boys while in the Indian Guides. On the best night for viewing we went searching for Halley's Comet. After more than an hour's ride in the middle of the night to the edge of frozen Lake St Clair. We all piled out of the car. Looked up, only to peer into a completely clouded over sky. We stayed shivering hoping for a clearing, watching the boys scampering over the huge ice drifts on the shore. Never did see the Comet, but we still had a great time. We always did. We laughed many times about the midnight ride.

That's one of the many times we will remember about being with John. His laugh and his ability to make being around him fun. "PALS FOREVER!" John.

The memories grow more precious when those we have loved live in our hearts.

We will miss him.

Dave, Judy, Brian and Jason Hickmott

David Hickmott - September 17, 2019 at 04:12 PM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michele and AI - September 16, 2019 at 09:45 PM

MA

“ Good bye dear friend.
Trenary toast, Spam, a great leaf blower and Pickle Ball. A goofy pink straw hat and a bottle of Scotch, lovingly infused with Play-Doh. These were the little things that were uniquely you and made you so special to us. Thank you for the many kindnesses, the wise advice, and most importantly, the laughter you brought to our lives every day. There is no way to express how much we will miss you. Chris and family, all our love and support to you. There are no words to adequately relay how badly we feel.
AI & Michele

Michele and AI - September 16, 2019 at 09:34 PM

SP

“ To Chris and family; Condolences and prayers for you at this most difficult time. John was an all around great guy. We always knew when John was on the courts. We could hear his excitement and enthusiasm while playing. We will miss hearing that. We will miss him.
Sandy Percy

Sandy Percy - September 16, 2019 at 08:07 AM

DH

“ John , as we knew him at Kingsville pickleball was the ultimate heart lifter . His laughter and joy could always be heard on the courts and the sidelines . A constant attention magnate he was never alone , the centre of conversation . Thoughtful of others he would make people smile with his stories and antics .
Chris and family , our hearts go out to you , his friendship and kindness will always be treasured .
Donna and Stu

Donna Hyodo - September 15, 2019 at 11:36 PM

NA

“ To Cris and family, sincere condolences to you all. I knew John through pickle ball,.It was a pleasure to have had the opportunity to meet and play with someone so postive about full of life. He will truly be missed. God Bless, Nadine (Ned's sister)

Nadine - September 15, 2019 at 08:56 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John Paul Craft.



September 15, 2019 at 02:55 PM



“ John was the best neighbor anyone could ever have. He has such a dynamic personality. I could talk with him for hours. He was a people person. Him and Chris were one of the first people in our lives to come over and meet our baby.

He was always go go go. I have never met anyone take better care of their house than him. He was always working on something. I will truly miss seeing his face and smile. I will miss seeing my dog perk up when she saw John in the backyard. She loved John so much.

Cummings Ave. won't be the same without you!

Danielle Courtemanche - September 15, 2019 at 08:47 AM

AE

“ *This is my Uncle Paul.*

What you need to know about him is that he loved his family more than anything. He was proud of his kids, loved being a grandpa, and knew he won the lottery in marrying my Aunt. He was always joking around, and engaged in the lives of his many nieces and nephews, he made friends everywhere he went.

These photos, while several years old now, are of him working on my flooded house in Minot, ND. He and my dad came out for around 10 days to put in windows and doors and do other projects.

He was careful, measured more than 3 times so he could be prepared and perfect for that 1 cut. The process was slow, but it was done right. He was meticulous with his tools and work space, and made sure Eric cleaned up after each task. He took great pride in the work he was doing, as well as the effort he put into my family being able to rebuild our life.

When they came home from a long day of work, he'd play with my kids, learn about our town and become invested in what surrounded him. He did that in every part of his life.

At night, he slept on an air mattress and sometimes the couch because we didn't have a guest room, and he never complained one time about being sore, uncomfortable or tired.

He worked hard his entire life, he did what was necessary and he took time to make sure it was done well and to the best of his ability.

I was lucky enough to see him a few days ago, happy, joking, laughing, talking about his grandkids, showing off pictures of his family, and hopes for the future; just enjoying life. He will be greatly missed by everyone. Today, send a little extra love to my cousins and aunt as they process this. Tell your loved ones that you love them, and try to find and enjoy the little, simple things life has to

offer. He always did.



Abigail Ehn - September 14, 2019 at 03:17 PM

TC

Abbey, this is beautiful. Paul was a generous person as your story illustrates. Thanks for sharing with us.

Tom Craft - September 14, 2019 at 05:48 PM

TC

His name is John Paul Craft.

Some may be confused. You know him as John, we call him Paul. At home he was Paul. In little league he was Paul. At school he was Paul. I'm his brother and his name was Paul.

And then he was drafted into the US Army. The file said that his name was John. How does Private Craft argue with the Army? How do you convince them that they need to call you Paul?

And so he became John. Chris met him as John. She calls him John. Employers, co-workers, neighbors and pickelball players call him John.

If you knew him, he was just a nice guy.

Tom Craft - September 15, 2019 at 03:51 AM

MF

I am sending my sincere sympathies and caring wishes for all of the family.

I am in the 'Paul' group ... a MHS '64 classmate and more to the point ...in the 'Paul Admiration Society' possewell, really, everyone was. I can picture him right now in his varsity jacket, walking down the halls with a smile and greeting for everyone he passed.

I was blessed to spend some time with him and Chris at our 50th class reunion and am sorry I didn't get to come up to the summer house to bird watch. Of course, Paul invited me ...sooo gracious .. and told me all about being right under the migration flyway and the enjoyment he got from experiencing that nature.

*This is a great loss and my prayers and memories go with you all.
Respectfully, Mary Foley*

Mary Foley - September 16, 2019 at 02:03 PM