



Craig Richard Taylor

May 21, 1959 - November 19, 2024

Craig Richard Taylor of Cadillac passed away, Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at home surrounded by his family. He was 65. Craig was born May 21, 1959 in Detroit, Michigan to Melville J. and Phyllis M. (Welby) Taylor.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Lawrence Technological Institute and had recently retired from the Michigan Department of Transportation after a 32 year long career. Craig was an Eagle Scout and an avid runner for 34 years. He enjoyed the outdoors and taking his jeep trail riding.

He was a long time member of the First Presbyterian Church in Cadillac, currently serving as elder and was active with the worship and music team. Craig had a deep faith and was never afraid. He always had one ear listening to hear the Lord's voice and was looking for the opportunity to show the Lord's love to others through his own actions. Craig lived his life with kindness, optimism and a little bit of mischief; he was quick to welcome others and make them feel comfortable.

On August 3, 1983 at the United Methodist Church in Howell he married Sheri L. Gillett and she survives him along with their daughter, Madeline Taylor, currently of Toledo, OH; his brother, Brian Taylor of Schenectady, NY; mother-in-law, Dorothy Gillett of Curtis, MI; lifelong friend, Jeff (Mary) Smith of Aurora, IL; sister-in-law, Lisa Team of Savannah, GA; brother-in-law, Michael (Dawn)

Gillett of Rudyard, MI; nieces and nephews: Amelia Israel of Carrollton, GA, Laura Taylor of Savannah, GA, Brittany Gillett of Iron Mountain, MI, Cory Gillett of Green Bay, WI and a great-nephew, Colton Gillett of Iron Mountain, MI.

Craig was preceded in death by his parents and father-in-law, David Gillett.

A celebration of Craig's life will be held 11:00 AM, Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at First Presbyterian Church in Cadillac with Michael Horlocker officiating. Visitation will be held Monday from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services in Cadillac. Per Craig's wishes please dress in colorful attire. His final resting place will be Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church in Cadillac of the Cowell Family Cancer Center in Traverse City. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services
205 East Cass Street
Cadillac, MI 49601

Celebration of Life

NOV **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
221 E Harris St
Cadillac, MI 49601-2195
(231) 775-7111

Tribute Wall

FR

“ From your friends at ROWE purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Craig Richard Taylor.



From your friends at ROWE - November 25, 2024 at 09:59 AM

RL

“ Craig was one of the nicest people I have ever known. I will greatly miss our visits and the joy both of us got when solving a problem. Rest in peace my friend, you will be missed.

Rick Liptak - November 25, 2024 at 08:27 AM

DG

“ I am very sad to hear of Craig's passing. Thinking of Sheri and Madeline during this difficult time. Craig was an excellent mentor early on in my career with MDOT. Craig was kind, knowledgeable, and a passionate MDOT employee. May he rest in peace.

Dawn Gustafson - November 23, 2024 at 11:13 PM

VE

“ Craig served on the Cadillac Wexford Transit Authority board in the past.

His dedication, experience and genuine caring for others made him an ambassador for all. His smile and laugh was contagious. People were always attracted to him knowing he was always there to listen and help.

Anybody who spent time with Craig came away with a better way to approach life. He lived his day serving others and caring deeply for his family. One thing is certain, Craig's big smile, caring look and genuine comments will live on.

Tremendous Love and Respect for a Legend.....Vance Edwards

Vance Edwards - November 22, 2024 at 11:01 AM

JS

“ From: Jeff and Mary Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Craig Richard Taylor.

Jeff and Mary Smith - November 21, 2024 at 02:28 PM

JS

“ Jeff and Mary Smith purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Craig Richard Taylor.



Jeff and Mary Smith - November 21, 2024 at 02:28 PM

GK

“ I had the pleasure of working with Craig Taylor for nearly 20 years, many of it side by side as we worked together on our various design assignments. Craig was a special man, I have never known anyone quite like him. As a co-worker, he was as conscientious and dedicated as it gets. His legacy will live on through the numerous young employees that he trained and mentored throughout the years. On a personal level, I always enjoyed just having conversations with him. He was a great listener who was always interested in what others had to say. In other words, a good friend.

We felt a deep sadness upon hearing of Craig's passing. He was way too young. Sheri and Madeline, our thoughts are with you during this difficult time. I do believe that everybody who has crossed paths with Craig Taylor is better off for the experience and have many fond memories of him (and that friendly smile on his face).

RIP, my friend

Gary Karttunen - November 21, 2024 at 12:35 PM

KN

*Hi, Sheri & Maddie.
He's home.*

Remember, for every ending there's a new beginning. It's been such an honor to send a card or two of encouragement while Craig was I'll. I hope you might open the last one I sent just yesterday. The verse was more special than I realized.

Blessings to you both. Sheri, your Mom has walked the journey you're about to take. Please listen carefully to what she might say & even to what she might not say.

Please let me know if I can help with anything.

Blessings to you both.

Love & big hugs.

Karen Nelson



Karen Nelson - November 21, 2024 at 09:58 PM

MS

“ Craig was my husband Jeff Smith’s best friend for almost fifty years. He never lost touch with Craig even during his worldwide travels in the Navy.

Then in his civilian years, Jeff traveled the world as an Engineer in the Metal Fabrication Industry. So, Jeff called Craig from the road and shared his travels and Craig shared his life in Michigan.

Their bond was never broken for the last five decades. I got to share that bond with the Taylor family through Jeff. It was almost like being there in person.

My heart is broken for Sheri, Madeline and the entire family. Most of all I know it will leave a hole in our lives and Craig will surely be missed.

Hugs and prayers!

Mary Smith - November 21, 2024 at 10:06 AM

JS

“ I first met my friend Craig in the mid 1970's. We were teenagers and in high school. Craig was one grade ahead of me. We shared many interests: the same taste in music, the same taste in vehicles, good pizza, good football, and gorgeous women. Together we learned about the good things in life worth believing.

After my parents divorced and the "days of darkness" began for me, Craig was always there for me and always knew just what to say --- or simply just to listen-- and helped me navigate my way out of the darkness. His unwavering and unconditional friendship was my beacon. His love of life and his goodness was my compass.

As young adults, we both entered careers of service. Emergency medicine for Craig and the US Navy Submarine Service for me. Although we were usually separated by oceans, I always sought him out when I was home on leave and the mischief would begin all over again. To our mothers---together we were insufferable. To our sweethearts---together we were intolerable. To each other---we were inseparable.

My heart is indeed broken but time will mend it. Peaceful rest to you, my precious, beautiful friend!

All my love, Jeffrey Smith

Jeffrey Smith - November 20, 2024 at 10:57 PM

YI

“ Your Friends at L.S. Engineering, Inc. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Craig Richard Taylor.



Your Friends at L.S. Engineering, Inc. - November 20, 2024 at 06:01 PM

SE

“ Rest in Peace my friend. I have had the opportunity to work with Craig on many MDOT projects over the past many years. He was always there as the engineer, but also as a friend, teammate and mentor. May your family know that you are at peace.

Steve Endres - November 20, 2024 at 03:01 PM

DL

“ To my fellow Amigo, God speed brother. Every person on earth would have grown in kindness and understanding for having known you. Piece to all. Heaven needed an engineer.

Dan Lund - November 20, 2024 at 02:39 PM

DP

“ Our world is a better place for having Craig in it, and my world was enriched by having the privilege of knowing him. His quick wit, easy smile, and giving spirit defined him, and will be missed by all. Rest in peace, my friend. Your family will be in my prayers as you navigate this difficult time; I will remember him fondly. May God grant you all peace.

David Pax - November 20, 2024 at 02:19 PM

JL

“ Craig was one of the kindest co-workers I've ever had, endlessly patient and friendly. He was a wonderful man, and will be greatly missed.

James Lake - November 20, 2024 at 01:53 PM

LS

“ Craig, in his spirit of kindness and gentleness, walked and talked his faith. Love and blessings to the family.

Luanne Sherman - November 20, 2024 at 01:34 PM

PJ

“ Craig was a wonderful co-worker and an un-sung hero in so many ways. He will be sorely missed.

Patty Johnson - November 20, 2024 at 01:27 PM