



Craig A. Varland

August 24, 2024

Craig A. Varland, 69, formerly of Marseilles, IL, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at his home in Oak Creek, WI, following a long battle with cancer.

Born on October 20, 1954, in Ottawa, IL, Craig was the son of Clifford L. and Doris (Repka) Varland. He attended Rutland Grade School, where he was a proud Wildcat. Growing up, his father was his hero, and Craig eagerly followed him wherever he went. He cherished living and working on the Brumbach family farm, which remained his most beloved place to be throughout his life.

Craig graduated from Ottawa Township High School in 1972, where he played basketball all four years. He then earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1976. For 40 years, he worked as an Environmental Scientist, primarily with Stantec Consulting, a career that allowed him to visit 48 states. In the last five years, Craig was employed at Fox River Resort in Sheridan, IL.

Craig was known for his great sense of humor and his love for The Andy Griffith Show and The Three Stooges. He was enthusiastic about riding his 1992 Harley Davidson Fatboy, camping, and learning about dinosaurs. Among his favorite hobbies were collecting rocks and minerals and building model kits of dinosaurs and classic monsters. He took pride in growing organic heirloom pumpkins and maintaining his beautiful flower gardens.

Craig is survived by his wife of 34 years, Renee Varland, whom he lovingly

called his “one and only”; two daughters, Kendra (Sean) O’Connell, Sun Prairie, WI, and Tori (Anthony) Hohenstein, Madison, WI; one son, Camron Varland, Oak Creek, WI; two grandchildren, Elsa and Ronan O’Connell, Sun Prairie, WI; one sister, Alice Wold; and one brother, Mark L. (Darcy) Varland, both of Ottawa, IL; as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family extends their gratitude to Craig’s grade school and high school friends, his friend Chris Armes, and his buddies from the Fox River Resort, for their kindness and support in his time of need.

Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated Thursday, August 29 at 10:00 AM at the BASILICA OF ST. JOSAPHAT, 601 W. Lincoln Ave. Interment and Committal Service will be held at 3:00 PM at Brumbach Cemetery, 3398 N IL 71, Marseilles, IL.

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services

Rozga-Walloch Chapel

Cemetery Details

Brumbach Cemetery

3398 N IL 71
Marseilles, IL 61341

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG **29**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Basilica of St. Josaphat
601 W. Lincoln Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Tribute Wall

CH

“ My deepest condolences for your loss. Craig and I met years ago on a project in Crawfordsville, Indiana. We became fast friends and lived together in a mansion. I have nothing but fond memories of Craig. Later my life became ruled by alcohol and drugs. I called Craig. His love and friendship helped me get sober. This was in 2007 and I have been sober ever since. We have spoken periodically since but have not talked in a year or so. I will never forget his friendship, honesty and guidance, but I know I will see him again.

Chris Hartford - October 21, 2024 at 12:45 PM

MA

“ Mark A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Craig A. Varland.

Mark A. - September 11, 2024 at 08:53 PM

EM

“ Elizabeth M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Craig A. Varland.

Elizabeth M. - September 06, 2024 at 11:34 AM



“ Craig varlin was easily one of the best people I've ever met in my life I've been all over the world 20 different countries and never met a better person I was fortunate enough to have befriended Craig and got a chance to work with him,he was and is one of a kind. Going to miss you buddy hopefully I get to see you again on the other side I love and miss you bro.

Tony Melara - August 28, 2024 at 05:55 PM

JS

“ Janice S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Craig A. Varland.

Janice S. - August 28, 2024 at 05:10 PM

MA

“ Matt A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Craig A. Varland.

Matt A. - August 28, 2024 at 12:36 PM

AS

“ Many of my favorite memories of working in the field were alongside Craig. He always had an enthusiastic word for everyone he encountered. I learned from Craig how, rather than avoiding speaking to strangers, to instead offer them a hearty “good morning!” and a smile. Craig always had everyone on his team. I still use his phrase, “All we need now is the ambition!” Craig will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate enough know him.

Anna Sutton - August 27, 2024 at 06:53 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Craig A. Varland.



August 27, 2024 at 04:21 PM

EF

“ *Ed and Sue Rich and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Craig A. Varland.*

Ed and Sue Rich and Family - August 27, 2024 at 04:21 PM