



Judge T. Craig

April 15, 2008

Services for retired Smith County Judge Larry T. Craig, 71, of Tyler will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 1:00 PM at Marvin United Methodist Church with Dr. John Robbins officiating. Burial will follow in Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler, Texas under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Judge Craig passed away on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at East Texas Medical Center in Tyler. He was born on July 20, 1936 in Ft. Sumner, New Mexico to the late Jess Thomas and Samantha Beaver Craig. The family moved to Tyler in the summer of 1949 and he attended the Tyler Public Schools, graduating from Tyler High School and Tyler Junior College. He served his country in the United States Naval Reserve and was honorably discharged in 1963. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and went on to earn a B.S. degree in Pharmacy from the University of Houston. He spent 25 years working in retail pharmacy, ten of those years as owner and operator of Craig Pharmacy. Judge Craig continued his education, graduating from the Reserve Law Enforcement Academy at Tyler Junior College and the Police Academy at Kilgore College, where he was licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Education and Standards. His continuing education included courses in criminal investigation, dispute resolution and legal and judicial training. In 1976, he assisted Sheriff J.B. Smith in organizing an active Sheriff's Reserve program, which was twice recognized by the Reserve Law Officers Association of America for outstanding organization and service. In March of 1972, he married Barbara Jean Copeland and they

enjoyed raising a family of five children together. Barbara preceded him in death in 2005. Judge Craig was elected County Judge of Smith County in 1986 and re-elected in 1990, 1994 and 1998. He served the first four-term (16 years of service) in county history. He was appointed by then Governor George W. Bush to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. In 1995, he was designated Chairman by Governor Bush, serving for five years, the longest serving Chair of this Agency in its history. Judge Craig was one of three finalists called to Washington and nominated for U.S. Marshall for the Eastern District of Texas. He was currently employed by the architectural firm of Wiginton, Hooker and Jeffery. Judge Craig was a member of the Board of Directors for the Tyler Economic Development Council, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, Heart of Tyler/Main Street Advisory Board, East Texas State Fair, and the Leadership Tyler Steering Committee. He was a past board member for the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, the Smith County Peace Officers Association, and the East Texas Council of Governments where he served as past chairman of the JTPA Program. He was a Mason and a member of the Sharon Shrine Temple. He was a member of the Fugitives Shriners Band. He was an active member of Marvin United Methodist Church in Tyler, serving on the Board of Trustees, and was a member of the seeker's Sunday School Class. Judge Craig was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Craig and sister, Mary Beth O'Neal. He is survived by a loving family including a daughter, Toni Halbrooks and husband Gary of Tyler; and four sons, Claude Holley and wife Terry of Corpus Christi, Jim Holley of Tyler, Kenneth Holley and wife Judy of Tyler, and Bill Holley and wife Lydia of Frankston; grandchildren, Chris Holley, Franklin Holley, Rebecca Holley, Craig Halbrooks, Carter Halbrooks, Carrie Halbrooks, Cameron Holley, Lindsey Holley, Whitney Holley, Melissa Holley, Savannah Funkenbush, Barry Reece, and Susan Dees; great-grandchildren, Rayleigh Holley, Jada Funkenbush, Andrew Medlin and Katie Dees; sister, Janie Meigs and husband Bobby of Houston; brothers-in-law, Charles O'Neal of Wichita Falls and Dr. Kenneth C. Copeland and wife Lucia of Edmond, Oklahoma; numerous nieces and

nephews, and a very close and dear friend, Nancy Grant. Pallbearers will be Joe Clayton, Walter Johnson, Rondall Jones, J.B. Smith, Joe Daniels, Bobby Gorman, A.D. Clark, and Bill McGinnis. Honorary pallbearers are members of the Smith County Sheriff's Department, Smith County Employees, the Wednesday Evening Bible Study Group, and Red Little. Visitation is scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2008 from 5:00-7:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, Tyler, Texas. Memorials in honor of Judge Larry Craig may be made to the Salvation Army, 633 North Broadway, Tyler, Texas 75702 or to Marvin United Methodist Church, 300 W. Erwin Street, Tyler, Texas 75702.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I met Judge Craig in 1989 when I first began covering radio news in Tyler. I always found him to be a highly capable county executive, a gentleman, and a pleasant man to work with as a member of the media. We continued to "meet up" after he left office, and I had just recently exchanged greetings with him on election night last month. My memories of him will always be good ones, and he will be greatly missed.

John M. Sims - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Please accept our sympathy in the loss of your loved one.

Paul & Dolly Hale - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ A fine Christian gentleman greatly loved by his family and friends. He loved his family deeply, his church and the Tyler community. His life demonstrated his beliefs --- he will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Eleanor Stringer - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all!

Merigale M. Pyron - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ *Mr. Craig was a wonderful man. His warm smile and gentle spirit was always enjoyed when he brought Annie to see us. He will be truly missed by all. Our prayers go out to the Craig Family.*

*From all of us at Bed Bath n' Bonz
Philippians 3:13-14*

Andrea Campbell - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SZ

“ *Dear Toni and Gary,
You know how precious you and your dad are to us. I am so sorry that we cannot be in Tyler today. Kaitlin is coming home from Ohio for a few days. We are scheduled to meet with an advisor at Texas State to finish her PE teaching certificate.(the reason for her trip to Austin)
If not for that we would be with you.I KNOW how hard these days are. As Paul Powell said repeatedly during dad's service. You never get over losing someone you love. You just get through it. No truer words were ever spoken.
Let's get together at the lakehouse when we come to Tyler and remember the good times. When I heard of Larry's passing it brought such wonderful memories. He and the Fugitives played at my wedding, family fun as kids, etc.
I am sorry for your loss, but it is comforting to know The Fugitives are together up there... especially Larry and Dad.
Larry gave me the biggest sweetest hug at dad's visitation.
He will be greatly missed. He was an amazing man. Dads like ours leave big voids. We were so very blessed to have had them in our lives for as long as we did. We grieve with you and for you.
God bless you all.
Love,
Shelley and Randy*

Shelley Ziehe - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Judge was the sweetest man. He was a mentor to me at CAS. I always enjoyed being around him and hearing stories about his life. He was a very interesting man that will be missed by his family at CAS.

Kristen Terry-Thibodeaux - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ I had the privilege of working with Judge Craig at CAS. It was always good to see him when he was in the office and he was such a sweet person - always smiling. He will be missed. My prayers are with your family.
God bless you.

Carolyn Kirby - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ Tony, I was so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Thinking of you. Amy Sanders Garrison

Amy Sanders Garrison - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I was very saddened to hear about Judge Craig's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. I will always remember Judge Craig as smiling and pleasant to be around and as someone who had a great love for county government. He will be missed.

Mary Ann Saenz - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Judge Craig's family. Charles worked with him in government through the years and Gary and I have been together in NETRMA. He was a fine man and he will be missed.

James and Noella Gregory - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ To Toni, Janie, and families:
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. The past few years have been really tough, but we know God is in control and someday we will see the purpose he had for all of us.
I (Mollye) am very thankful for the wonderful family in which we were all connected. I have such fond memories of visiting you all in Tyler and family get togethers. Larry was a great man. I know the angels are rejoicing about his homecoming.
With love,
Ray & Mollye

Ray and Mollye Davis - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ Larry, was one of my favorite cousins. We spend a lot of time together at the family reunion I went to, laughing and talking about things we remembered. He was a great guy and I'll always miss him.

Nancy Jo Beaver - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ *My heart aches at the loss of this "one of a kind" man. To know Larry was to love him and be loved by him. He will live on in so many ways because of the unselfish life he led here on earth. And heaven is a warmer and more colorful place with Larry Craig in residence!*

Peggy Holly - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ *Our caring thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.
Love and Friendship,
Gene & Lowdean*

Gene & Lowdean Greer - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ *Praying for you family.*

Lisa Williams - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ *We are so very, very sorry. You and your sweet family will be in our prayers. We love you.*

Evans Family - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *We were greatly saddened to hear about Larry's death and we would like to extend our condolences to his family; you will be in our prayers for peace and comfort! Larry was a good friend and a great neighbor; we will truly miss him!*

Bill Rogers - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM