



Ernie Craig

April 24, 2024

James Ernest Craig (Ernie) passed away peacefully on April 24, 2024 at the age 94 in the Blenheim Community Village Long Term Care Centre with his loving wife of almost 71 years, Rose Marie Craig, by his side.

Ernie was predeceased by his parents Fred and Ellen Craig and his beloved older brother

Wilfred Gordon Craig (Gordie) and is survived by his wife Rose; daughter Sharon (Mark); son

David (Andrea); and his grandchildren Samuel, Maggie and Ella.

Fred and Ellen immigrated from Belfast, Ireland in 1920 and made Riverside, Ontario (Windsor)

their home where both Gordie and Ernie were born. In 1938, the family relocated to the small

town of Port Alma along the shores of Lake Erie after purchasing the town's gas station. Ernie

spent the latter part of his childhood in Port Alma playing baseball, scaling the cliffs along the

lake, cutting grass and being a companion to the family dog, "Old Sport".

Ernie was born and raised during the Great Depression and WWII which were tough on the

Craig family. Faced with being conscripted into the army, his older brother

Gordie enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force where he achieved the rank of Pilot Officer RCAF before sadly being killed in a training exercise at Canadian Forces Base Trenton in 1944. Gordie's accident had a profound impact on Ernie as it provided him with the motivation to obtain his pilot's license when he was in his 50's, inspired him to create several lasting tributes in Gordie's memory and at the age of 87, hop into the tail seat of a WWII Harvard warplane to go for a cruise around the skies of Hamilton, Ontario. Ernie completed high school to grade 11 and then moved to Port Lambton with his parents having obtained his auto mechanics license. While working at Wallaceburg Automotive, he met Rose (Ronson) who at the time was working at the Toronto Dominion Bank and they married in the fall of 1953. Through the guidance and kindness of a few key people and additional education obtained during evenings and summer school in Toronto, he was able to obtain his teaching certificate in auto mechanics and became a teacher at Wallaceburg District Secondary School. In his early teaching years in the summer months and with Rose's support, he completed over half the requirements for his Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Toronto. Ernie found his calling as a teacher and enriched the education of many WDSS students with his knowledge and expertise, patience and fairness. He was highly regarded

by his students
and faculty.

Upon retirement at age 59, he enjoyed daily coffee chats with friends and neighbours at the local Tim Horton's, pursued his passion for curling and especially loved teaching his grandchildren new things. He will forever be remembered for his ability to modify/fix almost anything, his kindness and patience and his love of Rose and his family. "Old Ern' you will be missed!

The family would like to thank the management of Blenheim Community Village for their above and beyond effort to re-unite Rose and Ernie earlier this year in Blenheim and the staff for their care and kindness making his final days comfortable.

A celebration of life to honour Ernie will begin at 12 o'clock noon on Saturday, May 25 at the Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home, 409 Nelson Street in Wallaceburg. A time of fellowship and refreshment will follow at the Cavanagh Reception Centre. There will be a private family burial in Pardoville Union Cemetery, Blenheim. In lieu of flowers, donations to The Royal Canadian Legion can be left at the funeral home 519.627.3231

Tribute Wall



“ *Very sad to see this. I moved beside Erine and Rose and got to know them well over the 11 years I lived their. Heartbreaking for the family.*



Melanie MacQueen-Fish - June 21, 2024 at 10:48 AM

AM

“ *Ariel Mann lit a candle in memory of Ernie Craig*



Ariel Mann - June 01, 2024 at 09:46 AM

KB

“ *Sending our deepest condolences to the entire family, our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. With love Katharine Barthel and John Loper*

Katharine Barthel - May 27, 2024 at 04:39 PM

EO

“ *Sending our condolences to the entire Craig Family. Ernie was such a sweet man and grandfather. We always enjoyed spending time with Rose and Ernie on their visits and learning about his fix-it skills. He will be missed and remembered fondly. With love. The Long Family. JJ, Erin, Jack & Will*

Erin O'Neill - May 25, 2024 at 11:01 AM

TH

“ I was privileged to meet Ernie and Rose about 16 years ago when I moved in next to them. The most kind and generous couple you would want to meet. I never felt home sick because I always had my second set of parents next door. Summer nights sitting outside counting airplanes and talking about history. Nights looking at stars and fireworks. Days filled with talking about gardening, lawn care and how to finally get rid of the dirty dang bind weed. Thankyou Ernie for all the help and support over the years. Thankyou Rose for all the laughs and hugs. Not to mention the delicious meals delivered to my door. You are the best cook!
Ernie i wish I knew you longer, but I am truly blessed to have you for the time I did.

Tania Haavisto - May 25, 2024 at 08:57 AM

RL

“ Dave and family,

My deepest condolences to you and I'm so sorry for your loss. May the happy memories with your father Ernie help you in this difficult time.

Raphael Reali da Luz

Raphael Reali da Luz - May 23, 2024 at 09:47 AM

ME

“ Dave and family,

Sending you our deepest condolences on the loss of your dear father Ernie. May your happy memories give you peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Maria and Alvin Ray

Maria Esteves-Ray - May 22, 2024 at 04:40 PM

VP

“ My heartfelt condolences to you Dave - and your family. I'm so sorry for your loss. May your dad's legacy of kindness and warmth forever be cherished - and his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

Vera Persinov - May 22, 2024 at 02:28 PM

MG

“ My thoughts are with the Craig family during this difficult time. I hope you can find some comfort in all the great memories you have with him.

Michelle Gregory

Michelle Gregory - May 21, 2024 at 01:23 PM

DM

“ My deepest condolences go out the Craig family. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.



David Mah - May 21, 2024 at 09:06 AM

MS

“ Ernie leaves a legacy of some of the finest people we know; Dave, Andrea, Maggie and Ella. His legacy is a blessing. May his memory be one too.



The Smith family - Toronto and Buckhorn

Michael Smith - May 21, 2024 at 09:01 AM

ML

“ *Mel Lauwereys sent a virtual gift in memory of Ernie Craig*



Mel Lauwereys - May 20, 2024 at 10:34 PM

DJ

“ *Condolences to the Craig family. I have fond memories of grade 9 auto mechanics with Mr. Craig in 1964. He was an excellent teacher, one of the best I had during my 5 ears at WDSS. I was only able to take auto in grade 9 being in the 5 year program. However the experience in grade 9 helped give me the confidence to do many repairs and rebuilds on farm tractors and my cars. Doug Johnson*

Doug Johnson - May 20, 2024 at 07:51 AM

AF

“ *Amy Felton lit a candle in memory of Ernie Craig*



Amy Felton - May 19, 2024 at 10:10 PM

GF

“ *Gerry Flynn lit a candle in memory of Ernie Craig*



Gerry Flynn - May 19, 2024 at 11:37 AM

JH

“ A wonderful friend to my parents. Ernie and Rose visited them often. My father met Ernie when they were taking night courses in Chatham. According to my dad, the best part was the coffee and pie after class. My sister called him Uncle Ernie. A really nice guy!

Jim Hall - May 19, 2024 at 10:30 AM

BJ

“ Condolences to Rose, Sharon and David on the passing of your husband and father. Thinking of you at this sad time.



Brenda de Jong - May 18, 2024 at 08:45 PM

GR

“ He was a great teacher to have My thoughts and prayers are with tge family

George Roberts - May 17, 2024 at 09:07 PM

DT

“ Debra And Bela Trebics lit a candle in memory of Ernie Craig



Debra And Bela Trebics - May 17, 2024 at 05:16 PM

LB

“ Our condolences to the Craig family.
Ernie was a neighbour across the street when
we lived on Hilda Ave



Lance Babcock - May 17, 2024 at 03:14 PM

DH

“ Deepest sympathies to the Craig family in their time of loss. Mr
Craig was a wonderful teacher, true gentleman and an inspiration to
all of us fortunate enough to have him as a teacher and mentor.

Drew Hastings - May 17, 2024 at 10:09 AM

CB

Sorry for your loss of craig

Connie Marie Blair - May 18, 2024 at 02:07 PM

LP

“ Lola (Lumley) Pamer lit a candle in memory of
Ernie Craig



Lola (Lumley) Pamer - May 17, 2024 at 10:09 AM

TD

“ Always enjoyed auto class through high
school because of Mr. Graig, still working on
old cars.
Ted Dubuque



Ted Dubuque - May 17, 2024 at 09:50 AM

DL

“ *Don & Kris Lee lit a candle in memory of Ernie Craig*



Don & Kris Lee - May 17, 2024 at 09:37 AM

GD

“ *Sincere condolences. Mr Craig was a wonderful teacher. Fondly remembered.*

Gerrit Dykhouse - May 17, 2024 at 08:33 AM

GM

“ *George McGaffey lit a candle in memory of Ernie Craig*



George McGaffey - May 17, 2024 at 08:30 AM