



## Craig M Burton

December 16, 1953 - June 22, 2019

Craig M. Burton passed on to God's greater glory at 5:02 am June 22, 2019 at the young age of 65.

Craig was born in Christopher to Thomas Maurice Burton and Jeraldine Mae (Travelstead) Craig and was a brother to Mark, Sandra Jean and Gary Burton.

Craig was married to Marlena (Thomas) Burton for 30 years and best friends for 37 years. Craig had one son from a previous marriage, Cullen M (Jonelle) and one granddaughter, Aleah of Omaha, NE. He loved his in-laws, Ronald and Julia Thomas as if they were his parents. The family welcomed him with love and hugs of which he was not too fond of, but became a hugger in time.

Craig had many talents, he played the accordion, even with his right index finger being partially amputated, was a ferrier, blacksmith, EMT, and retired recently as a Registered Respiratory Therapist. He LOVED the science behind guns, was a gun enthusiast and shared gun reviews with many. He enjoyed driving Marlena on back roads, and always had to take a "new" road each ride. He loved and enjoyed seeing the beauty of nature and often said "We are so rich, God's country is so amazing."

He renewed his relationship with Jesus 21 years ago and was known for sharing God's goodness. He was a true worshipper and praised God

regardless of where he was. He so loved the services at First Apostolic Church in Centralia. Prior to leaving this earth on his last day, he witnessed to three hospital staff and told them how God answered his plea for pain control immediately.

Craig was often told he missed his calling as a comedian, so if you have funny stories to share, we would love to hear them. Marlena always told Craig: "Laughter is the best medicine, you keep me laughing, you are so good for my health, and you keep me praying."

Craig is survived by his loving wife Marlena; his son, Cullen (Jonelle) Burton, a granddaughter, Aleah of Omaha, NE; cherished nieces and nephews, in-laws, Ronald and Julia Thomas; other relatives and a host of friends.

Craig was preceded in death by his parents, all three siblings, maternal Grandparents, John & Lela Travelstead, and paternal grandparents, Sanford and Daisy Burton.

We are honoring Craig's request for cremation.

Graveside services will be Friday, June 28, 2019 at 11:00 am in Oakland Cemetery. Inurnment will follow.

The family would like to extend our heartfelt Thank You for each person that offered condolences, hugs, memories, visits, meals, and phone calls. May God bless each of you and may your relationships be of the utmost importance in this short life.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakland Cemetery

Carbondale, IL

# Previous Events

## Graveside

JUN 28. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Oakland Cemetery  
Carbondale, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Craig M Burton*

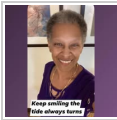
October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Our thought and sympathies are with you Marlena. We were so sorry to hear of Craig's sudden death. We were unable to make the service this morning but please know we are there is spirit. May God be with you and your family.*

*Mary Ellen and Bill Ecker*

**Mary Ellen Ecker** - June 28, 2019 at 12:09 PM



*Thank you so much Mary Ellen & Bill. It was great to see Bob & Rotha at the service. Bruce and Debbie have been a huge help and so supportive.*

*The service was peaceful and comforting, of course we had some laughs as that was the way Craig was.*

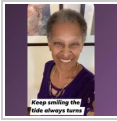
*Yes we were all shocked, he passed a day before his Mom passed 11 years ago. Imagine the family reunion they must be having. God bless you and your family.*

**Marlena Thomas Burton** - June 28, 2019 at 06:09 PM

JE

“ My name is Joe Ellis , I was a friend of Craig's sweet mother Jeri and the travelstead family , I just saw Craig perhaps two and a half weeks ago , We were talking about death we both agreed that it is appointed unto man to die and then the judgement , I was raised in the church , Murdale Baptist church were Jeri and her husband attended for so long , My famil7y are charter members of Murdale , Kinda unheard of these days but we have had the same pastor for 49 yrs , What a blessing , I told craig that I had not smoked in well over 4 yrs , I don't guess he could give it up , But I ws sharing with him that I have COPD and that it was no fun but I asked God to take the cigs away and with my faith in him I was able to give them up , I also have a heart condiction due to alchol abuse I haven't drank in 22 yrs , I gues I'm like the everready bunny keep going and going and going lol God is not ready for me yet I told craig , God Bless you Hun , May you feel Gods peace through it all , Joe Ellis

joe lee ellis - June 27, 2019 at 12:28 PM



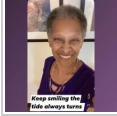
Hi Joe, Craig mentioned that he saw you. I remember you and Debbie. Yes Paul is a blessing, that's wonderful that you have been with Murdale for 49 years. God is so good and has healed all of our diseases. Thanks for your condolences. God bless you and your family.

Marlena Thomas Burton - June 27, 2019 at 05:47 PM

KR

Oh God my deepest sorrows Marlena 🙏🙏🙏. My apologies i didn't know ❤️❤️❤️. God bless you in your time of grief. May you be comforted.

Keenan Robinson - June 27, 2019 at 07:39 PM



*Thank you so much Keenan, I appreciate your kindness. Life is definitely just a vapor. Craig used to always share that we can only see 0.005-1% of the light spectrum, and now he has seen the rest of the spectrum. I can only imagine what a glorious sight it must be to see colors and lights like we have never seen before. It was interesting while I was at the funeral home, I took my glasses off to wipe them off, as I held them up to the lights, with the lighting that was available there, you could see all the micro-scratches, I was like wow, what a difference, light makes. Take good care of your family and keep blessing us on fb. God bless you*

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**Marlena Thomas Burton** - June 27, 2019 at 09:15 PM

TB

*Thinking of you Uncle Craig. I sure do miss you. I'm very glad you were in my life. Thank you for being such a wonderful uncle, I am glad you got to meet the girls. ❤️*

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**Tierra Billey** - March 12, 2020 at 01:53 AM

MB

*Love you Tierra, you are a blessing and I Am so Grateful that God blessed us with you. I told Craig I couldn't believe he bought all that licorice for Nya. Lol. He loved getting to see the twins. Love you, now you have me in tears. God bless you!!!*

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**Marlena Burton** - March 27, 2020 at 08:42 PM

AS

*Marlena you don't know me but Craig and I were pretty good friends many years ago. Not only did we go to college together but he used to shoe my Horse. I learned of his passing from Mark Causey. I'm going to keep this short because I don't know if you will receive it. If you do please call 251-200-8036. I have pictures I can send you.*

*Regards  
Anthony Seats*

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**Anthony Seats** - January 12, 2023 at 08:54 PM

DA

“ Oh my goodness Marlena. I couldn't believe what I was reading. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. I haven't seen you in many years, but hold you in my heart. I've always thought you and Craig were the cutest couple! My heart goes out to you. I pray that you can turn your sorrow over to God and be lifted by his love, and the love, support, and prayers of all. Holding you close in thought and prayer.

*Diane Antonacci*

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**Diane Antonacci** - June 27, 2019 at 12:11 PM



*Thank you so much Diane, I appreciate your kindness. It has indeed been a while, but I still think of you and your PB sandwiches from time to time. The Holy Spirit is my help and I have my moments, yet Craig and I were blessed with an abundance of time together the last two years, and I am truly grateful for that. My faith was grown in the last two years and God provided for us every moment of the way. Hope your family is well. Love you guys and God bless you. Give your family a hug for me, I know they are all grown up.*

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**Marlena Thomas Burton** - June 27, 2019 at 05:51 PM

DK

“ Craig could always bring laughter even we when we often disagreed. He stubbornly respected "free will" and in his mind was allowing me to be wrong, because he certainly was seldom wrong. LOL! (something we both had in common ha ha). Craig once stabbed a mouse trapped in the stairwell with the same pocket knife he had just cut our cake with and "what else have you used that knife for before cutting our cake Craig?" When I expressed my disgust because we had already eaten the cake, he said " Oh get over yourself David, I always wash the knife between uses." To get further even he would do something like posting my car for sale around the hospital so I would get numerous calls and have to tell the persistent callers that my car was never for sale. Craig and others found this funnier than I did at the time.

*Contemplating Craig's life, he seldom complained even when we knew he wasn't feeling well. (I'll probably mess this up....sorry Craig)...."God meant for us to be upright and moving, that's why so many people get sick, from not moving and working." Losing a close loved one early in my life, the whys, how many people were blessed to know them, what did their life represent, what lessons could I learn? Looking for answers, however mostly comfort.*

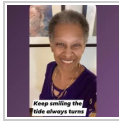
*Marlena, then I heard a voice very distinctly whisper "All suffering is temporary." I know the Spirit was there then and here now as we pray for you Marlena especially, also for Craig's other family and friends, peace and comfort to our souls. Craig is no longer suffering and is at peace, the whys, and all the answers to questions, were answered in those simple words "All suffering is temporary." It is no longer necessary for the family and friends, so loved and cherished by Craig, to know all of the reasons behind life's trials or why he was taken from this earth seemingly premature. God knows the end from the beginning and in Gods infinite mercy Craig is no longer suffering. He is engulfed in a life long wait of soul piercing peace and pure healing love that only his Father in Heaven can deliver. Our suffering is also temporary and this great faith building lesson echoes my soul still, so many people on this great earth can relate. I was blessed to know Craig's personal side also and benefit from his*

wisdom. I know Craig would have us all take the time we need to mourn. Then he would have us remember there is a peace that can accompany death. When Craig's earthly probation ended, a new Birthday is now being celebrated for Craig beyond the veil as he is welcomed, by those loved ones that passed before him, to his new home. I love you Craig, I love you Marlena. Marlena I know Craig loves you still as he often made clear his affection and appreciation for sharing his life with you. He is patiently awaiting your Birthday arrival and selflessly wants you to embrace a long fulfilling life.

God Bless!

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David Kennedy - June 26, 2019 at 01:47 PM



David, thank you so much for sharing. You should write a book. Your words and wisdom are such a blessing. IDK how he thought of so many things to do to keep people laughing and wondering what might be next. One day he was grilling and a neighbor came by with her dog, and she told her puppy, "oh he is grilling, you want some food" He told her, "you better keep moving and go fire up your grill so puppy can chill." Lol

Thank you for being his boss all of those years. He really appreciated your leadership and thought a lot of you and your family. Sometimes when we would come to Marion he would say I wonder if David and Jodi are still living in the same place. Take good care of your family. I Love you guys. God bless

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Marlena Thomas Burton - June 26, 2019 at 01:59 PM

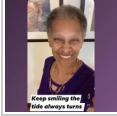
JS

“ Love ya uncle Craig!!!



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j Smith - June 26, 2019 at 10:53 AM



*Thank you so much for sharing, that is such a great picture. I remember when you wouldn't walk down the aisle, we tried everything, you stomped your foot then took off running down the aisle. So grateful that you were a part of our special day. Love you & God bless you*

**Marlena Thomas Burton** - June 26, 2019 at 11:30 AM

VP

“ *Marlena we are so sorry for your loss this came as a complete shock to us we certainly have you in our prayers 🙏 Colleen and Val*

**Val Powe** - June 25, 2019 at 07:50 PM

MB

*Hi Val & Colleen, thank you so much for your love and prayers, I appreciate it. Yes everything happened in about 24 hours, but we know he isn't in any pain now so that is a blessing. God blessed us with some great years. A former co-worker of his reminded me today "Craig knew a lot of people." We went to the Bahama's one time and lo and behold there was a lady he used to work with, I said, wow. God bless you and your family.*

**Marlena Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 10:12 PM

LI

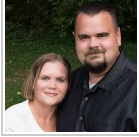
“ *Oh Marlena, I am so sad to hear this about Craig. This is Leroy from Marshall Browning in Du Quoin. Craig was a super guy and he loved you with all his heart and soul. Everyone who knew Craig liked him. Loved his wit and sarcasm!!! Hugs my friend and you are in my prayers!!! Leroy*

**Linda** - June 25, 2019 at 06:43 PM

MB

*Hi Leroy, great hearing from you, it's been so long. Hope you are doing well. Yes you described Craig quite well. Thank you for your love and prayers. God bless*

**Marlena Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 08:07 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Cullen Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 06:42 PM

MB

*Beautiful, thanks for sharing. Love you guys*

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**Marlena Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 10:08 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Cullen Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 06:41 PM

MB

*Thanks for sharing Aleah's picture Cullen. She is growing so fast. Love you guys. Craig liked to tell the story of how he had his arm up on the couch and how Aleah just snuggled right up and looked up at him. God bless you guys*

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**Marlena Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 10:05 PM

TA

“ *I worked with Craig at Marshall Browning Hospital, you never knew what he had up his sleeve. He was a good hearted guy, he will be missed.*

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**Tammy** - June 25, 2019 at 04:02 PM

MB

*Thank you Tammy for your kindness. He told me about putting some catfish bait under the handle of someone's car up there one time, I said wow. I don't know how he thought of so many things to do, but sounds like there were two of them. Abundant Blessings to you*

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**Marlena Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 08:09 PM

VK

“ *I always loved working with Craig, he could keep you rolling g in laughter. He was very compassionate. He will be missed.*

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**Vicki Knight** - June 25, 2019 at 02:10 PM

MB

*Hi Vicki, thank you so much for your kind words. He was so quick witted and had people laughing everywhere we went, or if we were in a restaurant we were usually the loudest table from him making us laugh. Have a blessed day.*

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**Marlena Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 02:28 PM

 Jami Ragland

“ *So sorry to hear of Craig's passing...I worked with him at Marshall Browning Hospital...he was always so fun to be around...he was definitely a comedian and had a very good sense of humor...haven't seen him in years...he will be missed and never forgotten...*

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**Jami Ragland** - June 25, 2019 at 02:00 PM

MB

*Hi Jami, Thank you for your kindness. Yes he definitely missed his calling as a comedian. He kept us laughing all the time. Abundant blessings to you*

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**Marlena Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 02:27 PM

MW

“ Years ago Craig worked with and was a friend of my mother's. He used to come to her house to visit. now and then. I remember him as a very kind and thoughtful young man. Now that I am older I think about what a wonderful person he was to have befriended her and to spend time with her. I know that his presence must have been a blessing to many over the years.

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**Mike Warden** - June 25, 2019 at 12:42 PM

MB

Hi Mike, thank you for your kind words. I remember Craig talking about your Mom, Lillian Warden. Yes he spoke well of her. I have found out that older people really like it when people check in on them, even if it's just a few minutes. Those little things add up to make a big difference. Speaking of little things, he bought my great niece some licorice(4-5 bags) recently and she was really excited. Abundant blessings to you.

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**Marlena Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 02:12 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear about Craig, prayers for the family. The last time I saw Craig was at Bruce and Debbie's home, which has been some time ago. We talked about the past and the things we did when we were kids and about how things were going in the present. He talked a lot about Marlena and how much he loved her and about Cullen. Craig will be missed.

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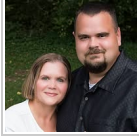
**Jan Bahr-Ferry** - June 25, 2019 at 09:12 AM

MB

Thank you Jan, Craig said you were one of the most down to earth people that he knew. We should have looked you up when we were up that way taking care of Mark. Thank you for your prayers. Love you and God bless you and your family.

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**Marlena Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 10:06 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Cullens Family trip pictures from 2004



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**Cullen Burton** - June 23, 2019 at 06:19 PM

MP

*Marlena and family, I am so sorry to hear of Craig's passing. He was a great guy, I worked with him at SJMH and MHC. Craig and Larry are having a wonderful time getting to know each other again in heaven. God bless you all. Mary Powell*

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**Mary Lynn Powell** - June 25, 2019 at 08:30 AM

MB

*Hi Mary, sorry to hear of Larry passing recently. Yes I am sure they are rejoicing together. Oh what party they must be having. Hope you are doing well. Thank you for your kindness. God bless you*

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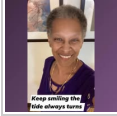
**Marlena Burton** - June 25, 2019 at 02:15 PM

DD

*I worked with craig for several years at multiple hospitals , He was a good therapist and a good friend , Im sorry for your loss , and I take comfort in knowing that Craig was a deeply spiritual person , and his battles have come to an end .. may he rest in peace , your friend David DeSpain RRT/CRTT*

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**david despain** - June 25, 2019 at 09:41 PM



*Hi David, thank you so much for the times that you called Craig and kept in touch, he really appreciated your kindness. I know you guys had a lot of fun working together and talking about guns. Great talking to you this week, I appreciate your kind words. God bless you and your family.*

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**Marlena Thomas Burton** - June 27, 2019 at 10:11 AM



*Marlena I am so sorry to hear of Brother Thomas passing away this evening, this is Johnnie Wilson I attended lively stone with your mom and dad. I just saw him only a few weeks ago, my heart goes out to you, I just saw where you lost your husband I am sorry about that as well, he was a nice fellow I am glad you all found each other. I will be praying for you all, the family was pretty close to our family. again please accept my deepest sympathy.*

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**Johnnie Wilson** - December 03, 2019 at 05:20 PM



*Thank you so much for your kind words Johnnie. I saw a flash of you at My Dad's visitation. Thank you for your prayers and Love. God bless you and your family.*

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**Marlena Thomas Burton** - December 22, 2019 at 10:17 AM