



## Mr. Craig W. Cook

May 23, 1961 - May 28, 2022

Craig W. (Willard, Cookie) Cook, 61, of Ithaca, NY and formerly of Chateaugay, NY, passed away on May 28, 2022 at the Cayuga Medical Center, Ithaca, NY.

Born on May 23, 1961, in the town of Malone, he was the son of Harold and Janice (Dora) Cook. After graduation from Chateaugay Central School, Craig moved to Ithaca, NY, where he became employed with Cornell University and recently retired after 43 years as an electrician at the university. He was an avid sports fan, especially of the Montreal Canadiens, the LA Rams and Tony Stewart.

He was a very talented artist and loved giving his artwork to family and friends. His pieces will be cherished always by all. His daughters, Leah and Kyra were his biggest pride and joy in his life.

He is survived by his daughters, Leah and Kyra Cook; his father, Harold Cook; a sister, Dana Cook (Jeff Avery); and many loving relatives.

He was predeceased by his mother, Janice Cook; grandparents, Bill and Lucy Dora and Lloyd and Almyra Cook; aunts and uncles; as well as a dear cousin, Shawn Dora.

There will be no calling hours. A Celebration of Craig's life will be held at the Chateaugay American Legion on June 25, 2022 starting at 1 p.m.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN 25. 1:00 PM.

Chateaugay American Legion  
Chateaugay, NY

# Tribute Wall

CA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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Cathy - June 13 at 03:22 PM

CA

“ *Craigy Craigy Craigy....you are one my of all-time favorite people, and I'm going to miss you immensely. Thank you for being such a great person, and for introducing me to your family. I loved our talks, your wicked humor, and your art advice. Rest easy, my friend.*

*~ Cath*

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Cathy - June 13 at 03:18 PM

LS

*Craig was one in a million, big tough guy on the outside, and a squishy pile of mush on the inside. He was one of the most caring men I have ever known. He was a great listener, and a straight shooter. He called it like he saw it. If he thought you were being a jerk, he told you you were being a jerk, and he told you why. He was the first to say "what's going on, what's on your mind", but the last to let anyone in to see what was going on with him. You truly had to work for that, and I always felt blessed when he would let me in and open up a little bit. His girls were his life. He would walk through fire for those two. His eyes got that special "Cookie Sparkle" whenever he talked about them. Whenever he seemed a little down I would always turn the conversation over to the topic of the girls, and that little Craig grin would appear, and those deep, dark eyes would sparkle, and in that moment he was one proud papa, and happy. I loved those moments. He lived a full life, and man oh man was he incredibly talented. I will treasure my Cookie original forever, and make sure my granddaughter knows what an amazing guy the artist of hers was. I know he is at peace now, and I know he will always be with many of us in our hearts, and I also know I am going to miss him a lot. I am so grateful he was a part of my life.*

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LS - June 13 at 09:45 PM

RF

Craig "CAK" and I go way back. To the early 80's. We met in my hometown, Cortland at a Tokyo show at The Whiffle Tree. We hit it off immediately and became fast friends. I had been working locally for bands in Central NY and had gotten a call to work for a band featuring Craig Gruber, Gary Driscoll (ELF, Rainbow), Jeff Fenholt (Original Jesus in Superstar on Broadway) and Duck MacDonald (Shakin' Street) they were based out of Ithaca, and when Craig heard this, he said "That's it!! You're gonna live with us! And he and Alex Perialas kidnapped me that night!! We lived together almost 2 years in that house. Needless to say, it was WILD!!

Craig became a brother and was at every big event in my life thereafter. Birthdays, my Wedding, (which he and I danced together) lol, my Kids births and much more. When he started doing his artwork on flat rocks, he made sure to send me some. I keep them close, in my bedroom, and look at them and remember all of our great times.

To say how sad I am, and how much I miss him and his laugh, sarcasm, friendship and love, doesn't come close to covering it. Craig was larger than life. An icon in Central NY's music scene. Everyone who met him loved him right away. I personally loved when he'd go on the road with us when I was working for Tokyo. The fun we had! I caught him off guard a few times with something funny right when he was swiggin' a beer and he'd spew it in total laughter! Omg I loved that!!

The world is dimmer without Craig in it, but Heaven is a lot brighter now that he's there!!

Can't wait to see you on the other side CAK! We're gonna bend the rules up there and have the Eternal Hella Ride!!

The battle over, the pain gone, a new chapter begun.

I LOVE YOU MAN!! ❤️👉❤️👉❤️👉❤️👉❤️👉❤️👉❤️👉

Randy Fox - June 14 at 08:34 AM

GC

Craig Willard Cook: My cousin, my classmate, my friend. You were one of a kind. We hadn't seen each other in years, but you had the last laugh because you popped up in my dreams once in a while for some crazy dream adventure. I miss you. Greg Cook

Greg Cook - June 14 at 07:52 PM

VK

My husband, Steve and I met Craig when we were his upstairs neighbors at a duplex on Coddington Road. Our introduction was a bit awkward, as Craig had gotten a puppy (against the lease rules) and was hiding him during the day out under a grouping of pine trees. Being dog lovers ourselves, when we heard the whimpering of a dog, we went and investigated, and found "Bud." We were bringing Bud up to our apartment, and just then, Craig came home. He thought he was going to get turned in, but we said "no way, as long as you don't tie-up your dog outside under the trees." Thus began our friendship with our downstairs neighbor, Craig. We sat and watched a lot of sports and shared a few stories downstairs in that duplex (or upstairs, or outside barbecuing), and we drank a few Buds with him and Bud.

We moved a couple of years later, and then left Ithaca all together. When we returned in the early 2000's, we were parents—and so was Craig! And yes, he had that spark in his eyes when he spoke of his daughters. We were bowled over by it.

Craig had a great Soul, and a kind heart.

We are deeply saddened to learn of his passing, and are so very sorry for Leah's and Kyra's loss of their loving dad. God bless you, Craig, and your girls and your family.

Our condolences, Valerie & Steve Kuramoto

Valerie Kuramoto - June 30 at 04:53 PM