



E. Craig Wheeler

March 22, 1941 - June 6, 2024

E. Craig Wheeler, age 83 of Highland, IL, died Thursday, June 6, 2024, at his home in Highland, IL.

He was born on Saturday, March 22, 1941, in Huntington, WV, the son of William and Betty (nee Watkins) Wheeler.

On Tuesday, August 2, 1960, he married Rebecca J. Wheeler, nee Martin, at Parkersburg, West Virginia, who survives.

He was a member of Evangelical United Church of Christ; Highland Masonic Lodge #583, AF & AM (former Treasurer); St. Joseph Hospital Auxiliary; Registered "Boy Scouter" by Council; and COR between scouts & church.

Craig was born at Huntington , West Virginia and graduated from West Virginia University in 1968 with a degree in business. After graduating, he spent 4 years in the US Air Force. He and Becky moved to Highland, IL, a number of years ago and they both integrated themselves into the community. He was named Highland Jaycees of the month in June of 1970. Served as an EMT for several years. For a number of years he was the Treasurer of the Masonic Lodge. He was very active in Boy Scouts, serving on a variety of committees. He also received many Scouting awards: Silver Beaver in 1994; District Award of Merit in 1976; Century Member in 1982; a Distinguished

Service Award from the Highland community. In addition, he served Scouting as Scoutmaster of Troop 43 (1972-1976); Webelo's Leader; Kickapoo District Training Chairman (1975-1977); and on 13 Wood Badge courses as well as Course Director. Craig was also presented with a Meritorious Achievement Award by his employer. He currently was serving as COR between his church and the Scout's Council. He loved to golf and enjoyed playing bridge; he was also an excellent woodworker. He often made wood gifts for others. Becky and Craig loved to travel. Together they had visited Germany, Italy, China, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and most of the United States. They also enjoyed cruises to Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Alaska, Panama Canal and the western Caribbean.

Survivors include:

Wife - Rebecca J. Wheeler, nee Martin, Highland, IL

Son - Steven C. (Sharon L.) Wheeler, Lebanon, IL

Grandchild - Andrea M. (Wesley) Freezeland, O'Fallon, IL

Grandchild - Eric C. (Fiancée Arielle Kishinanicarroll) Wheeler, Portland, OR

Great Grandchild - Emilia G. Freezeland, O'Fallon, IL

Great Grandchild - Lilith I. Freezeland, O'Fallon, IL

Great Grandchild - Evelyynn S. Freezeland, O'Fallon, IL.

He was preceded in death by:

Father - William Jewett Wheeler - Died 8/28/1998

Mother - Betty Mae Wheeler, nee Watkins - Died 1977

Daughter - Cara Jennifer Wheeler - Died 4/14/1973 Stillborn

Sister - Sandra S. Baisden - Died 11/10/1987.

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Friday, June 28, 2024, at

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL and from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 29, 2024, at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland, IL.

Memorial Service will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 29, 2024, at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland, IL, with Rev. William E. Kapp, Pastor, officiating.

Interment will be at Highland City Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Highland Masonic Lodge #583, or Scouting Programs at Evangelical United Church of Christ.

Tribute Wall

TM

“ Always a smile....and a funny story!!
A blessing to have known him, indeed.
Sympathy to the Wheeler family.

Teri Musso - June 14, 2024 at 09:06 AM

DS

“ Can I add, we so enjoyed all the dinners we had together, going out for our anniversaries, playing marble games. Playing bocce ball!
Those memories will last forever.

Dolores Swan - June 11, 2024 at 10:53 PM

PP

“ Carol & I are saddened to hear of Craig's passing. I remember how excited he was when he heard I was a Kentucky Colonel. He made me a beautiful frame for my certificate. It hangs proudly in my home office. He will be missed.

Pastor Dan Perry - June 10, 2024 at 11:01 AM

MS

“ Terry and I are saddened by the news of Craig's death. Our sincere sympathies to Becky and the family. I was privileged to work with Craig as a church leader when I served at First Congregational Church in Highland as pastor. We were good friends and spent some fun times as golfing buddies. You will be missed, Craig.

Maurice Smith - June 08, 2024 at 08:40 PM

DH

Craig was a great mentor for me when I first started working at Carlisle. Also played golf with Craig as we both shared a love for for the game. Whenever I meet him over the years he was volunteering for an event. Rest in peace and go Mountaineers!

Dave Harling - June 22, 2024 at 07:50 PM

DS

“*Pat, my late husband, shared many happy times with Craig. So sorry for your loss, Becky!*”

Dolores Swan - June 08, 2024 at 03:09 PM