



## Craig T. Wilberding

October 31, 1963 - April 17, 2019

Craig Thomas Wilberding, 55, of Kearney, died on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at his residence in Kearney. Funeral Services will be on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney. Father Joe Hannappel will officiate and burial will be later. There will be no visitation. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Moving Veterans Forward, which assists homeless veterans in Nebraska and Iowa. Online condolences may be submitted by visiting [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) Arrangements are under the direction of Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney.

Craig was born in St. Joseph, Michigan on October 31, 1963. He was the third of eight children of Edward and Maureen (Murphy) Wilberding and he grew up in Norwich, Vermont. He graduated from the University of Vermont and subsequently served 6 years as an Intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force. Later, he received a Masters of Sciences in Electrical & Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nebraska. Craig had a wonderful sense of humor with a fondness for puns and was a voracious reader. He especially loved playing board games in the Kearney area. One of his favorite games with his group of friends was Warhammer. He will be greatly missed by his family and anyone who knew him.

He is survived by his father Edward of Lincoln; brothers Darrick (Marianne) of

Boston, Erick (Iosella) of Rome, Italy, Douglas (Jessica) of Norwich, Vermont, Kurt (Waisum) of Brooklyn, NY; sisters Bridget Huggins (Peter) of Papillion, Mary (Günter) of Heilbronn, Germany and Tara Kim (Tom) of Newbury Park, CA; and many uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Craig is predeceased by his mother who passed away on March 14, 1999.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

APR **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl  
2421 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 237-2259  
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Craig T. Wilberding*

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January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *I was in the seminary with Craig in the late 70s. He was witty and wise and had a wonderful impish grin that we all loved! Earnest about studying and at ease in books and tests, he was a good example to me as he was in the class ahead of mine. May his smart and (sometimes) sassy soul rest in peace!*

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**Daniel Francis** - September 24, 2020 at 08:47 AM



“ *My condolences on the loss of Craig. We were students together at UVM, both active at the Newman Center. He was a person without guile and full of warmth. May he rest in peace. - Sue Koehler-Arsenault*

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**Sue Koehler-Arsenault** - December 02, 2019 at 07:50 AM



“ *To the Wilberdings, so sorry to hear of the loss of Craig. Craig and I lived on the same floor in Converse Hall while he and I attended UVM. Many a weekend we would play chess, split a Domino's pizza, and share a laugh. My thoughts are with all of you. Sincerely, Herb Durfee*

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**Herb Durfee** - April 30, 2019 at 11:59 AM

BH

“ I am blessed to call Craig my brother. He had a gentle spirit and a quiet manner; he could light up a room with his presence. Craig treated everyone he met with dignity and respect. The world was a better place with him in it. Rest in Peace, sweet brother.

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**Bridget Huggins** - April 26, 2019 at 04:04 PM

TK

“ We have a big family and Craig was a big part of our family. He was a bright, kind and intelligent person and we will miss him a great deal.



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**Tara Kim** - April 25, 2019 at 12:01 PM

MR

“ Craig is my best friend's brother. His sister, Mary, has been my most loyal friend over 25 years. I have met you, Brigitte, on numerous occasions, and most of us met at Günter and Mary's wedding. I can't imagine what it is to lose a brother and a son, and I want you all to know that you are in my thoughts. Michelle

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**Michelle Reichert** - April 24, 2019 at 11:09 PM

LT

“ I am so sad to learn of Craig's passing. He had been a regular customer at the Kearney Waldenbooks and such a kind and polite person. He shared numerous stories about his family, travels and of course books. My condolences to his family.

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**Laura Tadlock** - April 24, 2019 at 10:33 PM

KW

“ Craig was my brother. We were the only lefties in the family--one of many bonds we shared. We used to play chess together & watch old sci-fi movies on channel 38 out of Boston. I'll miss his humor, his roaring laugh & his intelligence. I could always count on Craig to provide an insightful take on the tactics behind some military battle, no matter how distant in the past or obscure: Alexander the Great's siege of Tyre? Craig could break it all down for you. He was a gentle giant, a member of the U.S. Air Force, an engineer, a bother to many and a friend to more. Saint Francis said that when you leave this world you can take with you nothing that you have received, only what you have given. Craig gave much, and we all are the recipients of his generosity. We will miss you, Craig. Love, Kurt

Kurt Wilberding - April 24, 2019 at 07:25 PM

DW

“ Craig is my brother and one of 8 kids that grew up in Vermont. He was a bright and affectionate, caring and intelligent man. He did have a passion for games and humor and his family. Craig was the third child and while born in Michigan, grew up in a small town in Vermont. He went to the University of Vermont, was involved in ROTC and spent time abroad with the military before settling in Nebraska. He will be missed and remembered as a soft spoken and loving bright man. Our family will always remember you. Doug

Doug Wilberding - April 24, 2019 at 03:54 PM

DH

“ Craig was a great man, and friend, we will miss him, and he will be missed by many others. sorry for your loss. David & Carla Haley



david haley - April 24, 2019 at 01:48 AM



Demaris  
Dietz

“ *I will miss you, my friend. We didn't agree on politics, but we both enjoyed a good martini! You were a good man whose life made a difference in this world.*

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**Demaris Dietz** - April 23, 2019 at 05:51 PM

MM

“ *All of us at the Kearney Public Library are heartbroken to hear about Craig's passing. He was always so kind to us here. Craig always laughed at my terrible library puns, and he would notice when we changed anything, offering compliments on new haircuts, weight loss or even jewelry. He was such a gentleman, and we will miss him.*

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**Marlana M.** - April 23, 2019 at 03:14 PM

LM

“ *So sorry to hear about Craig. I knew him at Baldwin. So nice and polite and always helped us out in the Marketing department.*

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**Lisa Mills** - April 22, 2019 at 03:55 PM

LA

“ *RIP Craig---always enjoyed your great sense of humor--you will be missed by all our family  
Larry & Diane Wilberding*

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**Larry** - April 22, 2019 at 02:29 PM

MR

*Craig is my best friend's brother. His sister has been my loyal friend for over 25 years. I wish I could give you in solace what Mary has given me in friendship over all these years. I am so very sorry for your loss.*

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**Michelle Reichert** - April 24, 2019 at 10:57 PM

MW

“ We will all miss Craig -- a good man and a wonderful part of our family.

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**Merle Wilberding** - April 22, 2019 at 10:11 AM

PP

“ Sorry to hear of Craig's passing. Worked with him at Baldwin Filters.

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**Pat Pennington** - April 20, 2019 at 06:23 PM