



## Craig Luce

May 17, 2024

Craig Alfred Luce, a prolific artist, dry-humored philosopher, and talented medical illustrator passed away on May 17th, 2024, due to complications from recently diagnosed stomach cancer. He was 72 years old.

Craig's early years were spent in Florida where he befriended and collected a variety of "critters", including snakes, mice and alligators. After his family moved to Atlanta, Craig spent his summers in the cabin that they built themselves on Ansley Farm, the Luce family property in Hamilton, GA. His teenage summers were spent at the Boy Scout camp where his father was the director; his absolute favorite scouting experience was at Philmont Scout Camp in New Mexico.

Craig received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting with a minor in Zoology from the University of Georgia. After his mother, a nurse practitioner, encouraged him to combine his interest in medicine and art, he enrolled in the Medical College of Georgia, where he received a Master of Science in Medical Illustration. Craig was an exceptionally skilled medical illustrator, working with doctors and surgeons in New York, Richmond and Charlottesville, where he was on staff at the University of Virginia's Department of Ophthalmology. In 1989, the renowned illustrator/physician Frank Netter asked Craig to work with him on the Atlas of Human Anatomy, also known as the "Big Green Books" that are still in use today. Later Craig

collaborated with many professionals making prosthetic eyes, anatomical models, and contributing to many books and articles.

He was a medical illustrator by trade, but could translate anything that crossed his mind into a multitude of media. He painted landscapes and portraits, carved delicate forms from blocks of wood or sculpted them in clay, built oars and bows, made jewelry, clocks, clothing, and even insoles for Linda's shoes. His creative mind was always churning. He was fascinated by Leonardo da Vinci and, if the notebooks Craig left behind are any indication, the two of them would have been great friends. There are countless sketches and schematics, including designs for building a boat, plans for retrofitting an ambulance into a creative studio on wheels, and diagrams of the reflection of light interspersed with witty political cartoons and casual grocery lists. He had a beautiful speaking voice, a wonderful laugh, and could pick up and play any instrument. The greatest part of his creative genius was the way he shared it – he was always offering a thought, teaching a skill, or just asking intriguing questions of those around him. At the same time, Craig truly enjoyed things like hanging out with his beloved dog, Scout, watching Monk reruns, and playing Pickleball and Kubb.

Craig was preceded in death by his parents, Darby and Paul Luce, and his sister, Shelley Witek. He is survived by the love of his life, Linda DeWaay, his wonderful son Preston Luce (Maggie), amazing daughter Ansley Luce (Peter), Kathryn Hawk (Josh), Sara Cawley (John), sister Andy Butzon (Chris), brother Alan (Juliana), beloved grandchildren Owen, Rowan, Margaret and Eli, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Craig was a Friend of Bill's for over 22 years. He was kind, brilliant, funny, and unconventional in all the best ways. We will mourn him, but he would prefer that we dance.

A Memorial Service is planned for 2:00 pm, June 1st, at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins.

Memorial donations may be sent to Homeward Alliance in Fort Collins, where Craig and Linda often volunteered their time.

# Previous Events

## Memorial

JUN 1. 2:00 PM (MT)

First Presbyterian Church  
531 South College Avenue  
Fort Collins, CO 80524  
crichardson@firstpresfc.org  
<http://www.firstpresfc.org/>

# Tribute Wall

AJ

“ I do not know Craig but from the obituary, it my loss. He would be a person well worth knowing. I do know Linda, however, and if she is the "love of his life", he chose well.

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**Al Jordan** - June 01, 2024 at 03:22 PM

RM

“ I met Craig in 1975 at the Medical College of Georgia. As a fellow grad student in medical illustration, Craig reached out to all of his classmates and shared his interest in illustration, art, books, and the great outdoors. Craig was an incredibly gifted artist with boundless energy. Craig and I worked together in San Francisco and in New York City's SoHo. Later on our paths crossed at professional meetings and friendly get-togethers. Craig surrounded himself with family and friends who loved him. We will always remember him.

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**Robert Margulies** - June 01, 2024 at 09:12 AM

TD

“ I too meet Craig over 50 years ago when he was dating my cousin- we kept in touch on and off over the years but always believed we had a special connection-he was so talented on so many levels - a gentle and caring man  
I am very saddened by the news but trusting he is in a better place - no pain - no suffering  
May you all hold tight to the memories and find comfort from friends and family during this difficult time- his light shines on within our hearts always and forever  
Terry Dalton Richmond VA

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**terry Dalton** - May 29, 2024 at 12:57 PM

MB

“ Craig and I met during the pandemic, a stroke of luck brought about by the formation of a "think tank" of mostly-middle-aged guys who met on Zoom three times a week for three years in a row. He and I were kindred spirits -- both of us lifelong fitness types (cycling, rowing, etc), free-thinkers, good boy scouts, multi-instrumentalists, and generalists of the highest order. He was \*my type\*, and I recognized it immediately. Never one to entertain much boredom, always curious about something, a jack-of-all-trades, and a tinkerer. We shared a lot of our lives together, even though I am a professor at a university in Japan, over on the other side of the world. I last met him in September when I went out of my way to swing through Ft. Collins and "think tank" a bit in person. It was important to give him a big hug.

When I heard of his diagnosis, I suspected that he would soldier on, and when I heard of his passing only a few weeks later, I was shocked. HOWEVER - I have to say that on the heels of my sadness was joy, and what I mean by that is this: Craig lived a good life, and went out on top. Everybody dies, but not everybody lives to the fullest. He did. He was a good man. There are thousands of people who know that to be true. There are also thousands who, like me, benefitted greatly from having him in our lives. Thanks, Craig, for nudging me in the right direction a few times, and if you get a chance, shoot me some good vibes from wherever you are in the great beyond.

- Mike Barr, a.k.a. Kyoto Mike

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Mike Barr - May 29, 2024 at 12:53 AM

CL

“ I met Craig 50 some yrs.ago in the mid 70's when he was dating my sister at UGA. Always liked him even after he and my sister parted ways. He once kindly removed a metal splinter form my eye when he was at UVA. Keep on "Truckin" interesting old friend. We'll meet again.

Cullen Leigh

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**cullen leigh** - May 28, 2024 at 09:03 AM

DL

“ I meet Craig a little over 6 years ago. Via a mutual friend and friends that would forever change my life. I never done anything like this in my life. For you Craig. Yes. Reasons? Here are just a few. “granted I don't get side tracked”

Lost and looking for a path to find in life. In which would lead a different direction one I never knew. He would speak and I could not understand what he was saying or ever meant. Best yet comprehend if it was English. One day he pulled me aside and said it was an enjoyment to see the Zeal of God working in someone's life. Zeal? Zeal? Too embarrassed to ask what it was. I said ok. Latter on in a chat on Zoom durning Covid. He said it again. And again. Months apart. Thou each time now I knew what it meant. Meant more than words. I never said thank you. You were on my mind these last few month. Never got around to call of join you on Zoom . I was struggling. Got the call you had left the building. I SAY THIS WITH A SMILE.

The best way for me to say thank you. Passing on the gift you gave to me. The road map to a road of happy destiny. Until we meet again. Lov ya Sir and THANK YOU. My Boyz say it too.

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**drew I** - May 25, 2024 at 12:30 AM

TW

“ I met Craig 50 years ago when we were undergraduates at the University of Georgia. He was generous with his encouragement to me as I applied for admission to the Medical College of Georgia, where he had just been accepted to the Medical Illustration program. I joined him there a year later. We had unforgettable times both in and out of the classroom. He has been an inspiration to me as an artist, an educator, and a scientist. I am so happy that he met you, Linda. Wishing you good memories and comfort.

Thomas Waldrop - May 24, 2024 at 06:00 PM



“ We so enjoyed playing pickleball with Craig, with his big smile and great sense of humor. We had no idea he was a talented artist and had such an interesting career. From now on, I'm going to pursue finding out the accomplishments of my pickleball and badminton friends. Our prayers go out to his widow and family. We will miss him.

May 24, 2024 at 09:17 AM



Meredith  
Mayer  
Vaught

“ I met Craig when I was brand new to pickleball and naively volunteered to help with the pickleball league. I was way over my head and Craig came to my rescue to help me any way he could. I wish I had known all I learned about him reading his obituary. Isn't that always the way? I too was a nurse practitioner and Frank Netter was one of my heroes. I would have loved to have heard so many of Craig's stories. My condolences to his wife and family, I have the feeling you were the wind beneath his wings...Meredith Vaught

Meredith Mayer Vaught - May 24, 2024 at 08:43 AM

DB

*I met Craig at one of my first Association of Medical Illustrators conferences in the mid 1970s. We became fast friends and were both fascinated by visualizations of eye anatomy. On his first visit to my home around 1991 (I'd brought him in to collaborate on a project) my then three year old son couldn't pronounce Craig and called him Crank, the fond nickname only I used for him. I will miss you Crank, my old, wonderful, wry and hugely talented friend. I send my deep condolences to his family about whom he often spoke lovingly.*

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**David Bolinsky** - July 28, 2024 at 08:03 PM

NK

“*Craig was part of our pickleball family at the Sr Center in Ft. Collins. He had a mean shot and serve, but he was a wonderfully kind, soft-spoken gentle man. His passing was a terrible shock to all of us. May God bless his family and friends with strength and comfort at this difficult time.*

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**Natalie Kielar** - May 24, 2024 at 08:15 AM

KG

*Well said Natalie. Craig had a kind wonderful spirit that included all players all levels and humor to back up a serve.*

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**Kristi Gilsdorf** - June 04, 2024 at 05:24 PM

LG

“ Craig sought to share whatever he had if/when someone was in need - he just loved to give. While he was extremely smart with anything having to do with vision and the workings of the eyes - and was always excited to share useful info when he noticed someone in need, he was also very attuned to people's interests. He would frequently 'just happen' to have something that would help the need. For instance, Dave Sobotka and I both received gifts of racket weights from Craig just because Craig knew it would enhance our game. And they did.

What really touched me though was that when Craig learned that I loved table tennis, He said "Lar, you just have to experience this virtual reality T.T. game I have" and then described what it was like to play the game "virtual" style. Of course It sounded very cool to me and I jokingly said "now I know what to ask Santa for Christmas" and left it at that.

Craig brought the *WHOLE ASSEMBLY* to the Senior Center and set it up for me to try. What a blast! But what's so much more, what an incredibly thoughtful gesture from a giving soul.

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**Larry Grimm** - May 24, 2024 at 12:55 AM

AJ

*I did not know Craig. But from the obituary and memories, it was my loss. He sounds like a person well worth knowing. I do know Linda, however, and if she was " the love of his life", he chose well.*

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**Al Jordan** - May 30, 2024 at 09:37 AM

BS

“ Craig and I became close friends when I was living in Pine Mountain, Ga. I admired him for many of the reasons detailed in his obit, which captured him well. I particularly recall his “wonderful (baritone)laugh” and how it could just about rattle the windows in my old pickup truck. My prayer for his family is that they might be comforted by similar memories, if not now, then eventually. R.I.P. Craig!

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**Bill Sutley** - May 23, 2024 at 06:16 PM

MH

“ I have known Craig for over 33 years. I stumbled upon a closet full of Craig’s (medical-editorial) drawings at the University of Virginia- Department of Ophthalmology years ago. His command of air brush- watercolor and pencil in these images were stunning to me- which led me to seek out this talented and unique professional who- I did not know at the time. Thirty three years- dozens of ophthalmic articles- books, and personal commissions later- I find it difficult to accept that this brilliant mind-artist-friend is no longer around- thinking and rethinking a project we were working on. My only relief in my grief- is knowing how lucky I was to have met this shooting star. One-of-a kind individual. Craig helped me more than any person professionally- and he made me think (and rethink!) the obvious. To Linda and his children and all his extended family- thank you for sharing Craig with me over the years. I will miss you Craig.

*Michael Hughes  
Vienna, Virginia*

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**Michael Hughes** - May 22, 2024 at 09:57 PM