



Craig Leitch

April 1, 1958 - June 26, 2019

It is with great sadness that the family of Craig Leitch announce his passing on Wednesday June 26, 2019 in Sarasota, Florida.

Craig was born April 1, 1958 in Paterson New Jersey. He grew up in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey graduating from HHHS before moving to Florida. He attended Miami Dade Community College and then Florida International University graduating with his bachelor's degree in Hospitality.

He is preceded in death by his father George Leitch and mother Sheila (McKenchie) Leitch and brother Ian Leitch. Special family members Ernest, Sheenan and Daisy.

Craig is survived by his loving wife and best friend Michelle Grim. Stepdaughter Kaitlynn (AJ) Sheehan, Grandsons Lincoln and Ryder Sheehan. Brother Roy (Debi) Leitch and "favorite" sister Kim (Harry) Carr. Nephews Roy (Heather) Leitch, Craig (Lydia) Carr and Niece Ryan (Joe) Leitch. Great nephews Alex Leitch, Findley Hart, Great Nieces Sabrina Leitch, Hayden Hart and Kelci Carr. Sister in law Kristi Ward.

Craig started his career always working in the Hospitality field. One of his first jobs was working at the Fiesta in Woodridge. After moving to Florida, he worked at Presidential Towers in Hollywood. After graduating he worked as

Food and Beverage Manager at Holiday Isles in the Keys. From there he moved to Aruba working as Food and Beverage Director at the Tamarjin Beach Resort. Coming back to the states he became the General Manager for the Galt Ocean Mile Hotel.

During the next 25 years he worked for Summit Hotel Management Group as a General Manager for the Holiday Inn, first in Coral Springs and then Lauderdale By the Sea. He finished his career working as the Vice President of Operations for Vantage Hospitality Group.

Craig's greatest loves were his family, friends, sports, the Beatles and traveling. To know Craig was to love Craig and he was loved all over the globe.

Don't worry, I got a GUY! Five minutes! Yeah yeah yeah! Are you frigging kidding me! Sign my name! It's broken! What's for the eats! Listen love, I'll take care of it! Great job! Leitchy!

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2019 at The Desota - 1415 2nd Street Sarasota, Florida 34236 on the 4th Floor starting at 5:00 PM. Parking is available at Whole Foods.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 13. 5:00 PM (ET)

The Desota
1415 2nd Street (4th Floor)
Sarasota, FL 34236

Tribute Wall

CS

“ *DANG!!!!!! Don't know if anyone from Craigs family will ever see this but I'm giving it a shot.*

Decided to call Craig after all these years to see what he would say about the USA winning GOLD in hockey. Believe it or not we watched the game together in 1980 where they one GOLD and had a hell of a time. Got the shock of my life when I Googled him.

We went to FIU together and drove to school almost every morning. He went to Holiday Inn and I went to Marriot. Did our interships at Marriot inflight services together.

He was a great guy and I guess the diabedes got him. From the looks of it he made a real difference in Ft. Lauderdale and sure was a great freind too me.

I guess I'll have to wait till I get to the other side to tell him about the game.

God Bless

*Christopher Schaefer
Miami, Florida
christopher_schaefer@yahoo.com*

christopher schaefer - February 23 at 02:52 PM

SS

“ Super boss anyone could have; I worked at the Holiday Inn Lauderdale by the Sea, as one of the night auditors when Craig was the G.M. Wonderful human being who accepted people from different cultures and ethnicities while showing respect to everyone, allowing us to make corrections for ourselves when things went wrong on the job. Condolences to his family and friends. I am saddened to find this obituary while browsing to see who's in the hospitality industry for an upcoming vacation to Fort Lauderdale. Sheldon 868 764-8410

Sheldon Seeharack - July 05, 2023 at 02:27 AM



“ My deepest condolences to the Leitch family. I am saddened to find this online as I wanted to inform him of my Dad's recent passing. I met Craig through my father, "Big Nate" Clay, when he was the general manager at the Holiday Inn Lauderdale by the Sea. All of our family stayed there when I hosted our family reunion in 2000. So I thought of him as we will be having our family reunion again in South Florida. Craig was such a kind, generous and overall sweet guy who would help you in any way he could. Now I know he is up there in heaven chatting with my Dad about something sports or entertainment related. RIP my dear friend, xoxo Kwanza Clay Bowe

Kwanza Bowe - March 22, 2023 at 01:44 PM

RF

“ I met Craig what had to be about 30 years ago . I was down in Florida at the holiday inn to get away after having just lost a dear friend to cancer. Having heard my story Craig became an instant friend showing kindness compassion and generosity. We didn't speak often but I will always remember Craig for his zest for life and that bright smile that was always on his face. I spoke to Craig some months ago and was saddened to hear of his health condition. I was unaware of his passing until today when I tried to call him to say hello as I am visiting in Florida. Having been unable to reach him I tried to google him and to my dismay read the sad news on line. Dear Craig May you Rest In Peace . I will always remember your kindness

Roz Fierstein - November 06, 2019 at 01:15 PM

MÖ

“ We are so very sad that we didn't get to meet again, Craig❤️ ”so close no matter how far” You were a close friend to Mike and become a friend to Marie. We miss you and will always do🙏❤️ Rest in peace until we meet again in heaven. Hugs to you, Kim❤️

marie östblom - July 20, 2019 at 10:02 AM



“ Red Roses and White Carnations (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of Craig Leitch.



July 13, 2019 at 03:46 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Craig Leitch.*



July 12, 2019 at 06:47 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Craig Leitch.*



July 12, 2019 at 09:08 AM



“ Unfortunately I will not be able to attend Craig's Memorial however I wanted to write these words so they resonate on how much of an impact he truly had on not just my life but my family as a whole.

I had met Craig well over 37 years ago as my mom was working with him. She looked to Craig in that he was providing the reception for my Bar Mitzvah. It took place in Coral Springs at the then Holiday Inn off of University Drive. If you know my Mother and I tell you she brought my two brothers Bar Mitzvah to where Craig was managing that's enough to let you know what kind of person Craig was. I believe round two was for my middle brother at another Holiday Inn in Plantation and my youngest brothers was at the Holiday Inn at Lauderdale By The Sea. The same place that Craig provided a job to me at Dennys for my Summer before college and all my come home vacations for the first two years of schooling. I didn't think much of it and of him but I knew everytime I saw him he genuinely cared... he'd go on to ask about me, my Mom and family. Always!

Many years later my Mom would bump into Craig and she would tell me. When Craig's health turned for the worst she told me I should go see him in which I brought my son to visit him as he was staying in Coral Springs.

We left that day and my son asked who was that... I said he was a big part of my family in growing up.

Heaven opened its doors to an angel. You will be missed and I dont know if I really ever said a sincere thank you along the way to him but i dont think he really cared. He was just doing and being because that's who he was. RIP

Allen Colp - June 30, 2019 at 09:07 PM

LG

“ If you were in Craig Social Circle you were golden. He would always make sure to take care of you and go out of his way doing it. You always had a guy for everything. And make sure everything was done right. He looked out for me like a brother. Always called each other brother from a different mother. I will miss him so much. And cherish all my memories of him throughout these decades. But in order to be in his Social Circle you must be golden to because he didn't just let anybody in circle. I met Craig through Uncle Joey a New York gangster he took us under his wing and Craig and I would pass them back and forth to each other I would say to Uncle Joey at 2 in the morning where do you want to go now he say take me by Craig and then Craig would bring them back the next night and this went on for years. I guess Joey took us into his Social Circle too. Love you my brother Craig. We will meet again. Miss you Larry Gambino

Larry Gambino - June 30, 2019 at 07:41 PM

NV

“ Beautifully written and yesss, to know Craig was to love him. Despite daily pain and struggles, he maintained an attitude of gratitude, a full cup that overflowed with amazing life experiences and stories that would light up the room and all those in it. So many loving, funny and entertaining stories. I may forget some of them but I will never forget that peaceful easy smile on his face when talking about all the people he loved...and listening to music. My heart is a little heavy that I didn't get to say goodbye, comfort or cheer you on into your transition. But the greater part of me feels your relief, happiness and joy of being freed from this physical body and returning home to the pure positive source energy of love from which you came. Time to turn up some Beatles and celebrate you my friend!! Thank you for touching my soul and making the world a better place xo

Nichola Villena - June 30, 2019 at 01:42 PM



“ I've known Craig since he was the general manager at the Holiday Inn, Lauderdale by The Sea. We weren't super close friends but Craig was one of the nicest, warmest, friendliest and generous people I've ever known, a wonderful friend.
My deepest condolences to the family.
You will be missed by all, rest in peace my friend!

Jim Underwood - June 30, 2019 at 12:39 PM

BF

“ For more than twenty-five years Craig has been more than a good friend to me, my wife and my sons. He always looked out for us and took good care of us. We shared many great times in the NYPD PIPES AND DRUMS but also in other areas. He was such a generous guy with his time, his love and financially as well. His last few years have been very challenging but he met those challenges with bravery, aplomb and a sense of humor. Truly a tough guy with a warm heart. The world needs more Craig Leitch's and it would be a much better place. Words really don't do justice to the man's legacy and my feelings for him. A great man has left this world but he left it better than he found it. He was inspirational to many. Thanks for everything, Craig.

Brendan Finn - June 30, 2019 at 12:02 PM

JC

“ It is through tears that I am writing this memorial. Craig was such a beautiful person inside and out . His heart was so big he was able to make everyone special . I know he is complete again and with so many great people who went before him . My late husband and myself were privileged to call Craig a friend. God bless you, you will be so missed! Say hi to the big DC for me . I'm sure there are plenty of his stories awaiting you!

Jean Cole - June 30, 2019 at 11:10 AM

MC

“ Craig was such a wonderful person. He will be missed dearly by everyone he touched in life. He was one of the kindest, strongest people I have ever known. I will always remember my visits with him and our long talks. I was honored to call him my friend

I hope Donnie met you at the pearly gates with the Bagpipers to welcome you home.

Rest In Peace my friend..

Mary Cole - June 30, 2019 at 10:30 AM

ZY

“ ZJohn Yeswita lit a candle in memory of Craig Leitch



zJohn Yeswita - June 30, 2019 at 10:26 AM

 Ellen
Rivera

“ I'm so saddened to know you're no longer on this planet, dear sweet Craig. You were such an amazing, kind, loving man to all who had the honor to call you their friend. I will never forget the day I met you, nor the many years of friendship afterward. You will always be remembered with kindness and a smile in my heart. I know you are with Jesus now, and your body is free from pain. Rest in Peace. You are missed by those who still are here but your memories and spirit lives on. xoxo

Ellen Rivera - June 30, 2019 at 10:11 AM