



Craig Francis Reidsma

March 15, 1955 - December 30, 2010

Reidsma, Craig Francis, age 55 of Plymouth, December 30, 2010. Beloved Husband of Marikay. Dear son of Donald and the late Margaret. Loving father of Brett and Scott. Also leaves one brother Jay (Mary). Visitation Monday 2-9 PM and Funeral Service Tuesday 1 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 West Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth (Between Sheldon and Beck). In Lieu of flowers you prefer you may make Memorial Contributions to Eastern Michigan University General Scholarship Fund in Craig's Honor. To leave a message of condolence or share a memory with the family, please click on the view and send condolence link on this page.

Tribute Wall



“ *Craig Francis Reidsma*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *To the Reidsma Family: it has taken seven (7) years to finally open up about a husband, father, brother, friend, mentor and boss. Whose friendship has meant more than anyone will ever know. Whose kind hearted ways will always remain firm in my memories. Whose laughter can still be heard. Whose gentle tap on the should reminding me to bring it down a notch can still be felt (if only in my mind). His encouraging words, work ethics and professionalism, intelligence, fighting spirit, and love of family are the things I remember most about Craig. I think of him often and what might have been. He was a true super hero that we all can be proud of.*



Jacqueline Wiley - December 12, 2017 at 04:18 PM



“ *I am deeply sorry for your loss. The world needs more people like him. He was a good man.*

Ross Hunter Cassan Hagen - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

SN

“ My sincerest condolences to the Reidsma family. I had the pleasure of getting to know and work with Craig the past 5 years that I have been at EMU on projects and when I needed his expertise and help. He was the nicest most cordial and helpful guy and always professional. He will be so missed by the EMU family. Please accept my prayers for you all and my wishes for lots of happy memories of your family times together. Sandi Nielsen

Sandi Nielsen - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

KS

“ My thoughts of peace, love and comfort are sent to you. Craig has a kind and gentle spirit. Katherine

Katherine Schindler - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

KL

“ Craig was a wonderful person to work with and we will surely miss him. May God comfort and support you in your time of need. Kevin

Kevin Lawson - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

JT

“ To Craig's family: It was my pleasure to work with Craig for many years when I was at EMU. I recall Craig's patience in dealing with HR issues, his calm demeanor, his kindness, his thoroughness, his professionalism and his genuine goodwill. When he talked of his family, it was with much affection. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to work with Craig. My deepest sympathies are with you for your loss. Judy Benfield Tatum

Judy Tatum - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

MW

“ Everyone at WEMU joins me in sending our deepest sympathy and condolences to the Reidsma family. Craig was a strong supporter of and real friend to WEMU in more ways than I can list here. We know Craig was a fan of the blues and will think of him every time we play the blues on the radio. We'll miss Craig every day.

Molly Motherwell, WEMU - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

LB

“ Craig was a great HR professional and a good friend. I will miss him dearly.

Larry Barkoff - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

JC

“ I worked for Craig for almost 5 years here at EMU and came to know a very family loving, hard working individual who never complained and always gave everything he had to his family and EMU. He cared about our families too. Always smiling, always had time to listen. Those who knew Craig have the memories of knowing a wonderful human being. My sympathy to his family at this very difficult time.

Judy Church - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

AS

“ To the Reidsma family: I am deeply shocked and saddened by the passing of my EMU colleague and friend, Craig Reidsma. Craig was a true gentleman. He was kind, professional, warm and a man of integrity. I will miss him deeply. This is a true loss to all. My thoughts and prayers are with the Reidsma family during this difficult time.

Anita Schnars - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

MH

“ Marikay, I am very saddened to have learned this morning of Craig's passing. I have long felt a close connection with him since my time working with him at EMU many years ago. He was a terrific boss and friend to me and I will miss him. I cherish the times you and Craig hosted me for a visit at your home and the talks we had. Please accept my sincere condolences during this difficult time. Matt

Matt Hawks - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

JG

“ Craig will be sorely missed at EMU. He was a strong pillar of the HR organization with great historical knowledge that cannot be replaced. We will miss his deliberate yet kind approach to solving many complex problems. However, most of all we will simply miss Craig. It will be difficult for the HR department to move forward without him, but not nearly as difficult as it will be for the Reidsma family. My best wishes and condolences to the Reidsma family.

James Gallaher - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

DB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Reidsma family. Craig was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed.

Daleta Blan - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

CR

“ I am so saddened and stunned to hear of Craig's passing. What comes to mind when I think of him is the number of times I ran into him arriving or leaving McKenny Hall....always with his friendly smile and gracious hello. His quite, gentle way will indeed be missed by so many. My sincere sympathy goes out to the Reidsma family and to his HR/EMU family.

Clara Hoedema EMU Retiree - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

MM

“ I worked with Craig at EMU and I can tell you there was no one on campus that was more friendly and easier to work with. I know the EMU community will miss him dearly, but not nearly as much as his family will. Remember the good things about Craig. We will keep Craig and his family in our prayers.

Mike Malach - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

RE

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Sincerest sympathy from the Department of World Languages.

R. Weston Gil, PhD, Dept Head, World Languages EMU - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

SB

“ Please accept my sincere condolences, I will hold you and your family in my thoughts and prayers as you move through the process of grieving and healing. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
~~John 14:1-3

Sharreen Boone - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

AW

“ My sincere condolences to the Reidsma family. It is clear from reading the messages that Craig was highly-respected for both his personal and professional qualities. We talked several times during the week before the break, and he was very helpful with the HR matter in question. I wish you the best as you deal with this loss.

Ann Alvarez, EMU School of Social Work - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

KR

“ To Craig's Family: My condolences on your loss of Craig. I know you meant the world to him; not a day went by when we worked together in HR that he did not mention one of you - your schooling, your work, or just a fun time you had shared. Just as you have suffered a great loss of a family member, EMU has suffered a great loss of a truly top-notch employee. Craig loved EMU, and he loved his HR work. From the day I arrived in HR, he welcomed me and gave me invaluable advice as I learned the HR role. I know he helped me avoid a number of messes I could have created by sharing his knowledge with me. Even though I'm sure I drove him nuts at time trying to get him to "move faster" on something, he only knew one style, and that was to be deliberate and methodical. However, that style tended to result in a good decision and one that always took peoples' well-being and feelings into account. Craig was a man of impeccable integrity; he did not get swayed by politics or popularity contests. I never knew him to violate a confidence or betray a trust. It was clear dozens of people shared personal info with him each day, but he never revealed those conversations with others. And if Craig told you something, you could count on it; to him, a person's word was a measure of his/her honor. The phrase that comes to mind when I think of Craig is that he was genuinely a good, good man! I will miss him.

Karen L. Simpkins, EMU Retiree - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

DS

“ How precious is life and we need to remember to be kind to one another for the brief time we have together. I too saw Craig right before break and was able to wish him a happy holiday. I hope his last days were in peace with family and friends. EMU will miss this colleague. Prayers and sympathies go to one and all.

Deb de Laski-Smith, EMU Graduate School - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

BC

“ On behalf of the College of Health and Human Services, please accept my sincere condolences. I have had the pleasure of working with Craig over the last several years and always found him helpful in sorting out employment issues. He will be greatly missed.

Barbara Scheffer, Interim Assoc. Dean CHHS - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

EG

“ Craig was a wonderful person to work with. I still remember the first time we met to discuss about employment issue. We last spoke two days before the break. I will miss him a lot.

Esther Gunel - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

LT

“ Excellent mentor, teacher, respected colleague and friend, I will sorely miss Craig. Craig was a loyal advocate for the entire university community and served EMU with integrity, honesty and fairness. Kind and patient and easily made to laugh, he made working with him a joy and a lot of fun. Family came first with Craig and he extended that courtesy to my family as well on many occasions. He has always been there for me over the years with sage and thoughtful advice. I will remember Craig with great fondness and a smile. My sincere condolences to his family and many friends.

Lynn Tindall - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

SR

“ I had the good fortune to work with Craig at Eastern Michigan University early in my career. Craig was a great professional and devoted to his family. I ran into Craig during a recent trip back to Michigan and had a chance to catch up. I was stunned to learn of his passing. His family will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

Steve Ragan - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

GH

“ To the Reidsma Family: I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Craig only briefly at EMU, but found him to be talented, helpful, professional, and above all, a very decent human being. In my short time at EMU, I was able to observe how well liked and respected Craig was. Like others, I had the good fortune of speaking with Craig just before the holiday break and we were able to wish each other a happy holiday. My thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time. Gloria

Gloria Hage - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

MK

“ To Craig's family and many friends, Sincere condolences to all that knew him. I've known Craig for many years in EMU's HR department and at the GAASHRM monthly meetings. I'm just glad that I got to spend some time with him at the Eagle Crest Holiday Open House on 12-16. Best regards - Mike

Mike Kestly - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

CS

“ To the Reidsma Family: I knew Craig when I worked at EMU and talked to him a couple months ago. He was always kind, considerate and nice to everyone. I am personally saddened and my deepest sympathies to the entire family. I wish I had words to ease the pain, but hopefully knowing others share your grief is comforting in some small way. Sincerely, Cheryl Swanson

Cheryl Swanson - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

PH

“ I am saddened to learn of Craig's passing. He was certainly a kind and compassionate man; and as an EMU administrator always handled his role very professionally. My condolences to his family, and his EMU family.

Pamela Hill - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

PF

“ Jay; I am so sorry in the passing of your brother. It is pretty clear from those whom have remembered him that his character as a loving caring and compassionate man runs family deep. God bless you and your family as you continue to carry on in his likeness. Paul

Paul Lelli and family - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

HS

“ I've known Craig since he began working at EMU many years ago. He was always a supportive, kind, helpful, soft-spoken professional. I spoke with Craig just before the holidays and will always appreciate having had that last opportunity to wish him well. I am, as we all are, shocked and saddened by his sudden passing.

Holly Smith - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

EL

“ I know Craig from EMU and will miss his thoughtful leadership. My deepest condolences.

Elaine Logan - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

DH

“ Dear Reidsma family, Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the loss of Craig. I knew Craig for many years with his involvement in human resources professional association. He was incredibly kind, thoughtful, generous spirit and a wonderful colleague. I will miss seeing him. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this time.

Deirdre Honner - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

KS

“ We are truly shocked and saddened to learn of Craig's passing. He was a great colleague and friend, a consummate professional in all he did, blessed with great patience even when handling highly complex issues, possessed of a wry and self-deprecating sense of humor, and a man devoted to his family in so many ways. He will be missed.

Kevin & Mary Smart - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

DI

“ Im truly sorry to hear about your lost. Craig will definitely be missed by so many. One thing that helps me deal or cope with loosing a loved one is the scripture John 5:28,29. It stats " Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, those who practiced vile things to a resurrection of judgment." Soon we will be able to see Craig again because God (Jehovah) promises a resurrection hope. Also if you notice that it uses the term "memorial tomb" and not [Grave] which means Gods memory. Craig seemed like a really nice guy, a person that God will definitely remember. I hope this gives some comfort.
Dion R (Truth.1914@yahoo.com)

Dion - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

LC

“ In the time that I have known Craig he has been nothing but helpful and kind to me and anyone that I have witnessed him interact with. He was warm and so very approachable, always willing to sit and talk to me about random inquiries that I had. I vividly remember just last week when he told me, “Go home...get out of here”, sending me off to an early holiday break. I express my sincere condolences. Craig will surely be missed.

Latisha Cunningham - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

CC

“ I am deeply saddened by the news of Craig’s passing. While I didn’t work directly with Craig, every instance and dealing I had with him proved to be very positive. He was always helpful, kind, and considered in his advice and actions. He was respected by so many and will certainly be missed. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers during your time of loss.

Caryn Charter - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

PY

“ Marikay: Craig was so wonderful to work with on projects. His calm, caring and professional attitude was greatly appreciated. I know I was shocked to hear of his death. I will miss him and I know all our colleagues at Eastern Michigan will also feel the void. He was a joy to work with whenever I needed his advice.

Pamela Young - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

SM

“ On behalf of Eastern Michigan University, I want to express my sympathy and sadness at the loss of Craig. I just spoke with him in my office before Christmas and it will be hard to accept that he is gone. He will be missed by the Eastern family and personally by me. Sue Martin, President EMU

Susan Martin - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

LH

“ I am saddened to hear of Craig's sudden passing. My interactions with him at EMU were always positive. He had a calm, kind attitude, even when broaching sensitive issues. The EMU community has lost a dedicated, caring individual. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

Lorraine Hallinen - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

JP

“ Craig was more than just a colleague. He was a true friend. I am still stunned to think he is gone. EMU has lost a great supporter. He was a great guy who was fair, honest and kind. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy.

Jeanette Hassan & Don Pearson - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

ME

“ I am deeply saddened to hear the untimely passing away of Craig Francis Reidsma. My heartfelt condolences to his family. I first met Craig for the first time in 1989 to resolve a bureaucratic issue. He was charming, dedicated to his work serving Eastern Michigan University, charming, very personable and helpful. He went out of his way to help a colleague. He was charming. My interaction with Craig was brief. Yet his dedication to work, willingness to help, and nice personality impressed me so deeply that the memory of that brief interaction lasted for decades. One more thing, in case I forgot mentioning that, Craig was very charming. He will be missed.
Mansoor

Mansoor Moaddel, Professor of Sociology, EMU - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

KO

“ Craig was a rare combination of a consummate professional and a warm human being. He gave sage advice, and was patient and calm. EMU will miss him greatly, as will I.

Kathy Orscheln - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

CO

“ Craig hired in soon after I did and we worked together in HR. There are no words to express how sorry I am that he is gone. But please know that he was well respected and admired by many.

Carolyn O'Neill - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

SB

“ I had the privilege to briefly work with Craig in EMU's Human Resources, and always thought of him as a kind, fair and genuine human being. Just a plain nice person, which is all too rare. I am truly stunned and saddened at his loss, and my prayers and well wishes go out to his family.

Sharon Balduf - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

LS

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Craig! A truly gentle man as well as a gentleman, he so loved his family! I'll never forget his smile and that hearty laugh! Prayers and love to MariKay and Brett and Scott. Love, Laura and Wayne Smith

Laura VanderRoest Smith - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

LK

“ Leslie and I send our deepest sympathies and condolences. As Craig's neighbors from across the street, we always enjoyed Craig's neighborly chats and warm greetings.

Leslie and Peter Kim - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

AR

“ To the Reidsma Family, There are no words to express the shock and sadness that comes with losing someone so wonderful. Craig was one of the best people I ever had the privilege of knowing. He was a great boss, but he was so much more than that. He was an amazing, compassionate man and I know he loved you all very very much. He talked about all of you all the time. You were very special to him. I hope that knowing how much he loved all of you brings you some peace during this difficult time. Craig will be missed so much. I wish you all peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Amanda Reynolds - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

EH

“ *May the road rise up to meet you...*

Echo Lin Hunter - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

DE

“ *You done did a good job, my friend ? I will miss you* ☹

DENI-GIRL - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM

TG

“ *Dear Marikay, Brett & Scott, We were shocked to hear about Craig, we had fond memories of the lunches when he brought his dad to Holland, little did anyone know of how sudden life leaves, as Terry had just seen him in Nov. We will be praying for you and your sons as you go through these next days. God will be your strength. Loie & Terry Grotler*

Terry & loie Grotler - December 12, 2014 at 10:15 AM