



## Craig Russell Milliken

February 26, 1958 - January 25, 2021

Craig Russell Milliken, 62, passed away on Monday, January 25, 2021 with his wife and children by his side at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center in Mooresville, NC. In 2018, Craig survived a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm, but pneumonia, COVID-19, and ARDS took him away from us much too soon.

He was born on February 26, 1958 in Louisville, Kentucky. He grew up in Ohio and graduated from Springboro High School in 1976. He met his wife, Joan, at Bowling Green State University and graduated in May 1982. After graduation, he spent several decades in construction and project management, embarking on a few independent business ventures along the way. He loved to travel and his work took him across the country and as far away as Siberia. Craig loved the outdoors and was a lifelong adventure-seeker. Throughout his life, he was heavily involved in scouting, hiking, camping, rock-climbing, and sailing. He passed on his passion for the outdoors to his children, Brad and Kelly. To the slight annoyance of his wife, Craig enjoyed a phase of several years where his Harley-Davidson motorcycle took him throughout the Mid-Atlantic, with the Blue Ridge Parkway being his absolute favorite ride.

He was an active member of Lake Norman Yacht Club for twenty-eight years, serving as the Commodore of the club in 2008 and the Commodore of the South Atlantic Yacht Racing Association in 2009. He raced a wide variety of sailboats, and it wasn't uncommon for him to surprise his family by bringing home a new type of sailboat to master. Always one to appreciate a good joke,

his favorite comic strip, Hagar the Horrible, once featured the quote, "How come you have six boats?" to which the reply was, "Because I sold one." An avid competitor, he raced in events at both the local and national level. Some of Craig's happiest years were spent ferrying his children throughout the southeast as they competed in various regattas. He loved being a member of such a tight-knit community and that his children shared his passion for the sport. He was extremely proud that his family's involvement in sailing led to opportunities that saw Brad and Kelly attend the United States Coast Guard and United States Naval Academies, respectively.

Craig was deeply invested in all of his relationships and would stop at nothing to help a friend in need. He is survived by his wife of thirty-seven years, Joan (née Laborie) Milliken, his son, Brad (Marissa) Milliken, his daughter, Kelly Milliken, his mother, Linda Eaton, and his brothers, Kyle (Kathryn) Milliken and Kent Milliken. The family intends to host a memorial service at Lake Norman Yacht Club when it is safe for our loved ones to be closer than six feet apart from one another.

In lieu of flowers, and to honor his love for the outdoors, donations may be made in his memory to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, is serving the Milliken family.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory**

494 E. Plaza Drive  
 Mooresville, NC 28115

# Tribute Wall



“ I am sorry to read of Craigs passing, we were friends in high school, where we were in homeroom, together, as well as study hall, where we sat across the table from each other, and we played paper football....he was a very nice and caring person..

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**Ilinda s ROBERTSON** - March 12, 2021 at 05:38 PM



“ I worked for Craig for years my brother and I both ! Just heard about this RIP

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**Russell Redding** - February 24, 2021 at 10:08 PM



“ *Craig Russell Milliken*

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February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Craig Russell Milliken*

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February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Craig Russell Milliken*

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February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *I am sorry for your loss. God Bless you and your family.*

*John Owens*

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**John Owens** - February 12, 2021 at 09:11 PM

JP

“ Lisa and I were on the Appalachian Trail Conservancy website and memories of Craig rushed in again as we remember him and his life. He was the consummate outdoorsman, avid sailor, strong leader, and a good guy who was a great friend. He mentored me as an officer at LNYC and introduced me to the Harkers Island and Oak Island Sunfish Races. He leaves a wonderful family and strong legacy of doing what's right and just. Taken long before his time was due, we all salute Craig, fellow Commodore of LNYC.

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**John & Lisa Park** - January 31, 2021 at 06:43 PM

PS

“ You and your family are in our prayers Joan,  
Garry & Pam Simms

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**Pam Simms** - January 29, 2021 at 11:21 PM

JK

“ All, I know Craig thru Lake Norman Yacht Club. We have lost a great soul here on earth for sure. Craig is the easiest guy to talk to and we always had great conversations. He just made you feel at ease. He knew everyone's name (at least it seemed that way) and would purposely reach out and take the time with you. My heart aches for the family and for the many friends of Craig. Prayers for all. Fair breezes and beautiful sunsets for you my friend. \_/\_ \_/\_)

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**John Ketner** - January 29, 2021 at 03:06 PM

GL

“Joan, Brad, Kelly, and Marissa; On behalf of my Mother, Mary Ann Laborie, the Hunt family (Michele, John, Jennifer, and Livia), the Poff family (Jayne and Steve), as well as both Sheree and myself, we all want to extend our deepest condolences to all of you upon the loss of Craig.

*We all want you to know that Craig, and all of you are in our thoughts and prayers and we sincerely hope you all know that if there is anything that we can do to be of help during this trying time, that all you need to do is reach out.*

*Collectively, we have made a donation to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Craig's memory.*

*God Bless Craig, and all of you,*

*Mary Ann Laborie  
The Hunt Family  
The Poff Family  
The Laborie Family*

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**Greg Laborie** - January 28, 2021 at 09:02 PM

JB

“Joan, Brad, Marissa, Kelly, & extended family ~  
Jerry and I want you to know how sorry we are to hear about your loss. May God comfort you and give you His peace during this difficult time. Cherish your memories.

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**Jerry and Deb Beaverson** - January 28, 2021 at 08:24 PM

SJ

“ I am so sorry for your family’s loss. My office is across from Craig’s at Langtree and he was always a delight to talk to. His smile and conversation always brightened my day.

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**Stormi Johnson** - January 28, 2021 at 07:14 PM

YB

“ I would like to send my most sincere condolences and heartfelt prayers to Joan and family. My heart goes out to you all!

*Yolanda Blakeney*

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**Yolanda Blakeney** - January 28, 2021 at 02:01 PM

 Janet Brown

“ Joan, I am so, so sorry for your loss. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Janet Brown** - January 28, 2021 at 10:17 AM

JM

“ My heart goes out to your family. I worked at Langtree where Craig had his office. He was always such a polite man with a delightful conversation to be offered everyday. His knowledge of the weather always fascinated me (I know he shares that with you, Brad) and his kids were something he loved to brag about. He was always a kind smile to look forward too and many times would offer to pick me up lunch on days when he knew I was busy and couldn't get out of the office. A kind soul who will be missed by many.

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**Jen Marshall** - January 28, 2021 at 09:44 AM

TR

“ Joan, so sorry for your loss, prayers to you and your family in this difficult time.

*Theresa Eberhard Russell*

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**Theresa Eberhard Russell** - January 27, 2021 at 09:51 PM

JH

“ Joan, I am so sorry for your loss. I am praying for you and your family. Jane Hudson

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**Jane Hudson** - January 27, 2021 at 02:36 PM

BJ

“ To the entire Milliken family, I am so sorry for your loss. Craig was special person and I know you as well as all of us will miss him dearly.

*I spent quite a few years with Craig on the board of Lake Norman Yacht Club. Craig's voice was always the calming voice with the correct response to any discussion. His guidance was always welcome when I was Commodore.*

*To Brad and Kelly, know that your father was as proud as any parent could be of the two of you. When ever we'd meet on the side yard between our our houses he was always telling me of your latest experiences and achievements. He was a proud Papa.*

*I will miss my neighbor.*

*BJ Jones*

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**BJ Jones** - January 27, 2021 at 09:59 AM

LT

“Joan, Brad, and Kelly: my heart goes out to you in sincere sympathy. This is heart-rending for us friends, and, I feel sure, devastating to you all. May your fond memories hold you up and bring peace and comfort during this difficult time. I have so many memories of a great high school friend, but what stands out the most is the classic Milliken humor and sarcasm...so many laughs when we were kids! 💔🙏

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**Loree Thompson** - January 26, 2021 at 11:43 PM

SJ

“Joan, sending my deepest sympathy to you and your family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Stephanie Justice

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**Stephanie Justice** - January 26, 2021 at 10:23 PM

BW

“Joan, Brad, and Kelly, we are so sorry for your great loss. Milton and I are still having a hard time grasping that Craig is no longer with us. Such a wonderful person and a wonderful, close-knit family. I got to know Craig many years ago when we worked together and we got to know his family and have remained close all these years even though we did not spend a lot of time together. Our hearts are aching. Continued prayers for God to comfort you, your family, and friends. Bobbi & Milton Wright

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**Bobbi Wright** - January 26, 2021 at 09:55 PM

PT

“I am so very sorry for your loss. I worked with Linda at Rahn Dental and became good friends. She often spoke of how proud she was of her family. I feel like I know you all through her. My thoughts and prayers are with you all through this time

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**Pamela Trainer** - January 26, 2021 at 09:16 PM

CS

“ Dear Joan, Brad and Kelly, My heart aches for you all. Craig was such a sweet and gentle soul. He was always so kind and fun to be around. His love for sailing and the club was obvious. The friendships made there are so special. You are family and we are here to support you now and in the future. My deepest condolences,  
Carol Sandke

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**carol Sandke** - January 26, 2021 at 08:34 PM

RH

“ Joan and family, I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers during this difficult time.  
Robin Holleman

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**Robin Holleman** - January 26, 2021 at 08:18 PM

AB

“ I'm sorry for your loss.

*I very much enjoyed working and having dinner with Craig.*

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**atwood browning** - January 26, 2021 at 07:34 PM