



John Craig Eckley

October 10, 1948 - December 25, 2025

John Craig Eckley, age 77 of Eden Prairie, MN, passed away on December 25, 2025 from Alzheimer's Disease which he had been diagnosed with at age 62. In spite of the disease, Craig loved being around people and was very social, always smiling and pleasant, making Fran's role as a caregiver easier. Born October 10, 1948, to John & Evelyn (Shuster) Eckley in Huntington, Indiana, he was known by his middle name of Craig and grew up in Hutchinson, Kansas. He was a graduate of Hutchinson High School, Class of 1967 then attended Hutchinson Junior College where he met and fell in love with Frances Kay Irvin. They married on June 14, 1970, and moved to Minnesota where Craig started his own business, specializing in remodeling homes on Lake Minnetonka. They later adopted 2 children, John Matthew and Angela Kay. For many years before he retired in 2008, he volunteered to build and remodel homes for Habitat for Humanity.

Fishing was Craig's greatest passion and he also loved hunting. After retiring, Craig and Fran enjoyed traveling and were Florida snowbirds for 10 years.

Craig is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Fran; son Matt of CO; daughter Angie and granddaughter Ava Jane of Chanhassen, MN; brother Alan (Beth) of Lenexa, KS and many nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Kathleen Meinecke.

Craig's body was donated to the University of Minnesota - Anatomy Bequest Program for research.

A celebration of life will be held on Friday, January 16th, 2026, at Washburn-

McReavy at 7625 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN. A visitation will begin at 10:00 am, service at 11:00 am, followed by lunch at noon.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Memorial Service

JAN 16. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Tribute Wall



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



January 14 at 03:40 PM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Timothy King - January 09 at 03:05 PM



I am so sorry to hear of Craig's passing. I went to school with him in Hutchinson, from kindergarten through high school. I always considered him a friend, and all around good guy. My sympathies to his wife & family.

Jalayn - January 10 at 12:27 PM

JB

Craig was about as fine a fellow as you'd ever want to meet. I didn't know him as long in Hutch as Jalayn, but at times, in grade school and high school, we were running buddies. We enjoyed each other's company, had mutual friends, and had a few adventures.

One time, in grade school, Craig helped me face the end of the world. It was one of those events that seemed to be popular in those days (early 1960's) whereby some preacher somewhere declared that the end of the world would happen on a specific day at a specific time. In this case, the hour was going to be during recess at noon - central time I suppose. So, to protect ourselves from certain death, Craig, me and several other stalwarts, decided the best place to face the consequences was to hide by the steel trash dumpsters inside a concrete block encasement. Noon came and went and no death and destruction befell us. So, getting hungry we decided the best course of action was to go eat lunch.

Please accept my deep condolences on your loss. Craig was a good man and will be missed.

John Baldwin - January 10 at 06:22 PM

KK

This is a great story and I can see you both doing this (although I do not know you). Craig was very creative and could do about anything. We all will miss him.

Karen King

Karen King - January 11 at 02:35 PM

LM

I was so sorry to learn of his passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers Frannie, Matt and Angie

Laura Mikkelson - January 12 at 11:59 AM

KL

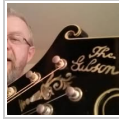
Bob and I are so sorry for your loss, but know that Craig is in a better place. There aren't too many days that go by where we don't think about "Motor King," and you Fran, with fond memories of all of the fun times we shared. It was a blessing to have you as neighbors.

Karen L. Libke - January 16 at 08:02 AM

JH

I am sorry to hear of Craig's passing. We played a lot of sandlot basketball, baseball and football at Central Jr High and Hutch High. Jim Hellman

Jim Hellman - January 18 at 05:22 PM



I am just learning of Craig's passing. I also spent great fun playing sports with him in Junior and Senior High. However, he brightened my world by educating me about homing pigeons that he was raising and training. I always think back to Craig and his pigeons when I see them in the wild. My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Joe Previtera, Knoxville, Tennessee

Joe Previtera - February 01 at 07:10 PM

TK

“ *Our hearts are broken for the passing of Craig. He was our "Best Friend" for over 50 years. Tim and Craig met while selling shoes in Austin. Later they both moved to Mound where they enjoyed fishing, hunting, listening to bands and just hanging as friends do. Craig & Vic built our first house in 1987. They built their business in the Westonka area building and remodeling homes. In 2006 the four of us bought a lake home in Danbury, WI where Craig and Tim worked on the property; remodeling then taking the time to enjoy the lake, neighbors and local community. Six years later we sold the property.*



My birthday is Oct 8th and Craig's was Oct 10th - we were the same age for 2 days. We always celebrated together with fun and laughter.

*RIP my friend, we will miss you always. God Bless
Tim an Karen King*

Timothy King - January 09 at 02:26 PM