

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

Craig R. Graves

JANUARY 11, 1966 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



SERVICE:

OCTOBER 1, 2021 • 12:00 Noon

Galloping Hill Inn
325 Chestnut Street
Union, New Jersey 07083

SERVICE:

OCTOBER 3, 2021 • 1:00PM

St Paul Episcopal Church
89 Pinewood Drive
Levittown, Pennsylvania 19054

Obituary

Craig Rudolph Graves was born January 11, 1966 at East Orange General Hospital in East Orange, NJ and departed this life on September 12, 2021 at his home in Levittown, PA. He was the first and only son of Gail and the late Rudolph Graves, who embodied the resilience of his mom and the heart of his dad.

Craig attended Chad School located in Newark, NJ and Essex Catholic High School where he graduated in 1983. Following graduation from high school, the preppy kid from Newark ventured to Alabama where he attended Alabama A&M University for 1 year and then transferred to Shaw University, in Raleigh, North Carolina, a place near and dear to his heart where he graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication.

Craig was hilarious...Craig was fun...Craig was loving.... Craig was perfectly imperfect. As a result of his dedication to education, mentorship and young people, following his graduation from Shaw, he returned to his roots as a teacher working for both Chad School and Essex Catholic. He worked as a counselor at Youth Build and Children's Together and then moved to positions with the State of New Jersey where he worked for the Board of Utilities and the Department of Labor. He then returned to his passion, where he last worked as a teacher at Sprout University School of the Arts and as a counselor at the Boys and Girls Club of Mercer County. Up until the time of his death, he maintained close relationships with many of his current and former students.

Craig met his perfect match who became his wife of 14 years, Sheilonda (Sheila) Dunagan, in Trenton, NJ. You could often find Craig and Sheila, shopping, traveling, at football games and spending time with their children. Together they made a home full of fun and love. All who entered felt welcomed. Sheila loved him to the very end, as she never left his side as they battled through his cancer diagnoses together.

As an avid Giants fan and through his love for the game he became the biggest supporter of his youngest son's promising football career and found a home with several teams in Pennsylvania. He dedicated his time to the Morrisville Little Bulldogs, The Wardogs in Bristol, PA, and The Lower Bucks Flag Football Association (LBFFA).

Community was important to Craig, but he never forgot the strong spiritual connection he established through the teachings from his parents and grandparents. He attended the Salvation Army of Levittown as a commitment to his Christian Faith. Like his father, Craig was an avid reader, and you could always find him reading a newspaper. The family joke was often around the fact that he was the only person in PA receiving an LA Times newspaper among others. He was CNN.

The best parts of Craig can be found in his children. His infectious laugh and wide smile will be missed most of all, as he made life better for all of those with whom he came into contact. We will all miss his dancing, talking with his mouth full of food, practical jokes, laughing and just his company.

Craig was preceded in death by his father Rudolph Graves, paternal grand-father, Benjamin Graves, maternal grandparents James & Siffie Cooper, fathers-in-law Woodrow Champion & Charles Dunagan, mother-in law Gwendolyn Dunagan and his uncles Eugene Cooper, Benjamin Graves, Jr. and aunts Dorothy Knight and Louise McCray.

He leaves to cherish his memory and continue his legacy, his wife Sheilonda; his 7 children: Craig Jr., Hadiyyah, Romone (Shamiese), Tempestt, Amir, LaKendra (Charlie), Muta (Erin); his 6 grandchildren, Courtney, Charlie Jr., Cori, Jarell, Ryan, Ryland; his mother Gail, mother-in law Karen; his grandmother Edna, his sister Tahirah (Eric); aunts Linda, Willa, Beverly (Gregory) and Laura, and a host of relatives and friends.

Order of Service

OPENING PRAYER

WELCOME & PURPOSE



SCRIPTURE

SONG

POEM

READING OF THE OBITUARY

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - DANCE

TRIBUTE FROM CHILDREN

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & REMARKS

LIMITED TO 2 MINUTES

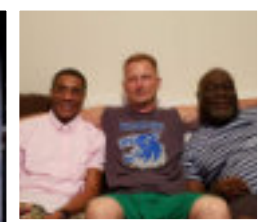
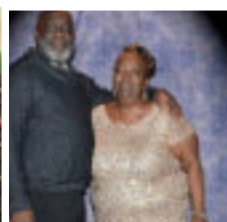
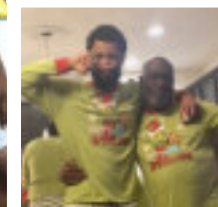
EULOGY

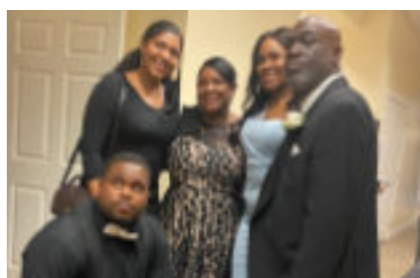
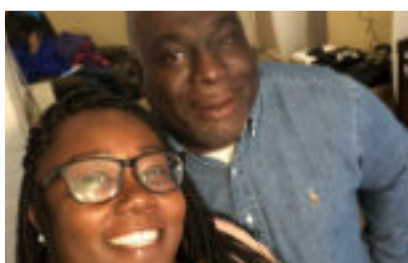
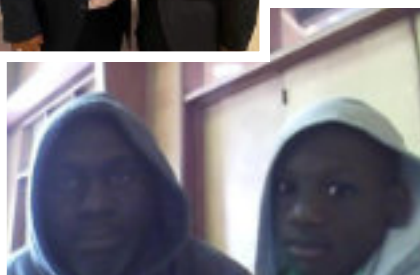
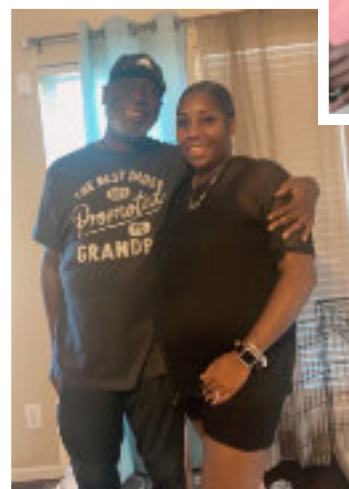
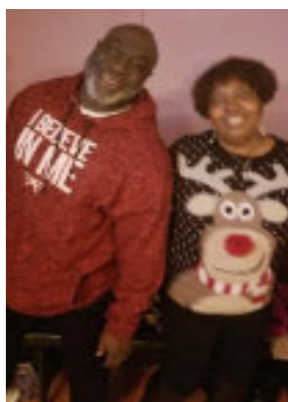
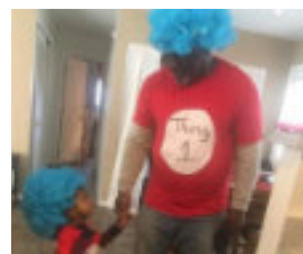
FINAL REMARKS

CLOSING PRAYER

FELLOWSHIP & CELEBRATION











The family of Craig Graves would like to express our deepest appreciation for everyone's love and sympathy as we mourned the loss of such an integral part of our family. The shared memories from you all in these past weeks, along with the many phone calls, visits, flowers, cards, donations, gifts, food, acts of service, and words of condolences meant a great deal to us all.

We would like to thank Science Works, Galloping Hill Caterers, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and its employees for their professional and caring arrangements. As well as, a special thank you to everyone who helped with planning and orchestrating all events related to honoring Craig Grave's life.

To those who reached out to us during our time of mourning, we are grateful for your continued support and love during our time of need. Craig Graves will be missed dearly by all who knew him, but his love, smile, and jokes will live forever in our hearts.

**with thanks from the
GRAVES FAMILY**

