



## Craig Stephen Dixon

December 17, 1951 - November 21, 2016

Mattoon, IL-Craig Stephen Dixon, age 64, of Mattoon, IL, passed away at 7:17 pm, Monday, November 21, 2016. He lost his battle to ALS (Lou Gehrig's) disease, which he was diagnosed with fall of 2013.

A funeral service in his honor will be celebrated on Saturday, November 26, 2016 at 2:00pm at the First Presbyterian Church with Pastor Matthew Froeschle officiating. Interment will be held at a later date. Visitation will be held at the church from 11:00 am until the service begins. Mitchell-Jerdan funeral home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Craig was born in Effingham, IL on December 17, 1951, the son of Lester and Maxine (Schoenhoff) Dixon. He married his high school sweetheart, Deanna Kay Arney, on July 14, 1974. Survivors include his loving wife Deanna of Mattoon, IL; three daughters, Hilarie Hernandez and husband John of Bloomington, IL, and their children, Cole, Averie, Sydnie, Tyson, and Allie; Haylie Dancer and her husband Brad of Champaign, IL, and their children Jackson, Hudson, Camden, and Griffin; and Heidi Wohltman and husband Doug of Effingham, IL, and their children Ryan and Laney. Craig is survived by his mother Maxine Dixon of Effingham, IL, one brother, Brent Dixon and wife Debbie of Mattoon, IL, two sisters, Penny Pals of Effingham, IL, and Dawn Byrum and husband Gary of Effingham, IL; his half-sister, Vivian Grimes and husband Tom of Granite City, IL. He is also survived by numerous in-laws

including mother and father in-law Brad and Holly Arney of Effingham IL as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Craig earned his Masters and Bachelor degrees in education, both from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL. He retired from Mattoon Community Unit #2 as the assistant principal after having taught in the English department for many years. He served as basketball, track, and football coach before becoming the Mattoon High School golf coach. Craig was a lifelong member of the National Education Association and the Illinois Education Association. He attended the First Presbyterian Church of Mattoon IL.

A member of the Mattoon Golf and Country Club, Craig frequently enjoyed a good game of golf. Over the years, he spent countless hours on the golf course sharing his passion for the game with family and friends. Craig was also an avid fan of horse racing. He and Deanna enjoyed many trips to Keeneland with friends betting on the ponies. Playing cards was another hobby Craig thoroughly enjoyed. He always looked forward to his days spent playing Gin while trying to take money from his buddies. Craig had an appreciation for the outdoors, and loved making memories during fishing trips to Minnesota with friends.

More than anything, Craig adored his family and spending time with his children and grandchildren. Their "Gramps" always had room on his lap for one more. He had an ability to make each grandchild feel special by giving individual attention to them whenever he had the chance. He took a vested interest in all of their hobbies, and had an affinity for watching his grandchildren play sports. He was the best "Gramps" a child could have.

Memorial contributions in his honor may be made to the ALS Association, St. Louis Regional, 2258 Weldon Parkway, St. Louis, MO 63146 or Lincolnland Hospice, 1004 Health Center Drive, Prairie Pavilion 2, Ste 202, Mattoon, IL

61938

Please visit [www.mitchell-jerdan.com](http://www.mitchell-jerdan.com) or [www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome](http://www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome) to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with his family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **26**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
Mattoon, IL 61938

## Service

NOV **26**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
Mattoon, IL 61938

# Tribute Wall



“ Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Craig Stephen Dixon



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - December 05, 2016 at 11:32 AM

VA

A beautiful video of Mr Dixon. I graduated high school in 1983. He was one of my all time favorite English teachers. So sorry for your loss. He was one heck of a great guy and teacher. God Bless. Victoria Arthur.

Victoria Arthur - April 29, 2017 at 09:57 PM



“ Craig Stephen Dixon

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM

JG

“ Jamey R Gesell-Hirschman lit a candle in memory of Craig Stephen Dixon



Jamey R Gesell-Hirschman - December 28, 2017 at 10:45 AM

JG

*Mr. Dixon was one of my favorite teachers, not only did he teach us about English but about Life. I have fond memories of my years MHS.*

**Jamey R Gesell-Hirschman** - December 28, 2017 at 10:51 AM

MB

“ *Deanna and family,  
I am so sorry to hear about Craig. He and I were best friends in grade school. We both went to Sacred Heart. Craig and I played on the softball and baseball teams together. I remember when Craig and I use to go swimming at Kellers. We would have to run across route 70 without getting hit. We use to go to the old Dr. Pepper plant that was in Effingham. I have nothing but great memories of Craig. The last time I saw you and Craig together was when you were in St. Anthony's hospital when you were a teenager. I can't remember what you were in there for but I do remember talking to you and Craig. I do remember seeing Craig play basketball for the Hearts when he was in high school. I wish I would have know he was sick. I have thought about you two many many times over the years. I do remember hanging out with his brother Brent when I still lived in Effingham. I even remember his sister Penny when she went to Sacred Heart.  
Deanna, I will remember your family in my prayers. Maybe someday I will be back in Illinois and I will call you to say hi. Please know that I will always remember Craig and the great times we had together.*

**Mike Birk** - November 28, 2016 at 12:59 PM

RD

“ *Craig was a good friend of mine. To the family, I am so sorry for your loss... Ron Davis*

**R9n Davis** - November 26, 2016 at 07:23 PM

PS

“ Growing up with Craig can best be described as just a whole lot of fun. Cruising Jefferson Street in Effingham, hours at the pool hall playing snooker and Gin with "Pop" Tieffel, team mates on the EHS Basketball team, chasing girls (with Craig it was Deanna exclusively). Later in life Linda and I had the pleasure of Hilarie joining our volleyball club. Craig and Deanna exhibited the qualities every coach dreams about: strong steady, support; while allowing their daughter to form her own unique style and personalty. We know the grandchildren who remember Craig will cherish the experience and pass along the great memories to their siblings and cousins.

*Linda & Phil (Hota) Stalling*

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**Phil Stalling** - November 26, 2016 at 11:06 AM

MM

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Craig's passing. I've fond memories of our time in school years ago. Craig was one of the good guys. I' sorry for your loss.

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**Michael McDaniel** - November 26, 2016 at 10:17 AM

MS

“ Maggie Shimkos lit a candle in memory of Craig Stephen Dixon



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**maggie shimkos** - November 26, 2016 at 07:14 AM

AG

“ *Addie Gasper lit a candle in memory of Craig Stephen Dixon*



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**Addie Gasper** - November 25, 2016 at 07:31 PM

KM

“ *Mr. Dixon was my favorite high school teacher and just a great human being. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

*Kelly (Plotts) McDevitt  
MHS Class of 1982*

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**Kelly McDevitt** - November 25, 2016 at 05:30 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Craig Stephen Dixon.*



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November 25, 2016 at 04:51 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Craig Stephen Dixon.*



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November 25, 2016 at 03:57 PM



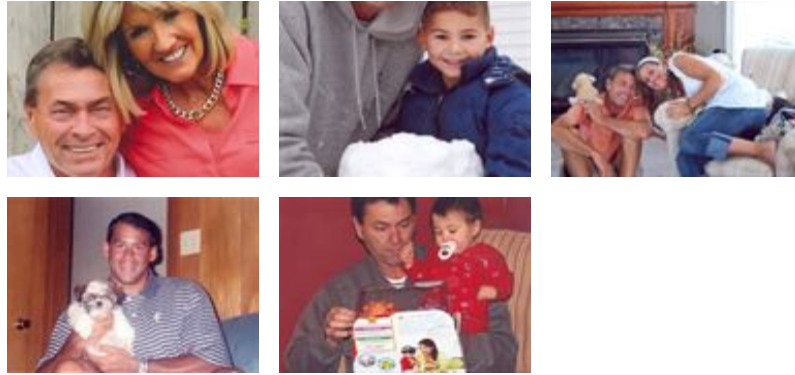
“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Craig Stephen Dixon.*



November 25, 2016 at 01:59 PM



“ *130 files added to the album LifeTributes*



**Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home** - November 25, 2016 at 12:38 PM



“ *Ellen Walters lit a candle in memory of Craig Stephen Dixon*



**Ellen Walters** - November 25, 2016 at 10:34 AM

CZ

“ *Candi Zachow lit a candle in memory of Craig  
Stephen Dixon*



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**Candi Zachow** - November 25, 2016 at 10:07 AM