



William E Craven IV

February 18, 1952 - January 19, 2020

Branchville

Willie Craven, 67 years of age, went home to be with the Lord, January 19, 2020. He loved life, and was an avid hunter. Hunting Dogs were a large part of his life, often traveling great distances buying and selling them. His college years were spent playing football at Newberry College, where he played defensive tackle. While there, he received letters of interest from multiple NFL teams. After many years of coaching high school football, he took Andrew Jackson Academy in Ehrhardt to a State Championship.

A celebration of life will be held Wednesday January 22, 2020, at 4:00 PM, at the Branchville Christian Church, with Pastor Wayne Manning officiating. The family will receive friends from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. At other times, the family will receive friends at the home of Ralph Jr. and Angie Sease in Lodge.

Willie is survived by his wife of 43 years, Paige L. Craven, one son, Dallas Craven (Sara) of Branchville, one daughter, Angie Craven Sease (Ralph Jr.) of Lodge, three grandchildren, Alivia Sease, Katie Craven, and Blake Craven, his mother Jean Louise Craven of James Island, , two brothers, Larry Craven (Sharon), and Mike Craven (Dayle), two sisters, Barbara Svendsen (Virgil), and Joan Berry (John), and a number of nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father, William E. Craven III.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice. Ott Funeral Home in Branchville is assisting the family.

Tribute Wall



“ 4 files added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Ott Funeral Home - April 08 at 05:01 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *Uncle Willie Craven*



Ott Funeral Home - April 08 at 05:01 PM



“ *Great coach and teacher. You was one of the best to ever do it. You taught me so many life lessons that I carry with me to this day. RIP Coach.*

TJ Hamilton - December 05, 2022 at 12:00 AM

QR

“ I was Willie's roommate my freshman year at The Citadel. Willie's obit mentioned his love for hunting. I would often tag along for raccoon hunts at midnight with Willie and his dad on James Island and we always got a coon. His dogs were well trained and I could hear the dogs yelp and scream when the raccoon was treed.

What a man! So sad! Quentin Roos- quentin.roos@pnc.com

Quentin Roos - January 29, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with everyone. The loss of a father is indescribable. I have many wonderful memories of riding horses with him. He is definitely a memorable person. Cherish all the memories. They will get you through many days.

Sharon McAlhany - January 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ My memories of Willie are from a few rabbit hunts in recent years. He enjoyed his dogs as they gave chase to their targets. I learned of his passing only today. My condolences to his family. Legare Johnson



Legare Johnson - January 23, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ Rest in Peace, Willie. I will always remember how nice you were to me when I was rookie at Newberry College in 1972. God bless and keep your family.

Barry E Jones - January 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ My condolences to the Craven family. I know this is a difficult time and I pray God continues to comfort and strengthen the family during this time of bereavement. May the many cherished and loving memories of William continue to comfort his family and friends. A comforting thought to keep in mind is at Revelation 21:4 "And he (GOD) will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain will be anymore. The former things have passed away." May you all have calming and pleasant thoughts during this time.

Lisa - January 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Lot's of great memories with this man ! Won't be another coach Craven ! Rest in peace buddy 😭



Richard Wilson - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Coach Craven was my homeroom teacher all through high school. Loved him so much! So sorry to hear about his passing. Prayers for his family. -Lauren Moody Stanfill



Lauren Stanfill - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Shamekamoodly lit a candle in memory of William E Craven IV



Shamekamoodly - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ He was a great man! He taught me everything I know about driving. Because of him I am a great defensive driver! Thank you coach! His family is in my prayers!

Swanetta - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ Love ya, Willie. You are the man. You touched many lives, and they, in turn will touch lives.

Virgil Svendsen - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ Riding Gail, and coaching up some boys.

Virgil Svendsen - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Condolences to all the family.



Deborah Craven Marsh - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Swannetta, I went to high school with Willie Craven and we probably both took drivers ed from the same teacher, Coach Al Eads. I've always felt that because of those lessons I have been a good defensive driver. I love that the "driving lessons" lived through the decades. Donna Sutton Dawson-Hethington

Donna Sutton Dawson-Hethington - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I grew up as a very close friend to the Craven family on James Island and will always have fond memories of the entire Craven family beginning in the early 1960s. Willie was a unbelievably talented athlete and most certainly a disciplinarian from childhood. Mr. William Craven was kind enough to let me tag along with his little brother Mike (my best friend) as his sons Willie and Larry played football throughout the state of South Carolina. I feel very blessed that the entire Craven family accepted me into their home as it greatly increased my quality of life. Willie also made sure that we were toughened up for the real world as we matured. I am so very sorry that he had to leave this world so soon, but he made it a better place.

Donnie McAdory - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

HJ

“ I was stunned to hear of the passing of Coach Craven. I worked on Kiawah Island during the summer and bumped into him. We ran into each other again on the JIHS football practice field. We didn't know each other until then. We developed a good relationship. I had the pleasure of knowing and interacting with him. My condolences to the family and friends of Coach. He will surely be missed.

Herman Bolds Jr - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ I will always remember you coach you taught us a lot at James island high school the real Rams RIP Coach



JoeGilliard - January 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JU

“ My deepest condolences to the family. I worked with Mr. Craven at Walterboro High School when he was a Coach and Drivers Ed Teacher there. He was a very nice man. S.I.P. Mr. Craven

Judy Ulmer - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ My prays are for your family during this time. Thank you for all you have done for me that was never known 🙏🙏🙏

Julius Deal - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ S.I.P Coach craven . You were not only a coach but you were a teacher. I'm thankful for the patient you had with us in drivers ed class. We did not know much but you taught us everything we needed to learn for our dl test. My sister and i would sit n back seat laughing when the other person didn't catch on but you would shut us up quick. I'm thankful for the impact you had on my life no matter how big or small it was.

kristal - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Coach Craven was always one of my favorite teachers (Driver's Ed). I always enjoyed going to his class. He always made me laugh with his dry sense of humor. Rip Coach

Lauren Drawdy - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I'm gona miss you coach you were and will always be one of my favorite coaches RIP coach craven



James beach - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Willie's passing. I did not know Willie and his family for a long time but for a few years I had the pleasure of talking to him and Dallas when they would come to the salon ,where I worked to get haircuts. Just in conversation you got the feel of how he loved his family and the teams of young men he coached. He seemed to be a very special man. I will keep you all in my prayers and that you will find comfort , peace and understanding during this difficult time. May God keep you close . RIP Willie.

Linda Bishop - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ It was truly an honor for me to work with and learn from Coach Craven . He taught me a lot about coaching. I pray for God's blessings fro his family-Greg Kinsey

Gregory Kinsey - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family. He was truly a good person.

Denise - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ So sorry for your loss, Paige, Angie, and Dallas my thoughts and prayers are with you.
Becky Baggett



Becky Baggett - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Coach craven, you used to hunt with my step dad and I had the honor of being in your drivers ed class. We use to have so much fun and always talking about the coon dogs. You even let he drive us to a place you used to hunt at You will be greatly missed To the family, I'm sorry for yalls loss He will forever we watching over each and every one of you May god help heal your hearts from some of the pain God bless

Breanna - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ RIP Coach Craven. My prayers and thoughts to the family. - Brian Linder

Brian Linder - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ I worked with Coach Craven at Walterboro High, and even got to ride along during a Driver's Rd class. He loved horses, dogs, and football, and was a great man to work with. My heart is with his family and students.

Celeste Gantt - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ My deepest condolences on your loss. Coach Craven was so dedicated to building the character of his students.

William Hayden - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Willie and I grew up together on James Island, walking the fields near Grimball Road and hunting squirrels and rabbits. We attended James Island High School where we played football and were on the 1968 Rams State Championship Football Team. In later years, Willie and I coached football at our Alma Mater. Willie was a good friend and will be greatly missed. Steve Shaddrix

Steve Shaddrix - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Willie was a good coach and teacher. We shared morning duty for years at Colleton Middle School. Good guy that really cared about his kids.

Tom Finigan - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Willie was a good friend and just a great joy to be around. Had the honor o better f coaching football with him at Walterboro High for several years. Heck of a good coach. To Paige, Angie and Dallas I will truly miss him and truly a blessing to have haf him as a frienh
Robert Driggers

Robert Driggetd - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Willie shared two of his greatest loves with our son Jody. Willie was his coach at Walterboro High School .He helped lead the 1990 Bulldog " Dream Team " to the conference title. We could not have ask for a better role model for our team. He loved his dogs and hunting so much. I think he was the one that first taught Jody about "tracking collars" for the hunting dogs. If asked how we would describe Willie , we would say "one fine man" To Paige ,Dallas , Angie and all of Willie's family , you will be in our thoughts and prayers. Thank-you for sharing him with us.

Mike and Sharon McLaine - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ Many prayers and blessings to the Craven family during this time. I pray God comforts your hearts during this time. Coach Craven was great coach and loved teaching. I'll never forget his kind spirit and his will to make sure we all knew about lessons in wildlife and hunters education in the back of the gym at Campus A! Can't say enough about you sir! Until we meet again. - Nathan A. Breland Sr.

Nathan Breland - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Coach Willie Craven was my OL coach my senior year at old James Island High (Rams). He was the best coach I ever served under and would have run thru a brick wall for the man. He was one of the strongest men I have ever known. One of my greatest joys was getting a victory over our arch rival Fort Johnson for him. He was greatly be missed by all his former players and colleagues. Prayers for the family.

Randy Hilyer - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM