



Craig Gilstrap

March 16, 1959 - January 8, 2015

James “Craig” Gilstrap was born on March 16, 1959 in Delano, California to Billy Ray Gilstrap and Ramona Opal Blomquist. He grew up and spent most of his life in Porterville, California.

In high school he played many instruments including trombone, French horn, and trumpet. He also was on the football and wrestling teams. He served as the student body president his senior year. He graduated from Monache High School in 1977. Directly after high school Craig served a two year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Brazil Porto Alegre Mission, Portuguese speaking. Soon after returning from his mission, in 1980 he married Andrea Hatch for time and all eternity in the Los Angeles LDS temple.

The most important thing in Craig’s life is his family. His favorite thing was to create “memory making moments”--and create memories he did--from epic games of Risk and Monopoly to ensuring music and humor was part of everyday life. He also took pride in his exceptional cooking and barbequing skills. Craig always provided for his family and made sure they had what they needed. He would often tell his children, “What is the one thing you are always supposed to remember?” the answer would follow, “That I love you.” The family would often get together to eat, play games, sing, and laugh.

Craig was a beloved member of the community and served in many church callings. He had a strong testimony of Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. His faith, character, generosity and humor are what made him a wonderful man. He was an amazing teacher to many people.

After enduring years of health issues, on January 8, 2015, Craig was called home to his Father in Heaven. He peacefully passed away in his home surrounded by family. He is loved and will be missed.

Craig is survived by his wife Andrea Hatch Gilstrap and their eternal family of 5 children

and 9 grandchildren. Their kids include Jarom and his wife Andrea Gilstrap and their children, Russell, Luke, and Logan; Katie and her husband David Taylor and their children Matthew, Rachel, and Aaron; Jana' and her husband Tyler Aitken, and their children Mckay, Brooks, and a baby boy due any day; Kyler and his wife Britney Gilstrap; and Kara Gilstrap who is currently serving an LDS mission in Utica, NY.

A Viewing will be held on Sunday, January 11th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at the LDS chapel, 2981 East 1660 South, Spanish Fork, Utah. Funeral Services will be held Monday, January 12th at 11:00 am with a viewing one hour prior at the LDS chapel, 989 South 2550 East, Spanish Fork, Utah. Interment in Spanish Fork Cemetery, 420 South 400 East, Spanish Fork, Utah.

Friends wishing to express their sympathy may send memorial contributions by going to <http://www.gofundme.com/jwt6s0>.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

Cemetery

Spanish Fork City Cemetery

420 South 400 East

Spanish Fork, UT,

Events

JAN **Viewing** 06:30PM - 08:30PM

11

LDS Chapel

2981 East 1660 South, Spanish Fork, UT, US

JAN **Viewing** 10:00AM - 10:45AM

12

LDS Chapel

989 South 2550 East, Spanish Fork, UT, US

JAN **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

12

LDS Chapel

989 South 2550 East, Spanish Fork, UT, US

Comments



“ Meus sentimentos aos familiares deste eterno missionário que ajudou no crescimento do reino de Deus na terra.

Boanerges Garro - January 12, 2017 at 05:03 PM



“ Andrea,
Really sorry to hear about Craig's passing. I just found out today. One memory that Dawn and I will cherish forever - Announcing our engagement at your wedding reception. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Howard & Dawn Waters

Howard Waters - January 16, 2015 at 10:33 PM



“ so sorry and saddend to hear of Craig passing. are deepest Condolence . from the De Los Reyes family .

Rene - January 30, 2015 at 06:55 PM



“ Ele foi meu companheiro em Porto Alegre, 1979. O Pres. Queiroz, naquela ocasião, chamou nós dois para abrimos o Distrito missionario de Porto Alegre Norte, com sede na ala 4. Fizemos um otimo trabalho juntos. Ele me ajudou muito. Tenho muitas saudades dele. Tenho certeza que ele esta fazendo um excelente trabalho do outro lado do véu. Um grande abraço para a sua familia.

Wilson Felipe - May 14, 2015 at 03:15 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Craig's passing. I have only good memories of him and your family. Yes, it has been years, but I still remember your family. Many prayers and many hugs being sent your way.

With love,
Lisa McNaughton Orme
(Selma, CA Ward)

lisa - January 13, 2015 at 12:21 AM



“ Hi Andrea,
I'm very saddend to hear of Craig's passing. I have fond memories of Craig from high school. He was a kind and giving spirit and I imagine the loss for you and your family is immense.
I am praying for your strength and grace now and in the days and time ahead.

Sincerely,
Linda Della from Monache High School

Linda Della - January 12, 2015 at 01:36 PM



“ Andrea,
I have so many fond memories of you, Craig and your family in Porterville. Craig's welcoming, infectious smile when I came to visit.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Greg and Myra Mosdell

Myra Mosdell - January 11, 2015 at 09:03 PM



“ To the Gilstrap Family,

We are so saddened by your loss and want you to know that we pray for you. You all have always made us feel so welcomed and love during the times we came to visit. We hope and pray that this same love is being returned to you know during this time.

Grant and Stacie Gardner

Grant Gardner - January 11, 2015 at 06:15 PM



“ Andrea

I just wanted to send my condolences and tell you how sorry I am for the loss of Craig. I want you and your family to know you'll be in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time. You have a been a good friend and I wish you all that you need.

Love Michele Youd

Michele Youd - January 11, 2015 at 04:47 PM



“ Andrea

I just wanted to send my condolences and tell you how sorry I am for the loss of Craig. I want you and your family to know you'll be in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time. You have been a good friend and I wish you all that you need.

Love Michele Youd

Michele Youd - January 11, 2015 at 04:47 PM



“ Dear Andrea and family,
Our love and prayers go out to all of you. We have so many sweet and special memories of you and Craig and our time together in Porterville. Craig's smile was infectious, and he was one of those people that you just wanted to be around because he did make you laugh and smile. May you find the comfort and peace that only the gospel can bring.
Love,
Jeff and Jan

Jeff and Jan Meik - January 10, 2015 at 08:06 PM



“ Am so sorry to hear of Craig's passing. What a great guy he was. Have lots of memories of Craig as a youth at church activities, campouts, our family ties, but my most fondest memories are after he and Andrea were married and we had a group of young married couples that we got together for games, eating and general great fun. Andrea, I am so sorry for your loss and my thoughts are with you and the kids at this time. May all the wonderful years you had together bring you comfort and the knowledge that you are an eternal couple bring you peace.
Wendy Witt Blankenship

Wendy Witt Blankenship - January 10, 2015 at 03:54 PM



“ My first memory that comes to mind is of Scott coming home with a sore throat from church which turned into mumps and the next day Randy has the same thing. Craig also had not had the mumps and kept telling Randy not to touch anything especially the tv until he was over it. What a great young man. So happy to be there to see Craig and Andrea through their teens and the growth that comes with maturing.

Nancy Witt - January 10, 2015 at 03:33 PM



“ There are so many memories that it is difficult to single out a specific one. I remember the skunk campout, with a few variations. Teaching Lott Johannes to drive in the Gilstrap station wagon. Double dates and stake dances, scout camp and mutual activities, dance festival with Craig in a cast and so many more. Craig thought about the military and that freaked his mom out. She asked me how to talk him out of it. I told her to just sit back and give him some space, because if you pushed to hard one way he'd definitely go the other. He didn't join.

Bradley Maples - January 10, 2015 at 01:25 PM



“ To Andrea and family-- we were saddened to hear of your loss. We have many warm memories when you lived in the Selma ward. And a very special time when you allowed us to have a "sleepover" at your home when we were returning to California . Our love and prayers are with you all. Lloyd and Georgeanna Johnson and family.

georgeanna johnson - January 11, 2015 at 06:10 PM



“ Speaking of skunks, one time I went camping with Craig, Brad Maples, And John Hurst. It was the middle of the winter and we just wanted to drive somewhere close in the mountains and spend the night. We ended up at Coffee Camp above Springville, Ca. Being winter there was no one else there. We put our fee in the envelope but tied a string around it before putting it in the box. We figured if no park rangers showed up we could take u or fee back. We had a great evening around the campfire, using a wrist rocket and pellet guns. Shortly after going to sleep we were awakened by something rummaging in one of the packs. Whatever it was ran away, turning on flashlights we saw it had gotten into some hot chocolate mix. We all guessed a squirrel and went back to sleep. This happened two. Ore times before we decided to wait in ambush, hey, we had pellet guns and a wrist rocket, what could go wrong??? A short time later the furry critter came back again. We turned on the lights, ready to plug the the little guy..... It was a skunk! He took off running, we grabbed everything and shoved it into the car and were out of there in minutes. It was just after 3:30 in the morning and we ended up pulling into the overlook at Success Lake and slept the rest of the night in the car. Every time I think about this adventure I laugh out loud. Oh, and we did stop and take our camp fee back.

Scott Hatch - January 10, 2015 at 11:24 AM



“ Craig always had a smile. Sitting in front of him in choir at church one Sunday he leaned over and said "Debbie, you have a skunk trail down the back of your hair! " I didn't know what to say...But he laughed and smiled. ..lol...I have been coloring my hair for over 20 years! We love your family. ? Andrea you are such a dear friend even though miles and time have moved on. ??

Debbie Lee-Given - January 10, 2015 at 09:05 AM



“ Craig and I served on student council together in high school. He loved to tease me but was also quick with a smile and a kind word. My prayers are with his family during this sad time...



Vicky Kulikov Mackey - January 09, 2015 at 11:24 PM



“ Craig and I appeared in MASH at NH drama ..was a funny great guy..I know he will rest in peace



Joseph Keen - January 09, 2015 at 09:45 PM



“ 8 files added to the album New Album Name



Utah Valley Mortuary - January 09, 2015 at 03:04 PM