



Craig Willard Mailloux

December 28, 1946 - January 7, 2023

Craig Willard Mailloux, 76, of Alexander, NC passed from this world on Saturday January 7, 2023, after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease. His partner, Bonnie was at his side during his peaceful passing.

Craig was a kind and gentle person with a true zest for life. He enjoyed gardening, building and creating, reading, music of all kinds, nature, and the art of cooking. He was a lover of life and was always up to something even when his health limited him. He inspired many people over the course of his lifetime with his vast wisdom and witty humor.

One of Craig's biggest joys in life was his native plant nursery, Elk Mountain Nursery. The concept began humbly when his young daughter suggested that Craig sell plants at the tailgate market in the 1990s, and it grew to become a thriving business selling native plants through mail-order and in-person markets. The plant community of Asheville always knew to look for Craig at regional plant sales and he garnered much respect for his vast horticultural knowledge.

Craig was born on December 28, 1946, in Hollywood, Florida to Inger Johanna Madsen and Willard Cyprin Mailloux. He spent much of his childhood exploring the everglades on airboats, learning mechanical skills in his father's car repair shop, and even constructed his own sailboat by hand. After high school, he enrolled in the United States Army and utilized his technical skills in Korea.

In 1981, Craig and his then wife, Pat, moved to Asheville, NC, where they had

their daughter, Megan. He worked for many years as a repair technician at Advanced Business Equipment in Asheville and maintained his nursery business on the side.

For the last 23 years of his life, Craig lived with his loving partner, Bonnie Siegel. They planted beautiful gardens together, traveled to New Hampshire over the summers, and built a special home and community in Alexander, NC. Craig will be deeply missed and is survived by his partner Bonnie Siegel, his daughter Megan Foy (Kevin), and grandchildren Ellie and Coleman. He is also survived by his sisters, Carla Reif (Warren) and Sonja Mott (Robert).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider planting something in Craig's memory that brings you joy. He believed that the world is always better with more plants.

An open house celebration of his life will be held on January 22, 2023 from 1-3 pm at the Weaverville Community Center in Weaverville, NC.

Previous Events

Celebration

JAN **22**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Weaverville Community Center
Weaverville, NC 28757

Tribute Wall



“ *Craig Willard Mailloux*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Craig was the sweetest and most kind man. He was like an adopted grandfather to me during the years I lived in the casita. He knew when I was feeling bad or stressed out and like most kind people, helped me feel better through his subtle observant kind words and deeds. I learned a lot about plants through him, and anytime I pointed to something and asked what it was, he knew! It was wonderful. I will miss him a lot. Prayers and love for him, Bonnie, Megan and family .*

Anna - January 14, 2023 at 07:05 PM



“ *I have enjoyed getting to know both Craig and Bonnie recently. Craig possessed great intellect and humor. His knowledge of plants was amazing, and I wished that I had been able to learn more from him. Craig cared deeply about his family and the world around him He will be missed.*

Cheryl Deyton - January 11, 2023 at 07:58 PM



“ *I worked with Craig for many year at Advanced Business Equipment. Craig was a excellent technician. My thoughts and prayers are with Megan and Bonnie during this difficult time. Tim warren*

Tim Warren - January 11, 2023 at 01:52 PM

JA

We are neighbors and friends of Bonnie and Craig. We were stunned to hear of Craig's death.

As members of Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association we put together a working party of 12 members to help Craig re-cover his green house. We were very happy to give Craig- and Bonnie- a hand. It was like an old fashion barn raising- but easier.

Craig, we still speak of that working party and the comraderie that we experienced.

May your journey continue in peace.

Jack and Lois Albright and the members of CVMA Ch. 15-7

Jack Albright - January 18, 2023 at 10:13 AM