



How Long Will The Pain Last?

How long will the pain last?" a broken hearted mourner asked me.
"All the rest of your Life." I have to answer truthfully.
We never quite forget.

No matter how many years pass, we remember.
The loss of a loved one is like a major operation.
Part of us is removed, and we have a scar for the rest of
our lives. As years go by, we manage. There are things to do,
people to care for, tasks that call for full attention.
But the pain is still there, not far below the surface.

We see a face that looks familiar, hear a voice that echoes,
see a photograph in someone's album,
see a landscape that once we saw together,
and it seems as though a knife were in the wound again.
But not so painfully. And mixed with joy, too.
Because remembering a happy time is not all sorrow,
it brings back happiness with it.

How long will the pain last? All the rest of your life.
But the thing to remember is that not only the pain will last,
but the blessed memories as well. Tears are proof of life.

The more love, the more tears. If this be true,
then how could we ever ask that the pain cease altogether.
For then the memory of love would go with it.

The pain of grief is the price we pay for love.
Memories are a gift from God that death cannot destroy.



The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct
proceeds from good will and an acute
sense of propriety, and whose self control
is equal to all emergencies;

Who does not make the poor man conscious
of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity,
or any man of his inferiority or deformity;
who is himself humbled if necessity
compels him to humble another;

Who does not flatter wealth,
cringe before power, or boast of his own
possessions or achievements;
who speaks with frankness but always
with sincerity and sympathy;

Whose deed follows his word;
who thinks of the rights and feelings
of others rather than his own;
and who appears well in any company,
a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe.



Celebrating THE Life OF

A man is honored not for how tall he stands,
but for how often he bends to help, comfort, and teach.



Craig James Caspers

1953 - 2023

In Loving Memory of
Craig James Caspers

Born

April 20, 1953 | Breckenridge, Minnesota

Passed Away

November 23, 2023 | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Age

70 Years | 7 Months | 3 Days

Mass of Christian Burial

10:00 AM | Wednesday, November 29, 2023
St. John's Catholic Church | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Officiant

Fr. Greg Haman

Organist

Pat Keaveny

Cantor

Edd Goerger - "Ava Maria"

Congregational Hymns

"Blessed Are They" | "Here I Am Lord"
"Eagle's Wings" | "Be Not Afraid" | "You Are Mine"
"Song Of Farewell" | "Ten Thousand Reasons"

Honorary Pallbearers

Halle Miller | Jaeger Miller | Jameson Miller

Pallbearers

Fred Strege | Michael Schend | Paul Folden
Dennis Miller | Foster Caspers | Bauer Caspers

Interment

Fairview Cemetery | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Craig James Caspers was born on April 20, 1953, the fourth of six sons to Robert and Bernice (Kohnke) Caspers. He grew up on 7th street, and in the 6th grade they moved to 4th Street North on the golf course. However, the most treasured neighbor was their grandparents who shared a driveway with the Caspers boys. It was a great neighborhood with ball games going on always; the six and nine o'clock sirens were the only times the kids needed to know. When the family moved to a new house way up north on 4th Street in Wahpeton in the mid 1960's, there was a large number of boys that would be a part of the Wahpeton Class of 1971. Every house had a basketball hoop, and the golf course was their football and baseball field. Winters were reserved for local games like knee ball outdoors, and comb hockey indoors. Craig attended St. John's Elementary School, and walking was mandatory. If he had to serve 7:30 a.m. mass, his 5'2", 90-pound grandmother would accompany him.

Craig participated in sports, with football being his favorite. He quickly found out that in football, talent was secondary to hard work and determination. Upon high school graduation, he decided to attend NDSSS, an easy decision to make as his closest friends were attending NDSSS to also play football, and a double bonus was his girlfriend, Susan Bersech, was still attending Wahpeton High School. Thanks to bad luck, the starting defensive end for Science School was kicked out of school (for a reason not to be disclosed), so an opportunity arose for a freshman to play defensive end. The fall of 1971 was an exciting year for Science School football, playing on a new football field and stadium. Al Grage and his team tied for 1st place in the four-year football conference thanks to the leadership of the veterans getting out of the Army. 1972 was also a winning year for the Wildcats; the highlight of that year was tying the No. 1 Junior College team, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Craig took time out from college, and it was during this time when Craig learned the value of having college in the community. Thanks to 7:30 a.m. classes at NDSSS he was able to retake some courses in business that he previously struggled in. After marrying his high school sweetheart, they moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota, where he attended Northern State College. NDSSS had several administrators and teachers from the Aberdeen area who helped Craig through recommendations getting in-state tuition and obtaining part-time jobs while attending Northern State. After a year and a half of college at Northern State, with his wife Sue busy at work as a dental hygienist, Craig met and was impressed with the Northern State football coach, Jim Kretchman. Craig played the next year, having one of his most enjoyable years of football.

Upon graduation, Craig worked for a bank in Aberdeen, South Dakota, until receiving a call from his father who was in poor health. Craig and Sue would then return to work in the family furniture store. Even though he enjoyed the retail business, another opportunity arose ten years later when Bun Munson, a long-time funeral director, was retiring. Upon many discussions with families who had furniture store funeral home relations, Craig decided to go back to college and obtain his degree in Mortuary Science from the University of Minnesota. Once again, Craig learned to appreciate the flexibility and understanding instructors at NDSSS. For the next six months, he was able to take a year of anatomy, chemistry, and microbiology class while working at the furniture store, and that allowed him to attend the U of M that fall. Craig completed his schooling at the U of M, and after a three-month practicum, he started his 30-year career in funeral service at Vertin-Munson Funeral Home in Wahpeton.

Craig was active in the Wahpeton community, serving in JC's, Downtown Development Corporation, Community Development Corporation, Chamber of Commerce, and ND Retail Association. He was also involved in youth groups through the Optimist Club, Wahpeton Youth Football, and Girls' Junior Olympic Volleyball.

Thanks to two former neighbors in his boyhood, Jim Sturdevant and Roger Worner, he was able to get oriented in North Dakota Higher Education. Jim started a community group to assist in discussions with a recommendation from the Board of Higher Education of possibly merging NDSCS under NDSU. Roger was hired to assist and give recommendations to the local group, and guided the group discussions with Fargo leaders and NDSU Administrators. It was this experience that prompted Craig to submit his name to become a member of the State Board of Higher Education. Craig then served on the State Board of Education for five years.

Attempting to give back to Science School as much as he had received, Craig served on the Alumni Board, Letterman's Club, Catbacker Club, and served time as an advisor in the Nursing Program.

Craig is survived by his two children, Christopher (Jamie) Caspers and Cassie Caspers Miller; grandchildren, Foster and Bauer Caspers, Halle, Jaeger, and Jameson Miller; and his brothers, who all attended NDSCS, Brian (Sharon), Joel (Audrey), Robert, and Richard (Julie).

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Susan; parents, Robert and Bernice; his brother, Wilbur (Connie), and sister-in-law, Sandy.

In lieu of flowers, donations are preferred to St. John's Catholic School, 212 Dakota Ave. Wahpeton, ND 58075.