



Craig Eaton

September 7, 1954 - October 14, 2025

Craig Eaton, beloved husband, wonderful father to four daughters, and playful Poppi to eight

grandchildren, quietly passed away on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in Jupiter, Florida at the age of 71.

Craig was born to Bill and Lorraine Eaton on September 7, 1954 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He had two older

siblings, Bill & Linda, and two younger brothers, Eric & Brian. Craig moved to Florida as a baby and in his

youth, was a very active, natural athlete. He enjoyed fishing, diving, water skiing and baseball. He always

had a soft spot for animals, often bringing home rabbits and other creatures needing care. He graduated

from Lake Worth High School in 1972, and pitched for Miami Dade North and then Florida State

University, playing in the College World Series before graduating from FSU in 1976.

After college, Craig married his high-school sweetheart, Suzanne Sullivan.

They traveled while Craig

pitched for the Royals, Angels, Tigers and Expos. Craig retired from professional baseball and pursued a

career as an insurance agent where he owned his own agency in Wellington, and ran it very successfully

until he retired at the age of 60.

Craig was very accomplished. He earned The Fireman of the Year Award (MVP Relief Pitching) during his time in baseball, and he threw the final out that won the Caribbean World Series, but his greatest achievement was effortlessly surviving having four beautiful daughters. He spent many summer weekends in Lake Placid, fishing, and being the best boat driver for tubing and skiing. He captained his own boat for about 10 years, giving his daughters priceless memories of snorkeling, catching tropical fish for his aquarium, sandbar frisbee, slumber parties with their friends, star-gazing and intracoastal cruising.

At dusk, he would take his two dogs "hunting" on the golf course behind his home in Lake Worth, to chase squirrels & ducks. His kitty, Tiara loved him completely, bumping heads with him and curling up on his lap, every chance she got. His favorite vacation was cruising. He and Suzanne traveled all throughout the Caribbean, as far as Alaska & the Mediterranean, enjoying many adventures together.

After retirement, Craig continued to be very active. He became a member of Jupiter Country Club and loved golf, being outside, gardening, crossword puzzles, deleting emails, grilling/cooking for his family, and spending time with his many loved ones.

Craig was a faithful Christian and member of Journey Church Lake Worth & West Palm Beach. He volunteered as a youth pitching coach for various schools and groups. He was also quite handy, quick to offer help, fixing just about anything for anyone. His presence always

brightened a room, bringing laughter and joy to every space he entered. He was happy, kind hearted, humble, had a wonderful sense of humor, and an unshakable, quiet strength. For these and countless other reasons, he will be incredibly missed.

Craig is survived by his wife of over 48 years: Suzanne, his daughters and their families: Jana & Christian von Hehn (Victoria, Andreas & Katarina), Jennifer Reynolds (Weston & Violet), Melissa & Kyle Owens (Alayna), Melanie & Trey Bivins (Gwen & Anelina), and his siblings and their families. Craig has joined his parents, Bill & Lorraine Eaton, and his older brother, Bill Eaton, in Heaven.

Craig Eaton's Celebration of Life - Saturday October 25, 2025

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home - 250 Center Street, Jupiter, FL 33458

Gathering: 11-11:45am

Service: 12pm

Officiant: Chaplain Todd Stube

Flowers are welcome, especially live orchids. His girls will lovingly attach them to his trees at home, just as he always did.

Please send flowers to: The Eaton Family, 119 Lunata Court, Jupiter, FL 33478

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home
250 Center Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 744-2030
<https://www.taylorandmodeenflorida.com>

Celebration of Life

OCT **25**. 12:00 PM (ET)

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250 Center Street
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Tribute Wall

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“ Ever since I got the news of Craig joining our Lord in Heaven, I had to reflect on how his life affected so many of ours.

If it wasn't for Craig Eaton I personally would not have had the long career in baseball which I am still in 50 years later. Why is that so? Craig looked out for me as a fatherless 18 year old, when I arrived to play at Miami Dade North. He showed me the ropes and made sure I felt part of the team which gave me confidence especially when things were not going well.

He even talked me into riding with him 9 hours each way, to FSU from Miami to Tallahassee so he could see his future bride Suzanne which he raved about the entire way(he drove the whole time).

As our teammate Carl posted, we literally rode his back to the JUCO World Series and the pic of all of us jumping on him after pitching the a complete game victory to the state title proves that.

Craig then he pitched us to the College World Series, because of his great talent and unassuming leadership, we got to go to Grand Junction, Colorado where most of us saw snow for the first time.

Our team success that year was greatly attributed to his ability and led to most of us getting scholarships to major universities.

Every player in that team pic that I attached, was affected by Craig Eaton. He showed us leadership, kindness, competitiveness and class. I speak for that entire 1974 team when I say, we are ALL better people for knowing Craig. Our hearts go out to his beautiful family.

Keep the dugout and tee box warm big guy, and as they say in the South, "we will be by directly".

We Love You

Nick Belmonte & the 1974 Miami Dade North Falcons



Nick Belmonte - October 24, 2025 at 02:36 PM

CG

“*Craig was a "class" act and a fierce competitor on the ballfeild and one helluva golfer. More importantly he was a genuinely kind and respectful individual. It was a blessing to have crossed paths with Craig as teammates on our 1973-74 Miami Dade North JC teams. We road Craig's arm all the way to the National Championship game in 1974. He was taken from us way too early. May your fond memories be a blessing to all his loved ones and friends.*

Carl Gardner



Carl Gardner - October 19, 2025 at 02:31 PM