



Craig Savage

December 27, 1953 - December 6, 2025

Craig Gordon Savage, 71, died peacefully at home early in the morning on December 6, 2025, surrounded by the love of family and friends, under artful drawings collected over the years. The cause was a pulmonary complication related to liver failure and hemochromatosis.

Born in Walsenburg, CO, Craig graduated from Gilbert High School in Arizona (where he was a state quarter-mile track champion) and earned his B.F.A. in metalsmithing from Arizona State University. He moved to New York City where he worked in a studio designing and creating jewelry for, among others, Tiffany's and Neiman Marcus.

It was at New York's West Side Hwy bar in 1978 that Craig met Dusko (Dusan) Stefoski, the young physician from Croatia (then Yugoslavia), who would soon become the love of his life, world-traveling partner, and ultimately in 2014, his husband.

After finishing the Master of Arts Program in Art History in 1981 at the University of Chicago, Craig started a 25-year career as a flight attendant (Midway, then Northwest and finally Delta Airlines), fulfilling the goal of seeing much of the world, emphasizing Far East Asia. When asked what he did before his 2007 retirement, Craig often modestly joked, "I was a bum!"

An avid reader of books and well-versed in arts, Craig jokingly argued that both his formal and informal education best suited cocktail party chatter. It was his interest and readings on Holocaust that informed the correct site of tragic endings of some Nazi victims from Croatia.

Craig integrated himself in many of his close friends' children's academic and extracurricular activities, ranging from homework to football to make-up to home construction, earning the by-now grown-up kids' lasting devotion and friendship. It would be hard to overstate Craig's dear heart and sharp, quick wit, even as he neared the end of his life.

Craig leaves behind his beloved spouse, Dusko, a Rush neurology professor emeritus who spearheaded innovations in the field of multiple sclerosis.

Additionally, he leaves his loving siblings, Kim Savage of Denver, CO, Mark (Nancy Heggen) Savage of Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ, Gale (Jeff) Ahmann of Flagstaff, AZ, and his dear nephews Matt Savage and Benjamin (Andrea) Ahmann of Flagstaff, AZ.

He also leaves behind many heartbroken friends and family, including sister-in-law Gordana (Arnold) Sirota of Princeton, NJ, Paul Liebenson and Victoria Klem of Wilmette, IL, Bruce Hughes and Randall Hamilton of Des Moines, IA, Kate Johns-Shaw and Jason Shaw of Rockport, MA, Ana and Rick Conroy of Chicago, Sara Solla and Predrag Cvitanović of Atlanta, GA, Lucienne Kickx-Piette of Chicago, and Angie and George Katsamakias. Craig was the proud adopted "Uncle Craig" of many, including David (Paula Skaggs), Sam and Michael Liebenson, Rachel and Matthew Klem, Michael and Tricia Katsamakias, Jacob and Nicholas Conroy, Cristopher and Allie Shaw, Julia Shaw, the Manzoni brothers, and more.

Craig was preceded in death by his nephew Joshua Ahmann, parents William

Lafayette Savage and Josephine Allie Savage (nee Goode), and dear friend Mark Olinger, to whom Craig provided great care at the end of his HIV-shortened life.

A springtime celebration of life is being planned. Please check back to this website for information.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (https://order.cso.org/donate/i/37?queueitoken=e_csosafetynt~ts_1765299483~ce_true~rt_safetynt~h_add2bc4c3fe694a759b0105fcccc497094917746bb1f03b01343b3117e447d5f), the Lyric Opera of Chicago (<https://www.lyricopera.org/support-lyric/donate/>) or Rush University Medical Center (https://give.rush.edu/campaign/670760/donate?c_src=A26MAMZJA)

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Tribute Wall

RB

“ Oh Craig I am so sorry I didn't get to see you before you left us. I miss you so much, and my heart breaks for you Dusko. Craig and I had so much fun together growing up at Midway Airlines. Craig, Mark, Kelley and I were inseparable. We were flying the Miami and Caribbean trips what seemed like every week. All of the other flight attendants wanted to fly those trip just to hang out with us. We had so much fun together and sometimes got into some sticky situations. Craig always seemed to get us through ok. Craig was so smart and talented and he ALWAYS looked so good. Tall and handsome and always took care of himself. Craig was a talented cook and so creative and generous. He could talk to anybody about anything and make everyone laugh so much, especially when he was together with dear Mark. Everybody wanted to hang out with Craig and Mark. They were the life of every party. They were like brothers to me and always took care of me when I needed to be taken care of. It's so painful to have to be writing this yet it brings back so many happy memories that I will always keep in my heart. I love you and miss you Craig! You will always be my friend and brother!

Regina (Armstrong) Beine.



Regina (Armstrong) Beine - January 06 at 11:51 PM

DS

Dear Regina,
Thank you, thank you! That's a beautiful reminiscence about Craig and you and Kelly and Mark. So full of life in spite of it appearing in Craig's obituary. And, that is exactly how Craig would have liked it. With love,
Dusko

Dusko Stefoski - January 12 at 03:02 PM

RH

*Regina,
that is truly beautiful and he was the same to me; and taught me to try
to look a little better out in public. I exported your pictures for the
Memorial Slideshow.*

Randy Hamilton - April 06 at 09:10 PM

KB

“*Craig moved through the world with a rare kind of grace and
sparkle. He was endlessly charming, wonderfully entertaining, and
impossible not to watch when he was near. I cherished every
moment of seeing him, every smile and laugh he so effortlessly
inspired. His presence felt like a quiet celebration of life itself.*

*Chicago will feel a little dimmer without him — its streets missing the
warmth of his spirit, its rhythm changed by his absence. Though he
is gone, the joy he gave remains, lingering softly in memory.*

*Hvil i fred <3 with love from Kjartan - flight attendants never die -
they just move closer up to the stars*

Kjartan Bluhme - December 15, 2025 at 01:18 PM

RH

*wow. so lovely, Kjartan. Bruce and I were glad to meet you through him
and Dusko. --Randy Hamilton*

Randy Hamilton - April 06 at 09:11 PM

LS

“ This makes me so sad. Craig was such a wonderful, funny, witty and genuine friend and I will miss him. I remember coming to Chicago in 2016 and we went to watch game 7 of the World Series at a local bar and saw the Cubs take home the win!! It was so much fun and it will be a wonderful memory of Craig I will always cherish. My heart breaks for you Dusko. Our sincere condolences. Love, Lynn, Steve, Meaghan and John.

Lynn Sypniewski - December 14, 2025 at 02:44 PM

ML

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marla Lawrence - December 10, 2025 at 07:09 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dusan Stefoski - December 10, 2025 at 10:37 AM

PC

“ 1 file added to the album Craig



Predrag Cvitanovic - December 08, 2025 at 11:10 PM

RH

The sly Craig were knew.

Randy Hamilton - April 06 at 09:13 PM