



## Dr. Frederick Austin Craig

April 28, 1932 - June 7, 2018

“If I have helped someone along the way, then my living has not been in vain....”

Dr. Frederick Austin Craig, affectionately known as “Skeeter” and “Sonny,” departed this earthly life on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at his residence on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Born on April 28, 1932, in Selma, Alabama, he was the youngest of three children born to the late Sarah Frances Matthews Craig and Thomas Craig.

He attended Fisk University where he was a pre-med major and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1954. While at Fisk, he played football, basketball, and pledged with the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He served his country in the United States Army for two years before returning to Fisk to complete his Masters of Arts degree. After earning a Master’s, he matriculated at Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry in 1963 and completed his internship and residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh in 1967. In 1967, Dr. Craig also began his private practice and served as the Dental Director of the Chicago Model Cities Program. His skills as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon earned him numerous opportunities to lecture and provide professional development training to aspiring dental professionals.

Frederick was first baptized and began his Christian journey at the Green Street Baptist Church in Selma, Alabama, as a child. His journey culminated after moving in 1999 to Hilton Head Island, when he and his wife joined and became dedicated members of the Queen Chapel African Methodist Church where he served with the Men's Club and the Sons of Allen Men's Ministry.

His community involvements were numerous and included: helping handicapped individuals through Heroes on Horseback, active Life Member of the National Dental Association, member of Epsilon Mu Boule, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Lincoln Dental Society, and a dedicated supporter of Meharry Medical College. He was an avid art collector, sports and music enthusiast, and a fantastic cook (his specialty was short ribs with wine sauce). He was also known for his delight and dedication when mentoring young and old people from all walks of life. He was a man whose greatest joy was to be a guiding light to others.

He was married to the love of his life, the former Shirley Turnley Dorsey, who he met at Fisk University. The couple enjoyed traveling extensively to unusual places both near and far. They took time to enjoy many Blues and Jazz Cruises.

In addition to his parents, Frederick was preceded in death by his brothers: Lorenzo Craig and Thomas Craig.

He leaves to cherish precious memories his loving and dedicated life mate, Shirley Turnley Dorsey Craig; his three children: Maria Theresa (Celso) White, Martin (Rowena) Dorsey, and James Dorsey; nine grandchildren; nephews: Lorenzo, Jr., Michael, Ernest, Marvin, Thomas, and Roderick; grand-nephews: Lorenzo, III, Steven, and Sean; nieces, cousins, and a host of other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Meharry Medical College, Attn: Institutional Advancement 1005 Doctor D.B. Todd, Jr. Blvd. Nashville, TN 37208.

# Cemetery Details

## Joe Pope Cemetery

720 William Hilton Parkway  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

JUN 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Queen Chapel AME Church  
114 Beach City Road  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926  
(843) 681-3315

## Celebration of Life

JUN 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Queen Chapel AME Church  
114 Beach City Road  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926  
(843) 681-3315

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Frederick Austin Craig*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Sad. My mentor and a quiet inspiration for me professionally. I will really miss this guy.*

**William Selmer DDS** - June 23, 2018 at 08:55 PM



“ *GOD IS LOVE...WHAT A BLESSING THE LORD-BESTOWED on all of us when Skeeter Craig came into our lives. What JOY, HAPPINESS, LAUGHTER, and most of all the LOVE he had for each and everyone of us. Maureen Myers Smith and Walter T. Smith introduced me to Frederick Austin Craig "Skeeter" and he was my blind date for an event in Nashville, TN. From that point on we were friends on to the end. THE LORD gave us another gift,... memories, our individual instant replays that we can re-visit whenever we need to be with Skeeter Craig. Thank you Skeeter for being there for all of us. Heaven will never be the same now that you are there. IN JESUS CHRIST NAME we love you and miss you. J. Carlyne Kent Michaelis GOD IS LOVE. AMEN.*

**J.Carlyne Kent Michaelis** - June 15, 2018 at 09:09 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Frederick Austin Craig.*



June 14, 2018 at 01:03 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Frederick Austin Craig.*



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June 13, 2018 at 08:49 PM



“ *My brother and I have know Uncle Skeeter all of our lives...a class mate of my father's at Meharry and in the Chicago/Gary area! He will truly be missed by us. Love you Uncle Skeeter!*

*Shawn and Walt*

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**Shawn Smith** - June 13, 2018 at 04:48 PM



“ *Debra & Rick Parran purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Dr. Frederick Austin Craig.*



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**Debra & Rick Parran** - June 13, 2018 at 02:31 PM

LI

“ Ernest Craig and Family,

We are so sorry to hear about Uncle Sonny's passing. We hope that the love of family and friends will comfort and strengthen you, your siblings, mom and the entire Craig Family in the days ahead. For all the many years that we have known and loved you and your family, Uncle Sonny (more like your #2 Dad) has always been there. For you, our friend, the entire Whitaker, Mastin and Lewis Family offer our condolence wishes for the untimely loss of your Uncle. We pray to the Lord to bless you and family with the strength to cope up with the loss of your beloved Uncle/Dad so affectionately known to your extended family both near and far.

Words, however kind, can't mend your heartache, but those who care for you share your grief and wish you comfort and peace of mind.

We offer our deepest sympathy....

Love and Support Forever and Always,  
Whitaker, Mastin and Lewis Family

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Lin - June 13, 2018 at 01:48 PM

CD

“ CLAUDE C. NEWSOM, DDS purchased the Garden Cross for the family of Dr. Frederick Austin Craig.



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CLAUDE C. NEWSOM, DDS - June 12, 2018 at 08:51 PM

FC

“ From all of us at Molson Coors. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Frederick Austin Craig.



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**From all of us at Molson Coors.** - June 11, 2018 at 12:22 PM

DK

“ Dr. Frederick Craig[Skeeter] and his wife Shirley, are one of the couples my husband Joe and I, Dorethea, met when we first moved to Bluffton SC.

We spent many good times together, but realize it was not enough.

We will miss his spirit, wisdom and big smile.

Remember to honor someone who has transitioned is to continue to honor their memory and at the same time enjoy your life to the fullest.

We offer our deepest sympathies to his family and other friends.

Gods speed

Joe and Dorethea Kennedy

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**dorethea taylor kennedy** - June 10, 2018 at 02:37 PM

BP

“ Frederick always had funny stories to tell. He brought joy to all and was a gracious host at his beautiful beach home. He will be missed. May his soul R.I.P. Our condolences to his lovely wife and family.  
Bill & Marion Payne

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**Bill Payne** - June 10, 2018 at 12:18 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Dr. Frederick Austin Craig.*



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June 09, 2018 at 02:19 PM



“ *Shirley,  
Joyce and I send our sincere condolences to you and your family on the passing of our friend “Skeeter”. We will never forget his warm smile and general good nature that was a beacon of light for everyone he touched.  
Prayerfully,  
Beau Patterson*

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**Beau Patterson** - June 09, 2018 at 06:01 AM



“ *Frederick A.(Skeeter) Craig, you will certainly be missed. Through out the years as a friend, dental colleague from Meharry Medical Oollege, School Of Dentistry days and the many years that we traveled with our families to the National Dental Association meetings and your visits with Shirley to the many Indianapolis Circle City Classic Football games. The highlight of the travels for me was the year we attended the National Dental Convention in Atlanta, Ga. and you and Shirley invited Dr. Carl Cheeks and his family me and my family into your beautiful home in Hilton Head Island, SC. These are beautiful memories. You have transitioned earthly life into a better place and may the Grace of God be with you, Peace and Blessings.*

*Claude C.Newsom, DDS*

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**Claude C. Newsom, DDS** - June 08, 2018 at 05:51 PM

RH

“ *Dr Craig gave the best gumbo Superbowl gathering and he was always a blessing to others, may his spirit live on. The Rod Harris family*

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**Rodney Harris** - June 08, 2018 at 05:01 PM

RC

“ *Sonny, I will never forget your unwavering, loving spirit. The interesting stories that you would share with me about you and my dad when you both were just young lads. You lived a great life and for that I'm grateful.*

*Love you Always,  
Shana 😊*

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**RaShana Craig** - June 08, 2018 at 01:56 PM

PM

*Skeeter, Bobby and I found such pleasure in our friendship with you and Shirley. You will surely be missed. All of us who are friends of Shirley and you will do our best to be there for her. You are not dead; just stepped out of your fleshy body while your spirit body went on to live in Paradise. May your body Rest In Peace. Patricia and Bobby McNeil*

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**Patricia Lewis McNeil** - June 09, 2018 at 04:56 PM

FT

*Shirley,  
Fred and extend our sincere condolences to you and your family. We enjoyed the time spent with The two of you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Fred and Pat Tarver** - June 12, 2018 at 04:24 PM