



Craig R. Strom

April 20, 1959 - November 4, 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Craig R. Strom on November 4th, 2024 after a record breaking battle of exactly 45 months to the day he was diagnosed with glioblastoma brain cancer. Born on April 20, 1959 in Evanston, Illinois, Craig grew up in Lake Forest and graduated from Lake Forest High School in 1978. He went on to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a degree in Radio and Television Engineering.

Craig's career took him to Greenville, SC (WHNS-TV), Boston (WHDH-TV) and back to Chicago where he worked for WFLD-TV for ten years. In 2000, Craig joined WLS-TV, the #1 news station in Chicago and never looked back. Craig considered it an honor to work with such an accomplished team. He especially enjoyed being a part of the Chicago market where the comradery between the stations made his projects all that more fun. One of Craig's many accomplishments was when he was awarded Broadcast Engineer of the Year in 2008-2009 by the SBE (Society of Broadcast Engineers). This designation was in recognition of his contributions to the broadcast industry and to furthering the goals and objectives of the society.

Craig could not get enough of the industry so he started The Chicago Switch on March 1st, 2005 and brought his dear friend, Steve Robinson, along for the ride. Together they built a thriving broadcast connectivity platform on the 97th floor of the Hancock Building.

Craig was known for his passion for conservative politics and greatly admired the author Thomas Sowell. A proud lifetime NRA member, Craig was greatly relieved to survive long enough to vote for Donald J. Trump in his last national election. He is happily debating anyone he can find in heaven and would be heard saying “I’d agree with you but then we’d both be wrong.”

Growing up in Lake Forest, Craig met many people he admired. Craig was blessed to have crossed paths with Peter and Linda Smith who were Youth Pastors at the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest. Craig spent much of his childhood and adolescence with his life-long friend Chip Stride and his family in Lake Forest and at Lake Geneva where they spent their summers. Herbert Stride Senior (“Herb Senior”) was an influential person in Craig’s life and was inspired by his professional drive and commitment to his family. Craig also had a special place in his heart for his wife Dolores Stride.

Craig is survived by his wife of 34 years, Kristin (Jesion) Strom, his children Morgan of Pleasant Prairie, WI, Annie and Dacota Sanor of Littleton, CO, Marina of Lake Forest and Spencer of Oklahoma City, OK, and brother Brad.

Craig has survived the last 45 months with special thanks to Sweet’s of Lake Forest (ice cream shop), The Fresh Market (more ice cream) and The Left Bank (hot dogs).

A very special thanks to Northwestern Hospital’s brilliant team of neurologists Dr. Adam Sonabend, Dr. Karan Dixit and Dr. Jessica Templar for the exceptional care and their ability to tolerate all of the detailed questions and interrogations of the most recent medical literature.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to Jessica Reich, Chaplin Tim Lankford and Donna Duray for without their compassion and

humor we would not have survived.

Visitation will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, 700 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, on Friday, November 8, 2024 starting at 10 AM followed by a Funeral Service at 11 AM. Interment will be at Lake Forest Cemetery. The service will be livestreamed at <https://firstchurchlf.online.church/>.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you make a donation to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation in Craig's name. <https://dogood.t2t.org/IMOCraigStrom>

For more information, contact Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest at (847) 234-9649 or www.RTfunerals.com.

Cemetery Details

Lake Forest Cemetery

1525 N. Lake Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
(847) 615-4341

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
700 North Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Memorial Service

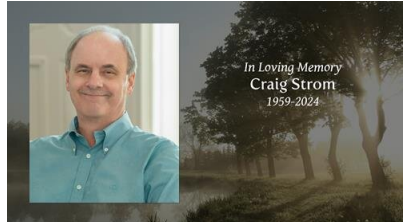
NOV 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
700 North Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Tribute Wall



“ *Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Craig R. Strom*



Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest - November 07, 2024 at 07:24 PM

WU

Oh my heart is sad as I just found out about Craig's passing. Reading his obituary made me smile, as I haven't seen Craig since Highschool Youth group at 1st Pres. and am so glad at his success coupled with his passion! He was such a nice guy and enjoyed the many mission trips we went on together. Funny over the past year he came to mind and was hoping he was on FB. I think it was God's way of telling me something was up. I'm a Trump fan too which made me smile. I'm so grateful to the friends I made at church, we had a good run of it! To Craig's wife and family, I wish you well and am sad you lost him. But reading his sweet obituary I could read the love that was in it. Take care☐ Wendi Amundson Unrein

wendi Amundson Unrein - May 14, 2025 at 04:04 PM



“ *Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Home created a Memorial Service Livestream in memory of Craig R. Strom*



Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest - November 05, 2024 at 03:48 PM

DW

So sad to see this news. Craig was a broadcast engineering legend that worked wonders across industry into the wireless world of 3G, 4G, and 5G. An amazing frequency coordinator and friend. God bless all of his family and all at WLS and the great Chicago broadcasting community.

Dan Wilson - April 04, 2025 at 12:03 PM

KS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kristin Strom - May 20, 2025 at 11:21 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kristin Strom - May 15, 2025 at 03:15 PM

CS

“ Craig Strom was a great man who will be missed by everyone who knew him.

He was gifted with the knowledge of what he wanted to do in this world when we were very young. That knowledge gave him the drive to learn what he needed to do in order to get where he wanted and to go. As it turned out, his knowledge and drive made him the best at what he had chosen to do.

He was a great husband to Kristin and father to Morgan, Annie, Marina & Spencer. I know that they will miss him deeply.

Over the last couple of years Kristin literally gave everything she had to Craig to help him through all of his health challenges while also being a great advisor and supporter of their children all the while helping them to reach their goals.

Craig was a good, well read man who had many gifts. I am lucky to have been one of his fiends and I will always be grateful for his presence.

Chip Stride

Chip Stride - May 12, 2025 at 03:32 PM

SM

“ Where to start? Craig and I went to Lake Forest High School and were total band/chorus nerds. He had a beautiful singing voice, played a mean clarinet, and could single handedly run the sound and light boards for any show. He was active in the Lake Forest First Presbyterian Youth Choir and Youth group and participated in many summer mission trips. He had lots of friends and will be greatly missed. Much love to his family and friends.

- Sharon D. Moore

Sharon D Moore - December 19, 2024 at 09:25 AM

FE

“ We did not know Craig a long time, but we know he was a good man. Our sympathies are with his family.

Florence Eisfeldt - November 07, 2024 at 04:08 PM