



Vilas Craig

December 21, 1938 - May 28, 2023

My Dad Vilas Craig "Guitar Man" passed away this morning. He is my biggest influence by far and his life was all about music. He was born in Richland County Wisconsin and graduated with a degree in music from the University of Wisconsin that he paid for himself earning a living with his band. He also supported his wife and four children through his music at the same time. He later went on to teach music to kids in school, which was a huge passion of his. He continued to perform in Wisconsin throughout his life as a solo act and occasionally with a band.

As a singer/songwriter my Dad released twelve 45 rpm records between 1959 and 1965. If you like Elvis, Ricky Nelson and Buddy Holly, I'm sure you'll enjoy his music.

To learn more visit his website @ www.VilasCraig.com His music is also streaming everywhere.

Dad died of natural causes in Richland County, WI. A Celebration of Vila's Life will be held on Monday, June 5, 2023, at the Phoenix Center in Richland Center from 6PM to 8PM. Love You Dad!

Timothy Craig

Who draws the crowd and plays so loud baby it's the guitar man Who's gonna

steal the show you know baby it's the guitar man

He can make you love He can make you cry He will bring you down Then he'll
get you high Somethin' keeps him goin' Miles and miles a day To find another
place to play

Night after night who treats you right baby it's the guitar man Who's on the
radio you go listen to the guitar man Then he comes to town and you see his
face And you think you might like to take his place Somethin' keeps him driftin'
miles and miles away Searchin' for the songs to play

Then you listen to the music and you like to sing along You want to get the
meaning out of each and every song Then you find yourself a message and
some words to call your own and take them home

Somethin' keeps him movin' but no one seems to know What it is that makes
him go

Then the lights begin to flicker and the sound is getting dim The voice begins
to falter and the crowds are getting thin But he never seems to notice he's just
got to find another place to play

Either way Got to play Either way Got to play...

"Guitar Man" Songwriter: David Gates of 'Bread'

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Phoenix Center
100 S Orange St.
Richland Center, WI 53581

Tribute Wall



“ So sorry for your loss. I babysat for Vilas and Judy's kids when they lived in Prairie du Sac and in Madison. Those were good days. I still think of the family often and wonder where everyone ended up. Have not seen Vilas and band for many years but always had a good time at his dances. He will be missed. Maria (Zuch) George

Maria George - June 05, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ Sorry to hear of your loss, Vilas came to play at our church a time or two. He was always willing to help out. My mom, Diana Hilleshiem-Bender and him were friends years ago. Our thoughts are with you. Deb Niemeyer

deb niemeyer - June 04, 2023 at 11:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Vilas Craig.

June 02, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Vilas Craig.



June 02, 2023 at 09:24 PM

DR

“ Thanks Vilas for the memories. Love you and your music. One of my favorite memories is of Vilas & Duane singing to our Mom (Dorothy Ames), she loved it. May you rest in peace and your loved ones find peace. From your "Cuz"

Delores Rydberg - May 31, 2023 at 12:53 PM

MS

“ Thoughts and prayers for all. RIP Vilas.

Marge and Ken Sherwin - May 31, 2023 at 12:20 PM

ML

“ Vilas was a true friend. We shared a lot of laughs and tears over the years.

His love for life and music was an inspiration.

I loved his music and have several tapes he made for me which I will treasure. If I was troubled, I knew I could always count on Vilas to guide me through.

Rest in peace dear friend. You are now singing with the angels.

Gone but never forgotten.

Your brown eyed girl.

Marlene

Marlene Lawton - May 31, 2023 at 06:54 AM

DB

“ *Condolences to the family.
Vilas came and played music at our Church some years back .
Great singer and song writer.
You're in our thoughts and prayers.
Michael and Diana Biesek*



Diana L Biesek - May 31, 2023 at 12:28 AM

DC

“ *I'm sad that I missed many years of not seeing Vilas as I was moving with a job. Then late in life found out he was my first cousin. I yet today hear his music in Boomarang a 50-60 type restaurant here in Oklahoma. May he rest in peace and thinking of his love ones. Del Craig*

Del Craig - May 30, 2023 at 05:53 PM