



Craig Osteen

February 5, 1949 - September 17, 2024

Craig Dennis Osteen passed away at his home in Arlington, Virginia on September 17, 2024 after a nine-year battle with cancer. He was predeceased by his parents Madelyn (Kasik) Osteen and Edgar Lapearl Osteen, Jr. He is survived by his wife Cyrelle K. Gerson and son Walter Gerson Osteen.

Craig was born in Detroit, Michigan on February 5, 1949 and grew up in Auburn, Michigan. He received his bachelors degree from the University of Michigan and his masters and PhD degrees from Michigan State University.

After postdoctoral studies at the University of Illinois, Craig joined the staff of the USDA Economic Research Service as an agricultural economist where he spent his 35-year career supporting the ERS mission to anticipate trends in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America and to conduct high-quality, objective economic research to enhance public and private decision making. His interest in ag-econ research stemmed from his lifelong commitment to conservation and the environment.

Outside of his professional life, he enjoyed many outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, and hiking. He met his wife Cyrelle on many Sierra Club hikes in the parks near Washington, DC. They quickly began enjoying hiking and exploring nature together around the U.S. and even in Europe and added in ballet performances, musical shows, and art exhibits which Craig learned to

love almost as much as he loved ice hockey, football, baseball, and NASCAR races. He particularly enjoyed his photography hobby, which complemented his love of nature very well, and created a large catalog of photos of family hiking trips. After retiring he added an avid interest in American Revolutionary and Civil War history as well as Biblical history and quite a few other activities.

In retirement Craig especially enjoyed visits with his son Walter, daughter-in-law Karah, and grandchildren Willow and June. He is lovingly remembered and greatly missed by his family.