



## Craig Tekell

December 31, 1956 - February 12, 2021

Craig Frederick Tekell, 64, passed away at The Village at Heritage Oaks in Corsicana, Texas on Friday, February 12, 2021. Craig battled dementia for several years and on January 29, 2021 was admitted to Mansfield Hospital for an infection. After several days of battling the infection along with other diagnoses, Craig was called home, his true home, to be with Jesus.

Craig was born December 31, 1956 in Corsicana, Texas to Gerald Don Tekell and June Carol Tekell. Craig grew up in Corsicana, graduated from Corsicana High School, received a Bachelor of Arts from Baylor University and his master's degree in Seminary. Craig married his high school sweetheart, Christi Tekell, at First Baptist Church in Corsicana on July 11, 1981. Craig and Christi would have been married 40 years this July. Craig and Christi had two children, Tyler Tekell and Ashley Parker.

Craig always had a desire to witness to others and make a positive impact in others' lives. This is one reason why he dedicated his career to mentoring youth. Craig began his career by working in a wilderness camping program for troubled youth where they would camp in the woods for weeks at a time, having to build their own shelters, hike for water, and other activities that would strengthen and create discipline. Craig then worked at TYC in Corsicana for over 10 years. After this time, Craig moved in a different direction and founded and operated New Encounters Residential Treatment

Center, a group home for troubled male youth located in Mildred, Texas. Craig began this business in 1992 and has had success with the help of a trusted and long-time friend, Butch Bower. Through this company, Craig has been able to change the lives of many and has led many of the young men to accepting Jesus. New Encounters is still operating today and is directed by Craig's son, Tyler Tekell.

Craig was a one-of-a-kind and can often be described as goofy, carefree, kind, compassionate, and without a doubt, stubborn. He did everything he could to provide a bountiful and Christ-centered life for his family. Craig and Christi both dedicated their lives to witnessing to others about Jesus Christ and both served as Sunday School teachers at First Baptist Church in Corsicana, Texas. Craig loved sports and coached several athletic teams for both of his children. One year, he was the head coach for Tyler's youth baseball team and led the team to win second in state. Craig did love most sports, but if you knew Craig, you knew his favorite sport of all was golf. He was an excellent golfer and spent many sunny days on different golf courses enjoying life. Craig also loved to hunt and him and his son share many memories of hunting dove and wild hogs together. Craig was a faithful husband and the best father anyone could ask for. Craig always liked to do silly things as he would say, "to make a memory," such as jumping in the freezing pool on Christmas Day. We always laughed at this, but now we are thankful for these memories that we can cherish with us for the rest of our lives.

Craig is survived by his wife, Christi Tekell, brother Keith Tekell and wife Donna Tekell, brother Victor Tekell and wife Gabrielle Tekell, son Tyler Tekell, daughter Ashley Parker and husband Mason Parker, one unborn granddaughter due March 17, 2021, nephew Christian Tekell and wife Kelsey Tekell, niece Hayley Nieto and husband Nick Nieto, niece Emily Tekell, niece Courtney Brogdon and husband Jourdan Brogdon, niece Kristen Boyd and husband Shawn Boyd, nephew Jonathan Tekell and wife Jillian Tekell, mother-

in-law Doris Wahlenmeier, sister-in-law Brenda Sherrill and husband Robert Sherrill, nephew Jeff Yates and wife Jill Yates, great nieces, Sydney and Sadey Yates, great nephew Marty Yates.

Visitation will be held at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home in Corsicana, Texas on Friday, February 19th from 6-8 p.m. and funeral services will be held at First Baptist Church in Corsicana, Texas on Saturday, February 20th at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be at Oakwood Cemetery.

Below are the links for the livestream funeral service.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU4guHLtDKAEaXRIYqAi7vA/live>

<https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistcorsicana/videos>

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Cemetery

900 North 19Th Street  
Corsicana, TX 75110

# Previous Events

## Family Visitation

FEB **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana  
1530 N. 45th Street  
Corsicana, TX 75110  
(903) 874-4774  
[info@griffin-roughton.com](mailto:info@griffin-roughton.com)

## Celebration of Life

FEB **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
510 West Collin  
Corsicana, TX 75110

# Tribute Wall



“ Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Craig Tekell



Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home - February 19, 2021 at 12:23 PM

AS

*Our deepest condolences. We have great memories of Craig and the Tekell's.*

Ashley, Jaclyn and Rhonda Sherman - February 19, 2021 at 11:42 PM

KS

“ My name is Keith Kelley sr Mr. Tekell was my cottage staff manager when I lived at Corsicana state home. I am really hurt right now cuz I didn't know he passed. My heart goes out to his family. He will be missed RIP MR. TEKELL U DID YO JOB WITH ME.

Keith Kelley sr - March 14, 2024 at 01:33 PM



“ Craig Tekell

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM

Jl

“ Thank you for opening New Encounters for troubled teens like myself. This place was truly a home away from home. You exemplified all that is good in the world.

Joe Gilbert Tapia IV - July 26, 2023 at 10:39 PM

LH

“ I worked with Craig at the Corsicana State Home and remember what a funny, upbeat guy he was and how much I liked him. My heart goes out to his family ❤️  
Lucy Humbert

lucy Humbert - February 22, 2021 at 04:34 PM

CJ

“ Christi,  
My sister in Jesus Christ  
Through the Lord 's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.  
Lamentations 3:22-23 NKJV

<https://bible.com/bible/114/lam.3.22-23.NKJV>Because of the Lord 's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.  
Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV  
<https://bible.com/bible/111/lam.3.22-23.NIV>

You taught me sooooo much and for this I am grateful!!!  
Love you much in Christ Jesus Cilkay Jessie

Cilkay Jessie - February 20, 2021 at 07:14 PM

CJ

“ Tyler and Ashley  
There are no words that can come to this gabby mouth of mine to express how we are feeling right now!!! Just know that our love, thoughts and prayers are with you now and forever!!! Thank you for loving us right where we were, different but alike!  
Just as Jesus Christ loves us!!!  
Love you much in Jesus Christ The Jessies

Cilkay Jessie - February 20, 2021 at 07:00 PM

CJ

“ Cilkay Jessie lit a candle in memory of Craig Tekell



Cilkay Jessie - February 20, 2021 at 06:22 PM

RH

“ Craig Tekell was a great friend and a great guy too prayers for his family and Loved ones too Randy Hughes

randy hughes - February 19, 2021 at 03:11 PM

RH

“ Randy Hughes lit a candle in memory of Craig Tekell



randy hughes - February 19, 2021 at 03:08 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Craig Tekell.*

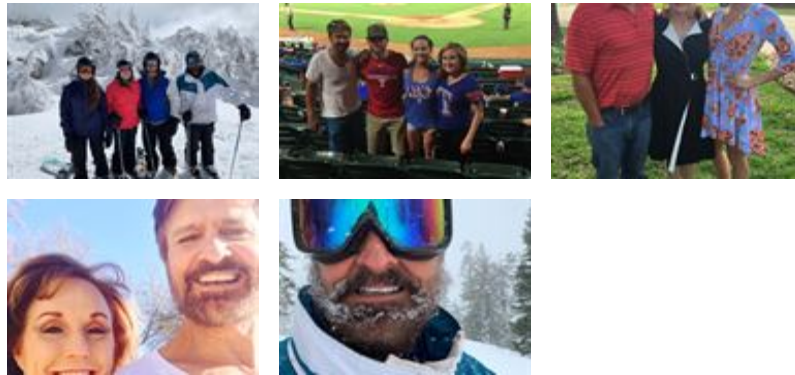


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February 19, 2021 at 02:02 PM



“ *69 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home** - February 18, 2021 at 07:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Craig Tekell.*



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February 18, 2021 at 03:19 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Craig Tekell.*



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February 18, 2021 at 10:23 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Craig Tekell.*



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February 16, 2021 at 04:35 PM



“ *Tekell Family,*

*I was so very sorry to hear of your loss. He joins a heavenly host of Tekells.*

*[May] the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, ... guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*\_\_\_Philippians 4:7*

*Remembering,*

*Ailsa Flynn Anderson*

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**AA** - February 16, 2021 at 02:46 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Craig Tekell.*



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February 16, 2021 at 11:47 AM



“ *Tekell Family,*

*We will be remembering you in our prayers.  
[May] the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, ...  
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
\_\_\_Philippians 4:7*

*Ailsa Flynn Anderson*

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**AA** - February 15, 2021 at 07:53 PM



“ *Tyler and Ashley, Craig was one of the best friends I've ever had. I will share with you during the funeral service how good a friend he was. It's my privilege to have known him and you mom AND you two also. My prayers are with you.*

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**Carey Ford** - February 13, 2021 at 11:29 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to Christie and the family. May God comfort and sustain you during this time.*

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**Donna Whittenburg** - February 13, 2021 at 04:01 PM

TB

“ Terry Bower lit a candle in memory of Craig Tekell



Terry Bower - February 13, 2021 at 12:45 AM



Prayers sent for tekell family and friends

Hal Prater - February 14, 2021 at 12:58 PM

BM

Christi, I am so sorry for your loss. We are praying for your family. Bob McNutt

Bob McNutt - February 15, 2021 at 12:08 PM

RS

Christy, Ashley, & Tyler, lifting you up with prayer of comfort, and sustained peace of the Lord's guiding hand.. Ron & Melinda Smith

Ron Smith - February 15, 2021 at 11:44 PM