



## Joe Craig Wisdom

February 13, 1949 - August 13, 2024

From the Good Doctor's Chickee:

Joe Craig Wisdom moved on to whatever the hell is in store for us after this, on August 13, 2024.

Born in the Panama Canal Zone on February 13, 1949, he was the second child of one of the

fiercest love stories ever constructed; that of Joe and Edythe. He traveled around the world with

his Air Force family, including his sister Janet and brother Jay, until he built his own love story

with Sweet Patty Sue, his wife, who preceded him in death in 2009.

He leaves behind his three boys: Joseph (Jessica), David, and John (Adrienne), to whom he gave

his whole heart from the start. Three grandchildren, Cameron Riley, Molly Sue, and Aubrey Jo,

were fortunate to enjoy a grandfather whom Molly Sue describes as "sweet and wise." Dr. Dr.

enjoyed his family, his friends, and the adventures he shared with all, especially those of late

with the one and only Patricia Pritchard. We imagine he's chomping at the bit to share stories and

a nice cold beverage with those who checked out early and missed all the fun.

Dealt an unfair hand in life physically, the Good Doctor refused to let it slow him down, even cursing a few who offered a hand up. He traveled the world by land and sea, teaching our generation—with Bubba’s assistance—how to find the perfect location in any new town: listen for laughter coming from a place that sells cold beer.

Dr. Dr.’s career was spent at the university, lecturing on Faulkner, Hemingway, Matthiessen, and Patrick Smith while sharing his enthusiasm for literature with his students. We blame his profession for giving him the uncanny ability to always be ready with a correction concerning our grammar. With teaching stops at North Fort Myers High School, FSU, FIU, FGCU, and a stint at a library in between, Dr. Dr. didn’t stray far from the state he loved for its natural environment.

He raised his boys on the water and was always the one you went to with good news, as there was no better cheerleader than he. Thank you, Dad, for the moments of advice where you so eloquently told us we were wrong and thank you for the moments where you so enthusiastically told us we were great.

Dr. Dr. spent the last few moments of a great life admiring Patty and his final destination, Whiskey Creek, which he described in his last few days as a “damn fine view.” Hold up your glasses and toast the Good Doctor as he exits a life that we all wish to duplicate.



# Tribute Wall

JK

“ After watching the presidential debate last night, I had the memory of Dr. Wisdom rolling the TV into our Florida Writers class so that we could watch Obama’s inauguration in 2008. I just looked Joe up, and I am sorry to hear that he has passed so recently because I would have loved to reach out to him to let him know that I am beginning my own dissertation work for my literature PhD. I have Joe to thank for introducing me to Zora Neale Hurston in that Florida class; reading *Their Eyes Were Watching God* helped me to decide to continue with my English major at a very troubling point in my own young life, now fourteen years ago. I took three classes with Joe, including his Hemingway class. His passion for literature was infectious, and he inspired me to continue to come to class, to read, and to engage with literature at a time when I was very depressed and struggling with figuring out life as a young person. I hope I can be that same kind of professor. Thanks Joe ❤️

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**Jamie Kramer** - September 11, 2024 at 04:25 AM

BH

“ I was a founding faculty member at FGCU and Joe was among my favorite colleagues. His commitment to the academic teaching enterprise was admirable but his humor, wit and collegiality were what set him apart for me.



We were both "Florida boys" with a deep love of all things water and we bonded on that front. I grew up on Merritt Island. Patrick Smith lived down the street and frequented my Dad's drugstore. Pat had even written a book named after the area of the Island in which I grew up: Angel City. We bonded over that too.

I have been gone a decade, and Joe retired before I left, but he made a mark on me and his students. After reading his obituary, he clearly made his mark on his family, too. I'll raise a cold one tonight "To Dr. Dr. A life well lived!"

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**Bradley Keith Hobbs** - August 28, 2024 at 09:28 AM

DM

“ Joe was my best friend in 9th grade at Rhein Main Junior High School (Germany). We lived in the same stairwell in Gateway Gardens, a military dependents housing area. There were some quarters in the basement for domestic help and since none of the families in our stairwell had housekeepers, Joe and I took over one of the rooms and convinced our parents to let us move in during the summer. We had a record player and the illusion of freedom but couldn't get away with much with our parents 2 floors above. So long Joe. Duncan Mackie

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**Duncan Mackie** - August 20, 2024 at 09:56 PM

MM

“ Thanks for the ride Joe! My life would have been so different had we not seen each other in the FSU cafeteria, a million years ago! We shared so many crazy adventures, and this just isn't the forum. Like Wingnut wrote-I wish you the best in whatever afterlife may/may not exist! Btw, if you can figure out how, let me know! Love ya Brother!

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**Mike Major** - August 19, 2024 at 10:24 PM

BP

“ Sending love and prayers to the Wisdom family. A wonderful tribute and lively obituary he is sure to love as well.

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**Betty-Jean Park** - August 16, 2024 at 02:42 PM

KS

“ Love this ! So sorry about your Dad, but glad to have met him.  
Karen Beesting Stewart

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**karen Stewart** - August 15, 2024 at 08:58 PM

LC

Sending you all love! I have the best memories of 96th street! And I give your mom and dad all of the credit for making me a Nole!❤️

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**Laura O'Sullivan Conn** - August 18, 2024 at 02:14 PM

LB

“ My sincere condolences to the Wisdom family from an old friend. While my memory fails me at times these days, memories of my dear friend Pat and her beloved Joe remain clear and close to my heart. May your years of happy memories bring you joy and help you through this sad time. Love to you all. Laura Brake



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**Laura (Schemer) Brake** - August 15, 2024 at 08:11 PM

LG

“ My friendship with Joe began at FSU where we were fraternity brothers, then housemates and, finally, neighboring residents of a semi-rural enclave of cottages and trailers we dubbed “Pooh Corner.” Nearly every evening we enjoyed pitchers of beer and lively conversation at a beer bar near campus but somehow still managed to earn our degrees. During those years, Joe introduced me, a meteorology major, to the joy of good books—an interest I maintain to this day and share with my wife (also an English major). Joe and Patty were at the center of a circle of friends who enjoyed life at Pooh Corner—socializing, canoeing, camping, attending music festivals, and playing with our dogs, Riley and Chica. (Chica was an Irish Setter with an amputated tail that Joe came across somewhere and gave to me as a puppy). Several of us even joined Joe and Patty on their honeymoon in the Keys for camping, snorkeling, and boating fun. Joe was one of the brightest, kindest, and best all-around persons I have had the privilege of knowing. It’s been a few years since I’ve seen Joe, and it pains me that I won’t see him again. Here’s to you, Joe, for everything! -- Larry George

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**Larry George** - August 15, 2024 at 05:14 PM