



Dean Craig Cullen

March 2, 1952 - March 2, 2010

Dean Craig Cullen, beloved by his wife and family, died Tuesday on his birthday. He was 58 years old. His wife Jean was at his side, and he died in peace, at one with his Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Dean was born March 2, 1952 in Queens, New York, the fifth child and second son of Dorothy and the late William H. Cullen Sr. He grew up in the village of Lindenhurst on Long Island. Dean was a fine athlete and an excellent student, and he went on to attend St. Lawrence University. In his early days he traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada. Before moving to Syracuse, he worked as a sales executive in New York City.

Dean expressed his artistic talent through his many oil paintings, and he expressed his musical talent through playing the drums. He was an excellent percussionist. But his most important talent was his commitment to being a good and decent human being. He was a loyal and loving husband, son, brother and uncle. And he was a friend to many.

Some of Deans friends are among the severely disabled, with whom he worked for many years in Syracuse. Dean really was the type of person who would give someone in need the shirt off of his back. He proved this with his actions. But Dean was also a man of words who could tell some wild, wonderful and funny stories. And he was widely read, loving in particular the history of World War II.

Among those who will miss Deano are his very special friend Bill W. and the cats he loved so much, Gus and Simba.

A special note should be made about Deans wife, Jean Brogan Cullen. She brought so much joy and love into Deans life.

The family offers special thanks to Dr. Jonathan Wright and his wife, Marty, for their loving care and spiritual support.

Surviving in addition to his wife are his mother, Dorothy Cullen of Syracuse, N.Y.; three sisters, Carol Gaggin of Bohemia, N.Y., Leila Matthews of Brighton, N.Y., and Helen Bugaj (Tom) of DeWitt, N.Y.; three brothers, William H. Cullen Jr. (Holly) of Brattleboro, Vt., Warren Cullen (Anne) of Winston-Salem, N.C., and Donald Cullen (Sue) of East Syracuse, N.Y.

Dean is also survived by his loving nieces Lara Gaggin of Long Island, N.Y., Erika Bugaj of Washington, D.C., Alayna Cullen of Seattle, Wash., Chelsea Cullen of Cary, N.C., and Danielle and Robin Cullen of East Syracuse, N.Y. He is also survived by his loving nephews Derek and Brian Matthews of Wilmington, N.C., Dougal Cullen of Portland, Oregon, Matthew Bugaj of Asheville, N.C., Zachary Cullen of East Syracuse, N.Y., and Maxwell Cullen of Winston-Salem, N.C. His niece Laras son Patrick also survives.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 6, 2010, at Reformed Presbyterian Church, 2517 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, New York. There will be a private burial.

Calling hours will be 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., Friday, March 5, 2010 at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, Inc., 4612 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, New York.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 7, East Syracuse, New York 13207.

Tribute Wall



“ Just reading through the candles and thinking of Dean this morning. He was the best! and I'm so thankful that so many agreed. His trials were many but the love of the Lord showed through. If I weren't sure that he was dancing with the Lord, my heart would be broken. I only have thanks for who he was in my life and my sons' lives as well. ""There will never be another you, Dean"".

January 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Sleeping on a bench on Wellwood Avenue in a tuxedo; reading and explaining a friend's homework assignment to them before class; unsurpassed sense of humor; brilliant, brilliant, brilliant, loving; GENUINE, spiritual. He lives on in my mind and in my heart.

September 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean and I grew up on the same block in Lindenhurst. He was a very friendly and pleasant person. Basically always had a smile on his face. I am truly sorry to hear about Dean, but the memory of how kind and pleasant he was will live on. He came from a wonderful family they were extremely nice and some of his sibling were friends with my family. God bless you Dean and may he hold you in his arms and keep you in his heart forever.

March 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Peace and warm memories go out to Jean and Dean's family. Dean was a great guy and was so full of life and talented! Loved hearing him tell a story, he was captivating and walked the talk - thank you for being a part of our lives and helping us to stay sober with your messages. Now Julius has someone to raz him in that big meeting in the sky :)Peace - Mindy

March 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Praying for the Lord's comfort for your family as you grieve Dean's passing. Lindenhurst HS class of '70.

March 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Didn't know Dean that well in high school, but he graduated with me at Lindenhurst class of 1970 School. We were looking for him to attend our 40th reunion this year. So sorry to have learned he passed away. As I read his OB., I realized what a great guy he grew up to be. My prayers go out to his family, I am sure he will surely be missed. We will add his name to our memorial page in our program. We have lost so many classmates, three so far this year that I know about. Joann Gigante Cleary President of Reunion Committee

March 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I am deeply saddened to learn of the tragic news of the death of Dean Cullen.His family was supportive of me at my time of crisis withthe local school board. I was reinstated . Dean was loved.I wish to extend my deep sympathy to his whole family.Dean will always be missed.

March 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I remember Dean as bright, vibrant, articulate, humorous and involved. He was a well liked and well respected classmate. I am sorry to hear of his passing. My condolences to his family and his loved ones

March 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jean and family... I am so sorry to hear about the love of your life. I can't begin to tell you how this news shocked me. I am again so sorry and know that you are in my prayers. Wendy

March 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jean-Jeff and I are so sorry to hear about Dean....we will miss him. If you need anything, please let us know.

March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean was one of the most influential people to have ever come into my life. He helped me climb out of the whole I had fallen into and showed me through his life how to get it right. My funny story about Dean was him bragging about there was nothin to hot and spicy for him, he was at our house so I offered him a fresh Habanero pepper, and he chewed it up. Once he put the fire out we had a good laugh. Dorothy and Jean, my thoughts and prayers are with you, even though I had not seen Dean in a few years when I think of him, I think of the love of God, because he sure showed me a lot of it.....David Earl Foster

March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jean, We're so sorry about your loss. Memories of you growing up in the neighborhood will always be with us. God bless you, Jean and hope you will be well, Carl & Barb Sherman

March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean was an impressive force in my own recovery. I can still hear his thick NYC accent saying 'an attitude of gratitude will never take a drink.'Blessed be.Kitty S

March 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ To My Wonderful Friend Helen Bugaj (Dean's Beloved Sister)God Bless You & Your Family.Love,Rajinder

March 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean is now playing those drums along side God WHAT AN HONORThanks for letting me be in just a small part of your life

March 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jean-sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family .

March 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ my condolences to the family of deano what a great person to know and my thoughts are with his family. what a great friend of bill w. he was and a great role model walking the walk.... way to go deano.

March 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Don, My Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May your faith help you through this difficult time. Bernie Gleeson*

March 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *dean was my friend, sponsor, mentor and second father. his absence will be keenly felt forever. he is at home with the lord now.*

March 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *The first time we met Dean was a memorable one. He had volunteered to help with a fund-raising picnic that I chaired. He was so enthusiastic and went out to recruit more volunteers. They were in charge of keeping the grounds clean. He made it fun and it was like watching a crew right out of Disneyworld! Good men are hard to find. We were fortunate to know Dean - he was a good man, who did many good things for his fellow man.*

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *I, m sorry for Deans Family a n friends. I will miss him alot at pathfindersKerry*

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean made Enable the most fun place I have ever worked! He invented Path Finders where we took people with developmental disabilities throughout central New York on amazing hiking adventures. One time we got caught in a micro-burst that came out of nowhere(I still think was a tornado). We managed to get most of the hikers back to the safety of the cars. As hail was thundering down and winds were whipping so hard I could barely see; Dean of course was making sure the last person was able to return to the safety of the car. As I ran back to help them, a giant hail stone smashed my sun glasses. I kept running towards Dean's car but he stopped me by yelling, stop, run for it, run for it, We're O.K.! He always stuck his neck out to help people around him, no matter who it was! Dean put other people before himself, and was one of the most loving and caring people I have ever met! I can't believe that I'll never see him again.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I worked with Dean for 9 years. He was a very special person and will be missed by all who knew him.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean was a wonderful,talented and caring man. He was the type of person we should all aspire to be like. He will be missed. God bless Deano.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jean, I wish there were words I could say to ease your pain, but just know that I love you and you are deep in my heart. I am always here if you need me, for anything at all. May your family surround you and help you through the next couple of days. My heart goes out to you my dear friend.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I used to get paid good money for being a writer, but these heartfelt tributes to my brother completely humble me. And I am thankful for it.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean will be greatly missed by the Enable Family. He was kind, generous, witty and a wonderful support and advocate for the individuals we serve. I am truly grateful for having known and worked with him. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so blessed to have known Dean. For fifteen yrs. he was a friend, esp. to John P., a committed and compassionate co-worker, and most recently a neighbor. Throughout the years we shared many fond memories of growing up on Long Island and working in NYC--"we spoke the same language". It was a blast, Deano. See ya down the road, Buddy.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ You will be greatly missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing you! You were an amazing man and will always have a special place in my heart! Love you Deano.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of your family Dean. Though we lost touch after we moved away, you were thought of often, everytime I put on the jewelry you made for me and whenever I heard the song Muskrat Love that you and the other groomsmen performed for us at our wedding. Thank you for standing up with us at our wedding. You will be greatly missed and the Lord must have some awesome worship happening up there.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Rest in peace. Deano was a special one of a kind man.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Family.It was a pleasure knowing Deanand having a chance to be a fellow sister to him in our recovery. He will be missed by a lot of us. I,ll keep you in my prayers. Lots of love to all, ZeeHALSE

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I remember when we assembled a rag-tag group of hand drummers and thought it would be good to praise and worship our Lord though drumming. He always enjoyed going to area parks with the group so he could spread the Good News to passers by. I will miss his talent, his passion, his compassion and his love of life. Thanks Deano!

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean was always smiling and caring for everyone. He loved everyone he worked with and will be missed.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jean and other members of Dean's family. Thanks for being much like a father when guidance was so desperately needed.

March 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I would never trust anyone that didn't like puppies, children or Dean Cullen!And for that matter, I never met anyone that didn't like Dean Cullen.He was my friend, a fellow traveler, the best man at my wedding and I miss him.Farewell my good man, fare well!

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I know you are at peace. Thank you for always laying it out there straight. Your actions spoke louder than your words.

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *When I was a kid, Dean was my pen pal. We would write 'picture' letters back a forth.... instead of words, we used pictures. Those letters are one of my favorite memories Dean was such an artist and an inspiration to all who crossed his path. He is in a well deserved place now, happier than ever.... and hopefully wearing a long pony tail. Much love Dean! We will see you soon.*

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *May you rest in peace, Dean, my friend. Thank you so very much for all your help over the years. Your wisdom was never-ending. I will miss you. My prayers and thoughts are with you Jean, during this very hard trying time. Everyone who knew Dean, loved Dean.*

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *My sincere sympathy goes out to all the members of Deans family. I spent some time with Dean & his brother Don on several fishing trips. Dean was always full of humor & a great listener. Dean had some of the best stories to share & certainly a pleasant person to be around.*

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Jeanne, I am so sorry that Dean has passed on to the Lord. But, through faith I know that it is where he is free and happy. I hold you in complete admiration for your faith and for how you took care of your husband. I am very proud to be your sister. Anytime you need something you know I am here for you, whatever that something may be. I love you with all my heart. Ree*

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Always enjoyed talking to Dean and his playing in the worship band when we both attended the Vineyard.

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I just remember anytime I came over & he was there, there was always a good story and laugh.

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Uncle Deano was larger than life. Everything he did and everything that happened to him could almost instantaneously be turned into a lavish story. Every unusual skill or bit of trivia was a miracle to be revealed. Every moustache framed, head-tilted smile, a frozen picture that requires no camera to remember. We'll miss you.

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean, a true man of God. May God comfort his wife and family with peace and love always. My sincere sympathy. Debbie DiGiacomo, friend with Onondaga Community Living

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean has always and will always be an inspiration to us both. Dean had a wonderful way of teaching others , he had a quick wit, and his message always gave glory to our Lord. Just recently Jean passed a message to me from Dean that reminded me I had nothing to worry about because God had already taken care of it. That was his way, he knew about pain and trial and was triumphant through it all. What a memory for details! He was a very, very special man of God. Thank you, Lord for putting him in our lives. It has made this journey so much richer to have known him.

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Wow, there are sooo many. We worked together at Enable, before I left to go to HOME Inc..Dean was terrific..he was certainly there for some of my struggles. Always a perfect gentleman, eager to listen and offer support. I valued his intelligence and gentle direct wisdom

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean, You have left many fond memories in our heart, mind, and soul. We will always remember our "pathfinders" days, which was the best part of every week spend at Enable, and ultimately brought us together as a couple. And from there we built a family. We now have an incredible son, Nicholas, and much love in our lives. A beautiful photograph graces the entrance to our home that you took and framed for us, and will be our remembrance of you and the many passions that you shared with all of us. You will be missed by many, especially John P and the rest of your enable family. And Deano, if there is pathfinders in heaven, we'll meet you on the trail.Laura and Chuck Wilbur

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



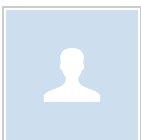
“ I have never known nor will I ever know anyone the likes of my friend Dean. Dean was the most complex, cerebral, and caring person to walk this earth. Being his friend for 42 years, Deano embraced life straight on..all in. It didn't matter if you were 5 or 85, blessed or challenged, Cullen was there for you. He was a beacon of light. Raw energy, hurricane-like demeanor with an infectious smile & personality. Crazy as crazy gets, but above all fun. Dean was FUN! Dean didn't know about I-phones or computers or the latest styles, but what he did know about was decency,in it's purest form. Syracuse will be a little grayer for awhile(if that's possible), but down the road look to the sky. Dean's there! He'll be the one hitched to a comet forever shining his light. I salute you my brother...

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



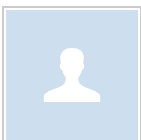
“ being a childhood friend of his borther warren, i remember Deano as a young, strong, intelligent guy that I looked up to. i loved competing against him in school yard football and baseball,my heart goes out to those he left behind.

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Deano Rip my friend thanks for being part of all our lives and a true man if AA to look up to

March 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ You will be greatly missed not only by friends & family but especially by the participants you served who loved you very much. Thank you for all you have done.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jeani know its been a while since we have spoken but I want you to know my thoughts are with you. I am so sorry to hear about your loss and will keep you in my prayers.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I worked with Dean for a year and 1/2. Dean inspired me and many others with his positive attitude and loyalty with everyone he worked with. He will be missed.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jean,I'm so very sorry to hear about your husband. You will be in my families prayers.Ray

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I will always treasure our Tuesday night Jamesville philisopical discussions. He was a great friend to us all and especially the guys he helped out. I am so glad that Dean found you, Jean- his true friend. Tom and I will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ My prayer for Dean and his family.Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love;where there is injury, pardon;where there is doubt, faith;where there is despair, hope;where there is darkness, light;where there is sadness, joy;O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean was a true champion of all people. He found a way to support you where you are, yet managed to help you to be the best you can be. What an honor it was to come across this wonderful man in my life.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers to Jean and family. Dean was a wonderful guy and helped a ton of people in AA with his message, his humor and his wonderful, caring ways. He was a creative guy with a heart of gold.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jean,I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I am very saddened by the passing of my good friend Dean. We spent many hours laughing (mostly at ourselves). He was a true brother, in every sense of the word. I will miss him and his humor very much.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jean, I am very sorry for the loss of your husband. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



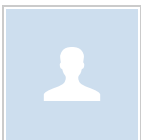
“ Dean, You are one of the best people I know and I will always love you. I am lucky to have known you. Andy Alpern

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I will always remember the kindness and help that Dean extended to me when I arrived in Syracuse. Jean, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I didn't know Dean but I know Jean, and I know he made her very happy.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dean may you rest in peace. I learned a lot from you those times that we got together. I know your pain is gone now and your energy is forever. Aunt Jean, I am so sorry for your loss. My heart is with you. Love, Ben

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ What a tragic loss of a good person. Dean will be missed by everyone at Enable. He was dedicated to his work in Community Networks and spent countless hours working on projects/activities for his participants. He was well liked by a lot of people. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Very sorry to hear of Dean's passing. I will miss him very much. He always had a great wit and a kind heart. He gave strength to many people including myself. Deepest Sympathy, Pete and Jeanne McMahon

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you Dean... It has truly been an honor!Until we meet again,Brian & Rachel Benton

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you, Jean and both of your families!! I hope you all find comfort in your memories. I know we are all better people for knowing Dean-o...he touched so many lives!!

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Deano...you were an extraordinary man..Painter, poet,teacher of life,lifter of spirits..to quote carole king's tapestry lyrics (which for some reason always reminded me of you), ""Your life has been a tapestry of rich & royal hue, an everlasting vision of the ever changing view, a wonderous world in magic in bits of blue & gold,a tapestry to feel & see,impossible to hold...rest in peace dear friend. To Jean & the Cullen family: Our thoughts & prayers are with you during this most difficult time. Just know Deano is at peace with the Lord & probably taking over & reworking the Kingdom of Heaven as we speak!!!!

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jean, I wish I could be there at this time. You are in my prayers now more than ever. I'll never forget how you and Dean played for me at The Rescue Mission before we moved to Georgia 6 years ago. You played "Amazing Grace".I'll never forget the gang at Nob Hill. Dean was a shining beacon for a lot of people.I'll tell him thanks when I see him next.Love & Prayers,Diane & Eddie

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Deano Blessed me in so many ways I have Great memories of times we had. I know now he is at peace and He is in the presence of the King. See you again my friend. My thoughts and Prayers go out to you Jean and Deano's Family and Loved ones

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



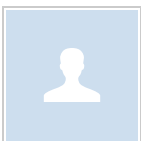
“ Jeannie, My prayers are with you and your family as you go through this difficult time. Dean was a great guy and always lived on the positive side of life. May God continue to be a light in your life as he was and is with Dean. Pam

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ you helped me a lot buddy ,hope i did the same . catch ya in a while

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Memories, where would I begin?DeanO was a one of a kind man. Kind, compassionate, giving and always there when somebody, anybody, needed a helping hand. DeanO was strong and didnt belive in the word quit. He, even in the face of passing gave it it his all, till he no longer physically had the strength. I know this because I have been honored to have had the opportunity to have such a special person in my life as a friend and co worker. DeanO, you have touch so so many. Your sprit will live on in me for my lifetime. Bless you Dean.....

March 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM