



Lyle Dwight Wray

January 5, 2024

LYLE DWIGHT WRAY, PhD.

Lyle Wray, age 73, died January 5, 2024 at UConn Hospital in West Hartford, CT after a long and difficult journey with cancer. His spouse was at his side. Lyle was born in 1950 to parents Clarence and Mary Ellen Wray in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. He moved to the US in the 1970s and maintained dual citizenship throughout his life.

Over many years, always in pursuit of results that matter for people and communities, he worked with international, state, regional, and local governments as well as not-for profit organizations. He was forever intellectually curious; always the teacher; a world-wide traveler; an author and innovator; a science fiction buff...he loved the truth no matter where it led. He will be sorely missed.

Lyle is survived by his spouse, Lloyd Johnson; sister Lois (Les) Walterson; and a host of colleagues and friends both in CT and MN.

A memorial service will be held on January 20, 2024 at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. Visitation begins at 2:00 p.m. and the service begins at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. To participate virtually and/or to express condolences, please see www.molloyfuneralhome.com.

Please use this streaming link

<https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/8629133206>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 20. 2:00 PM - 2:55 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Memorial Service

JAN 20. 3:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Tribute Wall



“ Molloy Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Lyle Dwight Wray



Molloy Funeral Home - January 19, 2024 at 12:40 PM



“ Molloy Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Lyle Dwight Wray



Molloy Funeral Home - January 11, 2024 at 10:18 AM

DM

So very sorry that I will never again have the unique opportunity of challenged by one so perceptive ,articulate and knowledgeable ! A Booming voice and Brilliant mind chewing thru Ideas n Data to set a plan o direction ! Seldom short of confidence on his Course ! Typically Correct ! I shall treasure the conversations about Science Fiction , Buddhist Meditation and Various Personality Traits ! He said he was going to “Siam” for a Retreat ! I said it’s called “Thailand Now” ! And , of course , he was Right ! Soon , the Siamese may reverse and return to the Republic of Siam ! And Lyle will most assuredly find a Role ! Gentle waters and Following Breeze , my Friend !

Daniel O’Neill of Stillwater , Minnesota - January 16, 2024 at 02:09 AM

BK

“ Dear Lloyd, we met years ago in Minneapolis and when both you and Lyle were visiting here in Chicago almost 30 years ago. I would love it if you reached out to me. blake.kirkland@outlook.com

Blake Kirkland - January 24, 2025 at 07:47 PM

MH

“ Dear Lloyd Johnson, Lois Walterson and Family of Lyle Wray: I am writing as a longtime colleague and admirer of Lyle through the American Society for Public Administration and the National Center for Public Performance. Lyle participated brilliantly at our meetings and contributed substantively to our publications, such as *The Public Productivity and Performance Handbook, 3rd Ed.*, for which he recently wrote an very insightful chapter on "Launching and Sustaining a Performance Management System." Lyle's scholarship was informed by his deep immersion in public management, and his practice was informed by his synthesis of the literature. I always enjoyed brainstorming with him as to how to educate the field as to the advantages of performance measurement and improvement. I and many others will miss him as an intellectual powerhouse, a trusted colleague, and a person dedicated to continually improving the public good.

Marc Holzer, Distinguished Professor Emeritus (Rutgers University); Past-President American Society for Public Administration; Founder, National Center for Public Performance.

Marc Holzer - January 26, 2024 at 06:26 PM

SC

“ Scott Colby planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lyle Dwight Wray.

Scott Colby - January 22, 2024 at 08:13 AM

SC

“ Scott Colby purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Lyle Dwight Wray.



Scott Colby - January 22, 2024 at 08:13 AM

HM

“ I knew Lyle from our days together at the National Association of Regional Councils. I always enjoyed talking to Lyle. He was smart, and irreverent. His keen observations, good ideas, and common sense were appreciated by all of us who worked with him. I hope family and friends take some comfort in knowing that his good deeds made a difference in the world of government. Regards, Howard Maier, retired executive director of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Cleveland, Ohio

Howard R. Maier - January 21, 2024 at 11:28 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Lyle Dwight Wray.



January 20, 2024 at 05:23 AM

DB

“ We appreciated Lyle's dedication to the community for so many years, including his service on Riverfront Recapture's Board of Directors as an ex-officio member in his role leading CRCOG. He will be missed.

DBaker - January 19, 2024 at 12:56 PM

LS

“ It is with profound sadness and a heavy heart that we bid farewell to Lyle Wray, a stalwart member of the Capital Workforce Partners board and a former leader of the Capital Region Council of Governments. His sudden departure marks a deeply shocking and tragic loss, not just for us at Capital Workforce Partners, but for everyone whose life he touched.

Lyle was not just a colleague; he was a beacon of guidance and wisdom, whose presence brought a sense of assurance and positivity. His remarkable ability to blend profound insights with compassionate leadership made him an invaluable asset to our team. Every decision, every strategy, and every success we enjoyed was imbued with Lyle's foresight and expertise.

His commitment to our mission was unwavering, and his contributions were immeasurable. He brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that was vital in steering our organization towards its goals. More than that, he was a mentor to many, generously sharing his wisdom and learning with all of us. His guidance was not just professional but profoundly personal, shaping not only our work but also our approach to life's challenges.

Lyle's presence in any room was a source of comfort and inspiration. He had an extraordinary ability to light up the atmosphere with his positivity, much like a ray of sunshine piercing through the clouds. His passion, his energy, and his unrelenting commitment to our cause were contagious, inspiring us all to strive for excellence.

As we mourn this incalculable loss, we remember Lyle not just for the professional acumen he brought to our board but for the incredible human being he was. His legacy is one of kindness, dedication, and inspirational leadership—a legacy that will continue to guide us in our mission.

To Lyle's family, friends, and everyone who had the privilege of

knowing him, we extend our deepest sympathies. Though he is no longer with us, his spirit and the indelible mark he left on our organization and our hearts will remain forever.

Lyle Wray, a truly beautiful soul, will be profoundly missed. His memory will continue to be a guiding light for us all. Rest in peace, dear friend. Your legacy will live on through the countless lives you've touched.

Capital Workforce Partners

Liz Saunders - January 19, 2024 at 12:26 PM

LF

“ *He was one of the good guys. Hartford will be diminished by his loss. My condolences.* ”

Lisa Fecke - January 17, 2024 at 01:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lyle Dwight Wray.* ”



January 16, 2024 at 06:04 PM

DS

“ *Most sorry to hear about Lyle's passing. He was a passionate, knowledgeable advocate for transit as well as Greater Hartford and its people.* ”

Don Stacom - January 16, 2024 at 11:26 AM

JA

“ Lyle was the true embodiment of a public servant. He worked tirelessly for the Hartford Region making a difference in so many ways. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. We have truly lost a great guy and friend.

John Adams - January 16, 2024 at 10:39 AM

DL

“ Lyle was a national leader in regional problem-solving, a great thought-leader and former board member and advisor for the National Civic League. As the League's president, I have often quoted Lyle's wisdom and will miss him and his contributions to the field.

Doug Linkhart - January 15, 2024 at 03:43 PM

BC

“ I am so thankful that someone suggested Lyle as a member of my team to review institutional and community services for people with developmental disabilities in a Canadian province back in the early 1980s. He brought such a breadth and depth of both knowledge and values to the task. He taught and supported me so much over the following decades. I took as many opportunities as I could to include him on my consulting and review teams in Canada. He was a good friend, though alas we drifted out of contact over the years. And, of course, I will be forever grateful to Lyle for introducing me to Colleen Wieck and the opportunity to be part of her incredible work in Minnesota.

Bruce Kappel (Toronto Canada) - January 15, 2024 at 11:00 AM

CO

“ I very much enjoyed working with Lyle and others on the voluntary Hartford-Springfield Economic Partnership. Lyle had insight, intelligence and wit. He won't be soon forgotten.

Cornelius P O'Leary - January 14, 2024 at 10:12 PM

JM

“ Lyle had an indelible impact on me and I think fondly of the 10 years that I worked for him at CRCOG. His enthusiasm for the work that we all did for the Hartford region had me always thinking “what if?” as we worked through tough challenges and created opportunities for positive change. He never hesitated to push ideas further, ask for another draft, or offer us the latest pictures from his far flung travel. I am a better professional and person for my time under his wing. I offer my sincere condolences to Lloyd and Les. He was a good man who made an impact and will be missed.



Jen March-Wackers - January 13, 2024 at 09:42 PM

PE

“ *Very sad to learn that Lyle has died. For many years he was one of my favorite colleagues, collaborators, and co-authors, and an insightful friend on projects that drew on his knowledge and experience from across the country and around the world. I will remember breakthrough moments Lyle stimulated, such as when we--with others--were pouring over a mass of research information looking for key relationships, and Lyle came up with a simple diagram that tied it all together. And I could never forget his wry sense of humor. My condolences to his family and friends, especially to Lloyd.*

Paul Epstein - January 13, 2024 at 03:50 PM

BT

“ *I was very surprised to hear about the passing of Lyle. He worked tirelessly for Hartford, the Hartford region, good government, the regionalization of services, and greater transportation options for Connecticut. He was an extremely intelligent man who very much enjoyed researching and developing options for CRCOG to assist its member towns in achieving greater efficiencies. I enjoyed working with him as a member of the Board. His achievements will be a great memory of all he did for Connecticut. Bonnie Therrien*

Bonnie L Therrien - January 13, 2024 at 03:25 PM

TB

“ Lyle and I knew and respected each other for many years. He was very intelligent and had a great understanding of human nature. He also cared about humanity and worked everyday for the betterment of both people and establishments that helped people.

He also had another side which involved waves of data on multiple important topics. He also had a great sense of humor and came out with some of the funniest stories I have ever heard. We will miss you. Thanks for all the people that you interceded with to show them and their families a better life and making their existence more meaningful and fun

Terry Borjeson

Terry Borjeson - January 12, 2024 at 11:58 PM

AK

“ One of the many privileges of working with Lyle on public policy issues in Connecticut was that I always learned something new from him, especially comparing New England's land use policies to Minnesota's or exploring how to expand Connecticut's sparse reliance on regional approaches. As a former Mayor and State Legislator from Norwalk, I always appreciated Lyle's willingness to journey down to Southwestern Connecticut from his Hartford base to participate in our policy forums. The quip from Lyle I always try to share about the difficulty of planning inter-town activities is that "Connecticut is a Native American word meaning Czechoslovakia!" Thank you, Lyle, and condolences to your family. Alex Knopp

Alex Knopp - January 12, 2024 at 09:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Lyle Dwight Wray.



January 12, 2024 at 12:33 PM