



Sean Taylor

October 6, 1971 - March 19, 2012
Paw Paw, MI

LIFE STORY / OBITUARY

There was just something extra special about Sean Taylor. Anyone who had the opportunity to get to know him, could feel it, as well. Maybe it was his helpful nature, or his friendly and honest to the core demeanor. In all ways, Sean was simply an easy going and quiet sort of fellow who was a likable friend to many. Although sadly missed, his spirit lives on in the hearts of those he leaves behind.

The 1970s reflected a period of great change in our country. Richard M. Nixon was the 37th President of the United States, and the Vietnam War continued to rage with a vengeance. While peace rallies were commonplace across the nation, American's tried to distract their worries with television shows like Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In and All in the Family. Rock and roll was hitting the charts by storm as well as the pop sounds of Carole King, Rod Stewart and the Osmonds. In the bustling city of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Jon and Barbara (Pugh) Taylor had much to be thankful for with the October 6, 1971 birth of their son, Sean.

Raised in the close knit, rural community of Paw Paw, Michigan, Sean was welcomed home from the hospital by his six year old brother, Scott. Typical brothers, they had their share of spats but also shared many adventures together. Sean looked up to his big brother. When Sean was in the third grade, they began sharing their love for BMX bike racing, too. Sean really got into the sport, until he was 12. He was good at it too, and most often beat everyone. His parents drove Sean and Scott to their many meets everywhere, but it was well worth it. The boys became sponsored and both went on to become state champs.

Sean attended the local Paw Paw schools and was involved in a variety of clubs. He loved flying remote controlled, high tech airplanes which continued well into his adulthood. He also became interested in different scales of model railroads. His maternal grandfather, John Pugh, built and ran miniature steam engines and they both enjoyed going to Turkeyville as well as other places to run them. The military peaked his interest, too, especially when his brother became an Army Ranger. Sean so wanted to be like Scott, but his health issues kept him from experiencing some of the many things he desired to do.

Life as Sean knew it forever changed while at school one day when he became quite ill. It was soon discovered he only had one kidney. Desperately needing a transplant, he remained in the hospital for a long, three months and for the following three years was on dialysis until receiving his first kidney transplant. Even still, Sean managed to graduate from Paw Paw High School in 1989.

For most of his life since that time, Sean suffered from severe infections. He also underwent various surgeries throughout his body, and was in his late thirties when he had his second transplant about two and a half years ago. Over the years Sean took his illness in stride and for the most part accepted it as a fact of his life. He didn't allow it to take over, and came to enjoy many things. He loved NASCAR and liked watching the cars race at Hartford Raceway. He was into hunting and fishing, and appreciated a variety of music genres.

Sean loved working when he was healthy and became a conductor in Elkhart, Indiana for a pleasure train. He truly loved it, but he never knew when his health would take a turn. For 12 years he worked alongside his father in maintenance at Honeybear Canning in Lawton which worked well because they were the best of friends. For over half his life, Sean lived at home with his parents and for a time rented a home with some friends. As hard as he tried to be independent and lead life on his own, Sean suffered the on and off again effects of his illness.

On the quiet side until he got to know someone, Sean was a friend to many. He could be counted on to lend a helping hand, and was an honest man. Just the same, he was easy going and didn't fluster easily. Sean liked hanging out with his buddies, especially at the Sporting Shop. He continued his love for flying remote controlled planes, and the bigger and more complicated, the better. He particularly enjoyed attending the Kalamazoo Air Zoo.

With a mixed bag of interests, along with the needs of his illness, Sean was that rare individual who enjoyed just about all that life had to offer. He had a cat he adopted, and named him "Chess", and all his friends knew his truck, which could be likened to that of a good old farmer's truck. It ran rather well, yet was a sight for sore eyes on the inside and out. About the only time it ever got a good washing was with a hard rain! Cooking was his specialty, especially grilling and crock-pot cooking of which his parents will truly miss.

Recently, Sean landed back in the hospital when his health issues took a turn for the worse. With little that could be done, Sean M. Taylor, at the age of 40, sadly passed away Sunday, March 19, 2012 at Bronson Hospital. One of a kind, he added much to the lives of those who knew and loved him with ways all his own. He will be deeply missed.

Sean is survived by his parents, Jon and Barbara Taylor; his brother, Scott (Shannon) Taylor, and their three children: Devin, Nolan and Callaghan; and by his Aunt Pat (Carl) Baker. Services for Sean will be held Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 11:00 AM at the Life Story Funeral Home, Betzler & Thompson - Paw Paw; 60900 M-40, 657-3870 followed by a luncheon. Memorial donations may be directed to the National Kidney Foundation. To share a favorite memory and photo of Sean and to sign his online guest book, please visit www.lifestorynet.com.



SERVICE

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
11:00 AM EDT
Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes
Paw Paw Location
60900 Michigan 40
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(657) 657-3870

Followed by a luncheon.

[Driving Directions](#)

CONTRIBUTIONS

At the family's request memorial contributions are to be made to those listed below. Please forward payment directly to the memorial of your choice.

American Kidney Fund
11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300
Rockville, MD 20852
1 (800) 638-8299
[Web Site](#)

