



Rick Taylor

February 3, 1967 - October 3, 2013

Mr. Rick Taylor passed on October 3, 2013. Home going services for Mr. Rick Taylor will be held at 11AM SATURDAY, October 12, 2013 at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church chapel in Lithonia, Ga. Interment Hillandale Memorial Gardens, Lithonia, Ga. Visitation FRIDAY 4-6PM, family hour 6-8PM at our chapel. Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory Inc, 914 Scenic Hwy, Lawrenceville, Ga 770-338-5558. With family surrounding him, Rick Darnell Taylor quietly transitioned from this world to be with God on Thursday, October 3, 2013. Rick was born February 3, 1967 in Harriman, Tennessee. At an early age he professed his belief in God and was baptized in 1978 and began his Christian development and education at St. Mary's Baptist Church in Harriman, Tennessee. There he served as a member of the junior choir and was an active student in Sunday school learning the ways of the Lord. Rick lived his life with quiet confidence in himself and his abilities, but most importantly in the power of God Almighty. He graduated from Harriman High School in 1985. He was an active student leader and outstanding athlete with the Harriman High School Football team. His exceptional athletic performance and strong academic skills earned him a scholarship to Middle Tennessee State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Actuarial Science and Finance in 1990. Rick had a deep passion for learning and teaching. He gladly tutored younger family members and friends on critical topics such as mathematical principles, times tables, the proper way to ride your first bicycle and how to swim a strong lap. In college

he worked with Sylvan Learning Center to assist students in obtaining their educational goals. In light of the challenge of his battle with sickle cell anemia, Rick maintained a strong commitment to physical well being and encouraged others around him to maintain their physical health as well. He shared his love of bodybuilding with friends and relatives and was quick to encourage them to stay as healthy as possible. Rick believed in and deeply loved his family. In 1992 Rick met the love of his life, Karen and they were married in 1994. This union and partnership was initiated through the extended loving hands of Karen's sister, Sharlene Brown and Rick's uncle, Larry Taylor. Upon first meeting her he exclaimed, "You're a sweet chocolate drop." Through their union, they were blessed with two children a loving son, Rick D. Taylor, Jr., and their precious daughter, Mariah. Traveling to his hometown to see his parents, reunite with his siblings and local community members was very important to Rick. He did this as often as possible. Rick had a great sense of humor and was famous for his sarcastic one liners expressed in a loving way. His dearest friends and associates all left his presence with a nickname that marked the love and humor exchanged in their relationships. Those nicknames and humor were always trademarks of an interaction with him. Rick expressed compassion for his fellow man. At the time of his diagnosis with sickle cell anemia, Rick was a college football player. The doctors estimated that he would not live past his mid-twenties. However, God favored him and gave him twenty more years. When he began to receive treatment at Nashville's Meharry Medical College for his illness, he was asked by the doctors to visit young hospitalized children who had sickle cell. The doctors asked Rick to visit the children as a role model demonstrating the importance of taking care of their physical body and the possibility that they could become stronger. The children were amazed by his muscles in light of their bodies which were generally very feeble. A man of many interests, Rick had numerous hobbies. He was a naturally inquisitive person with a fascination for animals – particularly those in the wild. The eagle was a special animal to him. Rick, along with his father and his brother engaged in competitive shooting.

He became a member of the International Defensive Pistol Association and the United States Practical Shooting Association. For Rick, Karen and Mariah, attending the latest movie releases was an important ritual on the weekend, and his plan for the upcoming year was to become "The Barbecue Pitmaster" for his family. Rick was a consummate professional, bringing his zeal for life to his work place. He served as the Budget and Fiscal Policy Director for the City of Atlanta's Budget Administration team from 1993-2006 and from 2008-2011. In 2006-2008 he served as the International Financial Advisor for the Municipal Finance Management Technical Advisory Program in Pretoria, South Africa. In 2012 Rick began a new venture at Cox Communications as a Senior Accounting Analyst. In this role, Rick performed analytical reviews of accounting transactions to ensure the accuracy of the Company's financial statements. Throughout his professional career he was known for his strong skill set as well as his compassion and support of his co-workers. Most importantly Rick was an active servant of God showing Christ to others through his deeds. Never complaining about his illness, he was daily anchored by God's mercy. His favorite song was "Great Is Thy Mercy Toward Me" which captured his appreciation for his ability to deal with his illness throughout the years. Rick was preceded in death by his son, Rick D. Taylor, Jr. and his brother, Solomon Kenya Taylor. He is survived by his wife, Karen and daughter, Mariah; his parents, Daniel W. and Patricia Taylor, Harriman, Tennessee; his sisters Dionne and (Marlon) Placide (Nashville, TN) and Jennifer Johnson (Atlanta, GA); his brothers Damyen and (Tabitha) Taylor (Nashville, TN); Derrick and Madge Anders (Rockwood, TN); his sister-in-laws, Selena Perry (Chattanooga, TN) and Sharlene Brown (Covington, GA). His nieces and nephews include Nia Placide (Nashville, Tennessee); Jalen Taylor (Nashville, TN); Ieashia Taylor (Chattanooga, TN); Solomon Taylor (Chattanooga, TN); Dontavis Taylor (Chattanooga, TN); Taylor Johnson (Rockwood, TN) and Chassidy Anders (Rockwood, TN). He also leaves behind his beloved nanny, Mrs. Minnie Love (Harriman, TN), and beloved aunt

Mrs. Brenda Hobbs (Stone Mountain, GA) and a host of loving aunts, uncles, cousins, family and friends.

Tribute Wall

KT

“ Thank you. Mariah and I are grateful for your kind words about Rick and thank you for your prayers and love.

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Thank you Joi. I will also cherish that beautiful photo I took of you with Rick at the family reunion. Who knew that would be the last time we'd be together with him. But we had a blast!

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Mariah and I Thank you for your kind words.

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Mariah and I thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Tracy, Mariah and I thank you for your kind words.

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Hi Richard, Mariah and I thank you and yes Rick still made that noise...lol. Again thank you for your kind words and continued prayers for me and Mariah.

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Thank you. Yes Ricky enjoyed being a mentor. Mariah and I thank you and appreciate your kind words and prayers.

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Thanks Scott he is in God's special care and Mariah and I appreciate your kind words and prayers.

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Thank you Darlene. We love you too.

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Thank you. Mariah and I appreciate your kind words and continued prayers.

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Mariah and I thank you for your prayers.

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KT

“ Mariah and I thank you for your kind words and prayers.

Karen Taylor - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ To the family of Mr. Rick Taylor: Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. Death is the enemy of all mankind, yet when it touches us personally, few seek the comfort they search for. The doctrines that are taught concerning death find their origins from men and not the Bible. As a result, they fail to leave those who are grieving with comfort or a hope. They do however, leave many with unanswered questions. The response that God works in mysterious ways or that God needed another angel, does not satisfy the spiritual needs of those who are grieving. However, many have found comfort in the pages of God's word the Bible (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4). In God's word we find the promise that we can be reunited with our loved ones (John 5:28,29; Acts 24:15). The Bible tells us where this happy reunion will take place (Psalm 37: 11, 29; Matthew 5:5). We are told why we die (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 5:12), and that the God of the Bible will end death forever (Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 21:3,4). Learning the truth about Jehovah, the God of the Bible (Psalm 83:18), God's Kingdom (Daniel 2:44), and the state of those who have died (Ecclesiastes 9:5), is the start to finding true comfort concerning loved ones who are sleeping in death (John 11:11-14; John 8:32). For more information please visit the website jw.org.

A Friend - October 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I am speechless because I only heard of Rick's passing after the funeral had taken place. I met Rick Taylor while working for the City of Atlanta, Solicitor General's Office. Rick was my budget analyst, he walked me through the ropes of preparing a budget. He was my friend and SUPER! SUPER! person, He was a young man with a great deal of old knowledge. My prayers are with his wife Karen and his daughter Mariah and the entire family. He will be truly missed. May the Lord be with you today and always. Deloise Mathews and Deja Mathews

Deloise Mathews - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ When I learned of Rick's passing...I knew my life would change forever. He was a very good friend and confidante, and what was interesting was with as sick as he was...he never complained of his illness, and he seemed to concern himself more for others than himself. To just imagine not ever seeing my friend again is heartbreaking, but I'm at peace knowing that he is no longer in any pain and finally resting.

Grace J. Lopez - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DZ

“ I met Rick when he married my cousin Karen (formerly Brown) in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Karen and I grew up together in Florida and would often dream about what our husbands and weddings would be like when we got married. And at their beautiful, romantic wedding, I knew Karen had found the Prince of her dreams. Rick was truly a good man--kind, loyal, generous, funny, loving, and always welcoming (even when I crashed at their house in the early days of their marriage); he made you feel cared about and affirmed, with grace and humor. As a family, they made a great team and were such fun to be around--I know Karen and Mariah will have countless wonderful memories to reflect on and to give them comfort during this time. And knowing Rick, his spirit will always be around to protect them and strengthen them, because that's just the kind of man he was. He will be deeply missed until we're all reunited again in heaven. Sending you love and lifting you in prayer, Karen and Mariah and Rick's mom, dad, siblings, and extended family. God bless, Joi

Dierdra Zollar - October 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I was so saddened to learn of Rick's passing. He was truly a great person and very nice. Karen and Sharlene were such blessings to my life and it feels great just to know them. My heart and prayers go to the family

JAVANNA HOLLEY - October 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ A great athlete friend and all around wonderful person. I lost touch with Rick after high school but thoughts of him have often crossed my mind. Rick was the type of man many mothers want there sons to become.

Brad Crabtree - October 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Words cannot tell you how sorry I am for your loss. I went to school with Ricky in elementary school and throughout high school. He was always such a fun person to be around and I don't know anyone that didn't love him! I hadn't seen him in years and was really glad to read about all the wonderful things he did. Wow, what an a amazing inspiration he was! You just 'know' that some people will really be somebody in life and he was one of those people. I always new it. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. RIP Rick Taylor!

Tracy Clem - October 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ I first met Rick in 3rd grade, we had matching timex watches and thought we were so grown up. I lost track of him during college years. I knew he graduated and married, and was happy for him. Everybody loved this guy! I can't think of one person who ever had a negative thing to say about him. He was a great athlete, student and friend and had an awesome sense of humor! He will be missed by all who knew him. We will see you again some day my friend, and I hope you still make that noise! Richard Lowery

Richard Lowery - October 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Lit a candle in memory of Rick Taylor

The Boyd Family - October 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ I remember those black horn rim glasses you wore growing up in the Gap. What a handsome, warm hearted man you grew up to be. I'll miss your big smile and those great hugs. You rest my friend, you have fought the good fight. You and Solomon take care of each other. Pat and Dan I love you guys and all of your family. Many blessings on you. I send love and condolences from my Mom, brothers and sister. Love Pamela Hill

Pamela - October 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ You know God has special plans for Ricky. What an influence he had on those that knew him and what an example he set for friends, family, and strangers. I cherish the times we spent together as best friends in 2nd grade and the memories me made with all of our friends the following years until graduation. While we will miss Ricky here on earth, we all know Heaven is a much better place with Ricky there! To all of Ricky's family...please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Scott Mason - October 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ I have a few memories of Ricky Taylor, I was an incoming freshman and he was a senior I was practicing football with the varsity one day, I happened to be in the right place at the right time, and intercepted a pass that was intended for Ricky, I just stood there and he said run, he took me uder his wing and showed me proper form and technique on the field and the weight room, and still today when someone asks how I got my form i say Ricky Taylor. God Bless the Taylor family.

Travis Kirkland - October 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Your in my thoughts and prayers, love Damon Talley.

The Talley Family - October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ I have great childhood memories with you but regret not taking time to make adult ones. Will miss you. Our prayers go out to Karen, Dan (Bubba), Pat and family. Luv you guys! Darlene, Clyde and kids.

Darlene Anderson - October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ I have some wonderful memories of working with Rick at The City. I could always count on Rick to give a well thought out and accurate response to my question(s). I will always remember him as such a gentleman, with a million dollar smile. May your soul rest in peace. Margaret Crenshaw

Margaret Crenshaw - October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Thoughts & prayers sent to the Taylor family during this difficult loss. So thankful for the hope and assurance we hold in knowing we will see our loved ones again. Ricky was an amazing man . He will be missed greatly

Kim clower - October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Few men have I had the honor of calling friend. However, Rick Taylor was one who was just that; Rick was loyal, dependable, truthful and the go to guy when you needed a quick calculation done correctly, without the use of a calculator. He was as smart as they came and he could always be counted on for a kind gesture and an encouraging word. We spent many an hour together in the BBMA budget office getting it done. Rick and I would often end our Fridays by stating to each other May the Lord Watch between Me and thee while we are absent from one another; Farewell My Friend. Preston L. Stephens

Preston L. Stephens - October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ praying for the family --may they find comfort in knowing that one day they will be together again mary fisher rodriguez classmate of rickey's

mary - October 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Always remembering that smile and big hug. I will miss you. My love and prayers to the Taylor Family

Alicia Harris - October 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ I will always remember Rick's smile and helpful nature. To the family, I pray for comfort, peace and blessings during this difficult time. Tanya WilsonCox Communications

Tanya Wilson - October 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. Rick was a special person and he will be truly missed. Tammie ColeyCox Communications

Tammie Coley - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM