



Samuel "Sam" James Taylor, Jr.

June 17, 1920 - October 11, 2020

Samuel James Taylor, born June 17th, 1929, passed away peacefully on October 11th, 2020. Sam, as he was known, was loved by many and made a very positive impact on this world, in so many ways.

He was the son of Samuel and Marjorie Taylor. Sam's father was a very early airline pilot, so they moved often. He was born in Berea, OH. His high school years were spent at Georgia Military Academy. While there, he received the highest honors presented by being awarded The Master Cadet Medal and the Most Valuable Athlete. He then moved on to Evanston, IL where he attended Northwestern University. He was a very active member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He graduated with a degree in Business Administration. In 1951 to 1953 he served in the US Army, based in Seattle, WA where he was involved in the Alaska Communication Systems.

Sam married his college sweetheart and love of his life, Joann Brownlee, in 1952, and enjoyed 68 years full of love, respect and never-ending fun. Upon completion of his military assignment in 1953 the couple would return to the Chicago area where Sam would join the Scott Paper company in a sales position. Two years later, he joined the Clipper Company, later purchased by the Norton Company where he elevated into sales management.

During these years they became the proud parents of 5 wonderful children. He was a true family man, never missing an event that they were involved in or having a chance just to enjoy their company. Sam founded and coached 2 YMCA clubs, he then became a Scout Master, where he led 13 young men to earn their Eagle Scout honor. His daughters were not to be left out as they competed to be his favorite! He supported them in their activities of swimming, cheerleading, and other extracurricular activities.

In 1969 the whole clan moved to Ft. Lauderdale as Sam's career took a turn. He was recruited to orchestrate the completion and selling of the Venetian Condo's 237 units; while simultaneously managing a beach front hotel, two-night clubs, and a real estate

office. As this venture came to a close, Sam became a pioneer in the construction equipment rental industry. He recognized a need to bridge the gap between rental companies that catered to homeowners and contractor equipment rental companies that were most focused on large equipment. He was well known for his accomplishments throughout the industry, until he sold Actron, in 1997.

Sam mastered life balance by not only finding time for his career, but time for family and himself, as well. He was known to love sports in general, cruising, fishing, diving, and golf. He got a kick out of saying he played golf until he was 90 years old.

After Sam retired, he and Joann spent 28 beautiful years dividing their time between the Orlando area and their mountain home in Sapphire, NC. Great times were had there with all their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and their friends. Everyone was always welcome at Family Ties.

Sam was preceded in death by his parents and was survived by his wife, Joann, his 5 children; Nancy Delany (Robert), Scott Taylor (Lisa), Matt Taylor (Stacie), Todd Taylor (Rikke), and Sally Short (Hunter), as well as 18 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren (and counting).

Sam, Dad, Grandpa, Mr. Taylor, or Mr. 'T' will be dearly missed. He was loved by all and will always be remembered for his welcoming ways and winning smile!

A celebration of life is being planned for Saturday, November 28th, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The service will be available virtually by going to the link below. Due to COVID, the live service will be family only. To attend virtually please follow this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486236452>

The family of Samuel "Sam" J. Taylor, Jr. invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his loving memory.

Comments



“ We met Sam and Joann in about 1952 in Park Forest, IL it was a whole rental town, 2 story townhouses with basements, I think the original rent was about \$68.00. per month. Sam and Joann had met at Northwestern in Evanston, IL and subsequently were in the Seattle area . I think Sam was in the army and Joann worked at Boeing. Then they returned to Illinois. I think Sam worked for P & G. The men all worked for corporations and all the women stayed home to raise families. Nothing new about this but everyone loved Sam, he organized the parties, and set the tone for the whole neighborhood. We were a varied bunch including two FBI guys, a well to do immigrant from Egypt, a couple from S. Dakota. On his lunch hour Sam was known to have brought his fishing pole for a little lunchtime fishing. Joann was known for her great decorating and we all envied their place. After a few years San and Joann designed and built a home in Prospect Heights, IL. We had bought a tract home nearby so our friendship was uninterrupted. It was amazing how many of our Park Forest neighbors remained life long friends. Like people returning to their spiritual homes Sam and Joann then bought a big, old house in a great neighborhood close to the lake, close to Northwestern. This house required a lot of work which Sam and Joann mostly did themselves. At their first party after moving in they had a suggestion box for all of us to tell them how to improve it, Joann claims that 2 suggestions were to burn it down. Not too long after that, when the house had become a showplace Sam had an opportunity with a college friend to help run his business in Florida and regretfully they moved away. By that time they had 5 great kids (I think Sally was born here but maybe not). We didn't lose touch but that everyday contact was lost. Joann and I had talked every day about a soap opera called As the World Turns, that ended with Bell Telephone's high long distance rates. We were a network of friends all held together with the glue that was Sam and Joann. Some of us are gone, some of us are very, very old but Sam will always be with us. he was such a good man.

Julie and Joe Koerner

Julie Koerner - December 05, 2020 at 08:49 AM



“ We have so many wonderful memories with Sam and Joanne in Sapphire NC! we are so blessed to have had Sam and Joanne in our lives! I know Sam has very special place in Heaven with the Lord, our prayers and blessings to you Joanne

Reimanns - November 28, 2020 at 11:44 AM



“ I will miss Sam terribly. He always lightens up the room with his presence and his authentic smile. He is very friendly and a gentleman. Rest easy Sam



Bernadette Mallari - November 16, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ My family joins me in expressing our sincere condolences to the Taylor clan . Mr. Taylor not only had a positive influence on his own family but on ours as well. My brother, Craig , was one of the Eagles Scouts mentioned in the obituary .Craig shared with me that Mr. T walked many miles and drive through the night to return another scout home from an Everglades Campout, as the young scout was not enamored with life in the glades!

The Taylor house was always welcoming and the place to party during our high school years at Northeast . This was also true of the beloved Family Ties in North Carolina . I was a frequent quest while I was building my own home not far from the Taylor's in Sapphire. Many a cocktail was enjoyed on the deck , and I have a fond memory of my youngest daughter who was about 7 eating the entire jar of Mr. T's special martini olives and Mr. T just smiled with his big grin and let her go!

He will truly be missed .

Holly Eakin Moody

Holly Moody - November 10, 2020 at 02:31 PM



“ As I am reading Sam's obituary so many wonderful events come to mind of times spent with Joann and Sam. He always made Bill and I feel very special with a cheery hello, his great smile, a kiss and a hug. We enjoyed many trips to their beautiful mountain home in N.C., numerous dinner dates and trips and always had a wonderful time. Sam was always willing to prepare a Super Bowl betting poster for our parties and he loved a good party with family or friends. We'll always be reminded of the fine man that we were so lucky to have as part of our life for over 30 years. RIP we love you and will miss you dearly.

Georgette and Bill Lynch

Georgette Lynch - November 07, 2020 at 02:05 PM



“ What a guy! I am truly blessed to be a part of this amazing family and owe it all to Sam who was the first one in the family that I met. I have called Sam many things over my adult life that include, friend, mentor, father-in-law to name a few. He was a great son, husband, father, grand father, great grand father, father-in-law, friend, and leader. If I can be a fraction of what Sam has been to so many I will consider myself successful.

Hunter Short - November 04, 2020 at 05:13 PM



“ 10 files added to the album SamPhotos



Hunter Short - November 04, 2020 at 05:00 PM



“ Many memories for many years.....racing to Miami to watch the Dolphins play....dancing the night away at The She, underground Marlin Beach Hotel.....hopping into the boat to steam up the Intracoastal to dock at some cool restaurant...seeing the "We're #1" banner flying from the Venetian penthouse - how did that get there??!!...listening to Sam sing the love and praises of his brood of five great kids. and his deep and everlasting love for Joann....basking in his constant warmth and hospitality which often included a generous - and I mean generous - hug and beaming smile.....connecting after many years of life in different places and picking up where we left off, as if no time or distance had separated us. What a friend, what a life, what a blessing.



Joanne #2 - November 02, 2020 at 05:49 PM



“ Our family, the Hollinsheads, moved to Fort Lauderdale shortly after the Taylor’s clan. Our Father, Chuck, and Sam were friends as SAE’s at Northwestern and that bond was just the thing to get them together during the building and completion of the Venetian. The Taylor family quickly took us in as family and Uncle Sam and Aunt Joanne were the host and hostess with the mostest! Uncle Sam’s enthusiasm was always genuine and infectious. We all became Miami Dolphin fans and listened or watched games together often. Even into high school after we’d returned to the central coast of Florida, we were always warmly welcomed. We continued to get together for fishing extravaganzas and trials and tribulations of the Dolphins. Dad and Uncle Sam enjoyed lamenting Northwestern’s rise and fall in “The Bottom Ten” as they had not returned to competitiveness at that point. We’ll do our best to honor Uncle Sam by continuing his example of Positive enthusiasm and love for our family and the friends that we make family. Peace Love and Grace to Aunt Joanne and all the Taylor’s.



John Hollinshead - November 02, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ Sam was a wonderful father in law and I am blessed to have had him my life. He always greeted me with “hello beautiful” (I know he said that to others, but it still made me feel special). He welcomed me and my 3 children into the family with open arms when I married Matt. When Matt and I had a baby boy, it was a joy to honor Sam by naming him Samuel James Taylor IV. The legacy Sam left in his children, in-laws, grandchildren, great grandchildren And countless friends of all of us is 2nd to none. Thank you for all of the love and memories Sam. I love you and miss you, but I am thankful to have had you in my life on earth, see you heaven someday!
Love, Stacie

Stacie Taylor - November 02, 2020 at 08:06 AM