

http://www.messenger-inquirer.com/news/local/event-to-boost-taylor-scholarship-fund/article_7d172c6f-9397-5a0f-a82a-b0c59590e922.html

FEATURED

Event to boost Taylor scholarship fund

BY SUZI BARTHOLOMY MESSENGER-INQUIRER 8 hrs ago



Photo by Greg Eans, [Messenger-Inquirer.com/geans@messenger-inquirer.com](mailto:geans@messenger-inquirer.com) Arthur Harreld, right, and Kelly Powers, a guidance counselor at Daviess County High School, look over the names of past recipients of the Bill Taylor Memorial Scholarship on Wednesday in Powers' office at the school. The fund is looking for donors for the scholarship which awards a Daviess County High School student that is attending Western Kentucky University.

Greg Eans

Ten years after his death, Cc



He retired from Daviess County High School in 1996. During his 27-year tenure, he was a teacher, football and swimming coach and athletic director.

Taylor was beloved in the classroom and on the field. When he died in April 2010, his friends wanted his legacy to be "so deeply ingrained that he wouldn't be lost in the shuffle," so they established the Coach Bill Taylor Memorial Scholarship at Western Kentucky University.

Taylor played football at Western. He was team captain and most valuable player his senior year. After getting his master's degree from WKU in 1969, he got a job with head coach Waymond Morris at Daviess County High School.

Morris, who later became DCHS principal and Owensboro mayor, and Taylor were co-workers and friends. Morris, along with Taylor's widow, Tyra Fullam-Mueller, and Johnny Graham, Arthur Harreld, Gary Keller and Jeff Ralph established the scholarship shortly after Taylor's death.

So far, 10 DCHS students have been awarded scholarships. In 10 years, the fund has grown to \$88,000. Each year, the fund has awarded \$1,000 scholarships that are renewable. Several WKU graduates have received \$4,000.

To make the scholarship perpetual, the coach's friends need help. Not wanting to ask for money without a return, they have invited donors to a reception at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 2 at the Holiday Inn on the Riverfront.

"We want to thank donors for their support," Harreld said. The scholarship committee is hopeful that it can raise \$50,000, and to help make that happen, they are matching donations up to \$25,000. The scholarships are allocated through College Heights Foundation at WKU. Football players are given first consideration. If the stipend doesn't go to a football player, a member of a DCHS athletic team or any other graduate will be eligible.

Students must retain a 2.8 GPA and exhibit integrity and human compassion.

A committee led by Kelly Powell, DCHS senior guidance counselor, chooses the student.

"Bill and I coached side-by-side," said former DCHS principal and coach Gary Keller. "We were close friends.

"He was as good of a friend as I ever had," he said. "As we talked about him, it felt right that we should remember him with something everlasting," Keller said.

A week after Taylor's death, former Messenger-Inquirer sports editor Jim Pickens wrote that "Bill was a good and kind soul who loved people and in turn sought to be loved. Personable, fun-loving and quick-witted, he always had a joke, a story, a smile and a handshake to offer."

"Bill was my cousin and friend," Harreld said. "He was a unique gentleman."

"He was all about the kids," Harreld said.

When Taylor died, one of his former players wrote a letter to the editor about him.

"Coach Taylor was a great motivator on the field/locker room. He is the only person I know who could give a motivational speech that would touch on Rocky Balboa, junkyard dogs, John Holmes and God and have it all make sense. He often was more fired up than his players. He cared so much that all you wanted was to make him proud."

sbartholomy@messenger-inquirer.com

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