

Scott "Hoover" Wilder
Born: Dec. 10,1954

Reflections from Friends

It seems like yesterday Hoover entered the Hospital. Word spread quickly and there was an immediate rallying of the troops offering help to Nancy and sharing stories. We reassured each other that if anyone could pull through it would be Hoov. He was our Superman, our Rock of Gibraltar. Of course everyone wanted to see him and cheer him up but only immediate family members were allowed in his room. We would all announce to the front desk that we were his brother or sister and most of the time it worked. One of the nurses commented, "Mr. Wilder sure has a very large family." She was right !

By now many of you are aware of the website that was created to capture and share the many memories and photo's of Hoov's life. The seed for this idea came from Nancy who mentioned that she wished she could write down and save all of the wonderful stories that people were sharing with her. A quick call to Hoover's good friend and personal computer guru, Chip Stephens, was all it took. Chip has put together a site that not only captures these memories but has also added Hoover's favorite music. Our hope is that this site will continue forever and be a place where we can always go and hang out with Hoov.

- I'd like to share with you some of the memories that have been posted to the site:

Andy Hill sends:

On the face of it, it seems pretty silly to say that someone is your friend when you've never met that person face to face. But Hoover was my friend even though our whole relationship was over the internet...and if you were lucky enough to know Hoover...that wouldn't sound silly at all.

Patricia (Patti) McMahon writes:

Jell-O shots. Can't do just one!

After I told my stepson, Noah, the news about Hoover, he had a look of sadness and disbelief. Suddenly, a grin came over his face, and he said, "Hoover had a great life."

We shouldn't linger on the sadness, just celebrate him. Everybody's gotta do a Jell-O shot!
Truer words never spoken.

From: Al St. Jacques:

I hope you find the peace and comfort you deserve, and when my time comes, please say a good word for me, as I seek a place alongside you in Heaven.

Matthew Levine sends:

Summer evenings I bicycle around Longshore before the sun goes down. Frequently, Hoover would be out there, too.

Chris Wayne (DJ at Fox Radio) writes:

Hoover would call to talk music and I recognized early on that this guy knew his stuff. We would talk it up quite often - and he always got his song played.

Roz Koether writes:

I can honestly say that Hoover is the least handicapped person I know.

One fun story about Hoover years ago we were all at the Patio bar (of course) enjoying a lovely summer evening. Hoover especially liked the frozen margaritas! Anyway .. after the band stopped and the dancing stopped, we were all out in the side parking lot saying our good-byes. Hoover offered my friend Aimee a ride on his chair. Aimee, a little tipsy, didn't hesitate and hopped right on to Hoover's lap. Little did she know that she was accidentally leaning on the joy stick to Hoover's chair which instantly began to spin around and around. We were all laughing so hard .. Hoover especially ..

Chad Hollingsworth 23:

Hoover was a great guy and knew more about music and sports than anyone I have ever met. I will miss picking his brain about the Giants, Yankees, and the next up and coming band.

Chip Stephens remembers:

Like everyone else who knew him knows Hoover made us all a better person . Every day is a gift , Hoover knew that, live like he did, stay positive, give the gift of caring and listening, never be afraid to ask for help and above all cherish your friends
Carpe Diem

JANET ALMEIDA, RN -HOOVER'S VISITING NURSE remembers:

Scott always shared with me the wonderful relationships he had with his many friends, some of whom i met over the years. the labor day party was such a highlight in his life, not to mention all the wonderful times he had with his dear friends, who were so important to him.
i feel so honored to have known this wonderful human being and his wonderful family.

Dale Hollingsworth remembers:

Hoover's day to day timeless advice will be certainly missed by all, but never forgotten.

From Boo Wittenbert:

You made ME feel special. I just looked up the word "humility". It is the state or quality of being humble; absence of pride or self-assertion. You had tons of that. I will try to practice more of it in your memory. Peace to you and your family.

Thomas Hollingsworth sends:

He was so genuine and interested in what we were doing and it is so hard to think that he wont be there at the family gatherings. Hoover was an inspiration for me and I learned a lot from him.

Mary Anne Hinckley sends:

What a wonderful man. And that twinkle in his eye!!!

Mike & Cheryl Elliot send:

In 1990 at Cheryl's and my wedding Mike Kashetta brought Scott. They sat in the back of the church. At the reception Scott tells Cheryl "great wedding, I timed it. It only took 13 minutes!"

From Pat (Reale) Serafino:

One of my first memories of Scott goes back to Bedford Junior High. We all had to take this awful speed reading class. Mrs. Grenfeld (?) was our teacher....and she was a big, imposing woman. One day, she was reading us the poem "The Jabberwocky" and acting it out. All of a sudden she swooped down, grabbed Scott out of his chair and put him under one arm (like a log). She proceeded to stomp all around the room, making loud noises, while poor Scott (all maybe 75 lbs. of him!) was dangling face down. We were all horrified! Not only were we scared for him, but also afraid we might be next. I will never forget his petrified face....eyes as big as saucers.

From Don Kondub:

Hoover and I had a great tradition of watching the Super Bowl together every year at his house. This would have been our 25th straight year. And I was so looking forward to this Super Bowl since the G-Men defeated the Packers two Sundays ago. I think it is going to be a huge upset. With the biggest Giant fan now watching the game from upstairs, there is no way the G-Men lose.

Ed Cribari:

I believe everyone learned something from Hoover from young impressionable kids to adults.

Received from Brian McGeady:

Hoov was so generous with his time that I think it will be so very hard for everyone to accept he is not with us anymore. But be sure he is watching over everyone and getting ready for the Super Bowl this Sunday with this special HD viewing, HEAVENLY DEFINITION. Go Giants.I'll never forget you, your friend Brian.

Dave Squires writes:

I asked "Hink" who was his friend since the age of 4, what Hoover was like before the accident. I was pleased, yet not surprised to hear, he was exactly the same; kind, funny, happy-go-lucky, gentle & caring, and easy to get a smile from.

Bill Angell sends:

The first time I saw Hoov after my son died in a car accident, I couldn't get Hoov to stop telling me how sorry he was. Here was Hoov -- in that wheelchair -- with all of the problems he had -- and he couldn't stop telling me how sorry he was for me. After that, I could never feel sorry for myself. How lucky I was to have known him.

From Dave Quinn:

My memories go back to Saugatuck elementary, growing up in the neighborhood and on up through high school. There was a lot of pick-up basketball, street hockey in Scott's driveway, baseball card collecting and flipping, building a jump to do wheelies on our bikes, football games on the 3rd fairway.

D Scanlan (almost 15 years old)

I remember the first time I met Hoover. Right when I met him, I could tell he was the nicest guy I'd ever met. I remember going to his house and he gave me a fireball and said " If you put it in your mouth D, you can't take it out". So I stepped up to the challenge and as my mouth started burning I saw he was laughing hysterically and he said, "I'm just kidding, you can take it out."

From: Christine (Pete the Canadian's other half)

I remember coming home with a new car a few months back and pulling into my driveway very excited to show Pete. Well, the first thing Pete said was, " Wow nice, let's go show Hoover!" Off to Hoover's house we went.

Hoover went round and round the car taking in every detail and saying, "Wow this is nice! Open the hood Pete I want to see the engine...nice, very nice said Hoover. He went around again, "Pete! open the door!" Hoover looked in and said, "nice, very nice..but, you should really get satellite radio installed!"

Nancy told us that years ago their friends would all come over to show Milo their new cars & now people continue to do the same thing with Hoover.

From Joe Delco:

There was only a few years we socialized with Hoover, we survived it, and he defiantly left a lasting impression. We will cherish those memories forever.

From Charlie Bacharach:

Hoover was a "glue guy", one that kept us all together and connected in a world that seems to want to pull us all in different directions.

Sent from George Barrett:

I will remember the gleam in his eye, his courage, his spirit and the way he made us smile.

From Chase Hollingsworth, age 11:

Hoover I hope you've got good seats for the big game sunday.

From Cooper Hollingsworth, age 17 (diehard red sox fan):

The first time I went to hang out with Hoover I fell in love with his room right away. Everywhere you looked there were sports posters, race cars, autographs, rare baseball cards, and girls.

From Rick Hill:

Hoover's character will continue to inspire and guide me.

Reflections of Hoov from Patti DePalma Slesinski:

He had one big heart and enough love in it for everyone. He was a one-in-a-million kind of person that doesn't come along too often. One we were fortunate to have and embrace, and one that has brought us all together again in his spirit. As they say in New Mexico, "he's good people".

Adam Gross sends:

His death has dredged all kinds of memories but none more poignant than his coming into a game against Trumbell in 1973 and draining a bunch of those from the waist set shots to help us win. He was a beaut - one of a kind and a huge spirit.

Peter Dickstein writes:

Hoover and his passing have triggered a surprising combination of sadness and amazement for me, not to mention many memories including scrubbing his family's

Fords, the image of his hanger-like frame in a Staples basketball uniform and the stoked up crowds chanting for him to enter the game because they knew they'd see magic. He was a great sixth man in hoops and in life

from Janet Amadio:

I will miss him terribly both on and off the golf course. I will miss his smiling face and his good-natured demeanor. He was easy going and a pleasure to be around. Being with him lifted your spirits!

ARTHUR CORRIGAN sends:

WHEN I TOLD MY GROWN DAUGHTER KRISTIN ,WHO KNEW SCOTT WHEN SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL OF HIS PASSING , SHE SAID " DADDY HOOVER WAS OUR ANGEL ON EARTH, HE MADE EVERYONE WHOM HE TOUCHED A BETTER PERSON" I THINK THAT IS SO TRUE.

Cammie Allerdice Brand's memories:

We always talked about music together and whenever I visited, he would introduce me to some new hot blues guy. What a renaissance man!

Personal Reflection:

I'd also like to mention an event that occurred within the last 3 years that helped Hoover reach a new level of freedom and happiness. The purchase of his dream VAN. Hoover loved it because he easily could get into and out of it on his own. In addition with the customized lower floor he had for the first time a clear view out of the front windshield. He truly was a happy camper !!! I'd like to recognize and thank the OB Harrington Howe foundation which helps improve the quality of life for people with severe spinal cord injuries. Their grant helped Hoover to purchase his dream Van.

In closing I'd like to borrow a portion of Arlene Scanlon's memory of Hoov posted on the site. These words are from a song by the Grateful Dead called "Truckin" which Hoover loved:

*"Truckin', I'm a goin' home. Whoa whoa baby, back where I belong,
Back home, sit down and patch my bones, and get back truckin' on."*

As Hoov would say at the end of every phone call... "Take it Slow" !

God Bless you My Friend