

August M. Tefts, Jr. Memorial Endowment



August (known as “Augie” to family and friends) was the poster child for good deeds. Everyone who knew him would agree he had the biggest heart and would do anything for anyone. He always had a smile on his face and a good joke to tell.

Augie grew up in Westfield and was raised by his mother and two older sisters. His sisters joked with him and called him “Prince Augie” because he always got everything he wanted even though he was raised in a single parent household. As a teenager he went to Westfield Vocational High School and worked numerous jobs to help his mother pay the bills. When he graduated, he got a job as a custodian in the Westfield School System. He also drove a school bus and was very popular with the kids because he would give them candy and ice cream!

Augie’s dream was to become a police officer and in 1989 that dream became reality. He was appointed on the Reserves and in 1990 he became a full time Westfield police officer. He always promised his mother he would buy her a house and within a year of becoming a full time officer, he bought his mother her first house in Westfield which she still lives in today. Augie met his wife, Robine, in 1996 and they married on December 29, 2001.

Although Augie was a strong advocate for education, it wasn’t until he was in his late 30’s when he made the time to go back to college to earn his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. While working full time, he attended college full time and earned his bachelor’s degree three years later from Anna Maria College.

Sadly, Augie’s heart gave out on December 23, 2005. He was only 47 years young. The community support after Augie’s death was overwhelming. To hear and see how many lives he touched could not have made a family prouder. A former student from Augie’s bus sent a sympathy card and in it she wrote this which captured his life perfectly, “If all people lived and smiled the way Augie did, what a wonderful world this would be.”

Augie’s family wanted to honor his memory and career by establishing a scholarship for a graduating high school senior who is going to major in criminal justice. We know he would be proud and humbled by all the people who donated to this scholarship.

Written by: Robine Moriarty-Tefts
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