



Alton Esly Taylor

October 11, 1930 - September 19, 2013

Alton Al Esly Taylor, 82, of Potterville, MI, died September 19, 2013 at the Eaton Community Palliative Care in Charlotte. Alton was born October 11, 1930, in Cassopolis, MI, the son of Vernon and Iva (Nagy) Taylor. The family moved to Potterville in the spring of 1940 where he resided until his death. He was stationed in Japan as a PFC in Strawberry Company of the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict before settling into a very active, community life in Potterville. In his early years, Al helped keep the Potterville High School when there were talks of shifting it to Dimondale. He served on the Potterville School board for 23 years, during which time the middle school was built. Al was also very instrumental in the design and building of the new high school and the press box of the football field. He remained very close to the four remaining classmates from the Potterville Class of 1949, which held reunions every year for the last 20 years. Although he attended Western Michigan University, he was awarded an honorary degree from MSU for his efforts in building the packaging department and worked on the construction of the cyclotron. Al was a very skilled carpenter for 40 years and Job Superintendent for Foster Shermerhorn and Barnes, Tonn and Blank, and finished his career with Granger Construction Co. He built three wooden Chris Craft boats as a young man, and just a few years ago, completely rebuilt the deck on his house while battling severe health issues. He was a great dancer and loved going out with Doris. The two married in 1967. He was a life member of Masonic Lodge 367 of Potterville and was a devoted member of the Potterville

United Methodist Church, where he volunteered much of his time and helped build the addition. He was also very passionate about aviation, earning his pilots license at the age of 75 and owning a Beech Skipper until only two years before his death. He and his wife, Doris, loved traveling the country, hitting as many air shows and museums as possible and visiting his brother in Florida, and other family spread from east to west. They also spent a lot of time up north at their cottage on Lake Mitchell in Cadillac, fishing with his brother-in-law in the Upper Peninsula, and watching boats go through the Soo Locks. He loved his Tigers and Wolverines, though he often rooted for MSU. Many will remember Al's active community involvement and stewardship of the Potterville schools. Alton is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Doris J. Taylor; two sons, James E. (Wanda) Darrow II and Steven D. Taylor; grandchildren, James E. Darrow III and Samantha N. Darrow; and brother, Kenneth A. (Edna) Taylor. He was predeceased by his parents and a sister, Arlene R. Buck. Funeral services will be held at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at Potterville United Methodist Church with Rev. Lyne Stull-Lipps officiating. Visitation will be from 2:00-4:00 and 6:00-8:00 pm on Monday, September 23, 2013 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Interment will take place in Benton Twp. Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Potterville United Methodist Church or Eaton Community Palliative Care. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.prayfuneral.com <http://www.prayfuneral.com>. Arrangements by Pray Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

DP

“ So sorry to hear of Alton's passing. Our greatest sympathy goes out to all his family. He was a great family friend and he also worked for a time with our brother, Lynn. God bless you and may you rest in peace.

Doty Family of Potterville - September 23, 2013 at 12:28 PM

AO

“ I met Al within the last few years and enjoyed visiting with him when he was at his cottage on Lake Mitchell.



Al Olson - September 22, 2013 at 11:45 PM

AO

“ I met Al within the past few years and enjoyed visiting with him when he was at his cottage on Lake Mitchell.



Al Olson - September 22, 2013 at 11:41 PM

AO

“ I met Al within the past few years and enjoyed our visits when he was at his cottage on Lake Mitchell.



Al Olson - September 22, 2013 at 11:34 PM

AO

“ I only met Al within the past few years but enjoyed visiting with him when he was at his home on Lake Mitchell.



Al Olson - September 22, 2013 at 11:19 PM

JW

“ So sorry to hear about Alton's passing. His many years of involvement with Potterville Schools helped the system to grow into respected institution it is. He always understood we were working for the good of the students.

Joe Wood - September 22, 2013 at 05:00 PM

DB

“ Dear Doris and family: We are so sorry to hear of Al's passing. We have been blessed to have known him (and Doris)and enjoyed him as a friend and neighbor in Cadillac. Prayers and blessings are with you all in your time of sadness.

Dave and Cyndy Brower - September 22, 2013 at 02:02 PM

LG

“ Al was a wonderful person. He will always be remembered as a great supporter of Potterville Schools. He was a great person to work with and I know everyone appreciated his efforts for PHS.

Lincoln & Mary Jo Gorsuch - September 22, 2013 at 11:21 AM

LP

“ *Living next to Al on Lake Mitchell was a wonderful experience as he was always willing to help me fix something that wasn't working. One evening we even crawled into my crawl space with a lamp and long extension cord and tried and waited and tried again to fix my water pump. It was working when we finally crawled out. Miss you Al Lois*

Lois Poag - September 22, 2013 at 11:04 AM

TF

“ *All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. May his loving memories help you through this difficult time. Sending our love to all of you.*

The Beebe Family - September 20, 2013 at 09:57 PM