WILLIAM TAYLOR MEMORIAL FUND

William M. Taylor, known as Bill, is the beloved late husband of State Representative Elinor Z. Taylor. Bill demonstrated a lifetime interest in and dedication to emergency and medical services. During World War II, Bill served as a First Class Medic for the Navy. In the early 1960's, Bill joined the Good Fellowship Ambulance program.

Bill passed away on Fathers' Day, June 20, 2004. His wife felt the most compelling way to remember him while giving back to the community was to create a scholarship fund. The scholarship would be awarded to someone who, like her husband, is committed to service, but more specifically, service as a paramedic or firefighter. The Honorable Dr. Elinor Z. Taylor said, "Establishing the Memorial Fund draws focus to the causes which William held so dear. As an educator, he helped students advance to reach their full potential. This was first and foremost on his mind, every day of his career."

In May, Michael Brewer, upon graduation from Henderson High School, was named the first recipient of The William Taylor Memorial Scholarship. Michael is the third generation in his family's longstanding tradition of volunteer service to Firehouse Station 51, following his mother, his father and his grandfather. With the help of Taylor's scholarship, Michael will attend Cabrini College. He plans to study microbiology, play lacrosse, and volunteer at a nearby firehouse.

This scholarship award marks the intersection of Michael's commitment to his family's legacy of service with Bill's commitment to his community. Bill's annual scholarship fund will, year after year, enable and encourage young people, like Michael, to pursue higher education and serve their communities.



The idea of parents watching their child suffer is heartbreaking. When Steve and Kim Niggeman's 3-year-old daughter was diagnosed with Turner Syndrome, instead of succumbing to the ordeal they now faced, they chose to proactively confront their daughter's condition.

In creating the Foundation, the Niggeman's became not only passionate advocates of their daughter, but advocates for girls and women who suffer from Turner Syndrome.

The Foundation has allowed the Niggeman's to create a network of support for families and patients. Kim Niggeman explains, "It is a logical next step for us to establish the Turner Syndrome Foundation with the hopes of finding the medical means to mitigate the impact of this tragic disease."

Turner Syndrome, a condition that occurs exclusively in women, results when one of the two X chromosomes normally found in females is missing or incomplete. Named after Dr. Henry Turner, Turner Syndrome presents itself most commonly as short stature and lack of ovarian development. Other characteristics involve predisposition to cardiovascular, kidney and thyroid conditions.

Today there is no cure for Turner Syndrome, but various treatments using growth hormones or estrogen replacement can alleviate and manage the symptoms. The Foundation's mission to promote early detection, to recognize and foster healthy management of symptoms, and to increase the quality of life for those afflicted with Turner Syndrome.

The Niggeman's wish for their daughter is their wish for all women afflicted with this agonizing disorder: a full, vibrant life. The Chain of Love Foundation for Turner Syndrome is a positive step in the right direction.



