

MD poster child never let disability impede joy for life



Pictured here is a 12-year-old Ryan Young, the 1989 state representative for the Muscular Dystrophy Association receiving a police pin and badge from Farmington Hills Police Lt. Martin Biddoo. The Farmington Hills teen died on March 22 at the age of 14.

By Tom Beer
staff writer

Ryan D. Young spent most of his life in a wheelchair, a victim of muscular dystrophy. But the Farmington Hills youngster never let the handicap interfere with his activities — including the battle against the disease that put him there.

Ryan Young, the state Muscular Dystrophy Association's poster child for 1987 and a prominent figure in the Jerry Lewis Telethon that year, died of MD March 22 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills. He was 14.

Ryan, known for his bright smile and sense of humor, was an eighth grader at Warner Middle School in the Farmington School District. The important thing to remember about him, according to his father, Donald, is that the handicap never allowed him down.

"He didn't let that wheelchair come between him and the goals that he set," said Donald Young, an equipment technician for the city of Southfield.

Despite the disease and the wheelchair, life continued as usual for the Young family, Donald said. There was practically nothing that Ryan and his family couldn't do. "We had to make some adjustments," Donald said. "But we always included Ryan in our activities, including skip steeplechase behind a boat."

RYAN, BORN in Livonia, was diagnosed with MD at the age of 15 months. He was "an inspiration to many who knew him," said his father.

"People who met him came away smiling," Donald said. "Anyone he came into contact with benefited. His mother, Cindy, was exceptional... and a lot of what Ryan is has to do with her."

At Warner Middle School, Ryan was remembered as "a neat kid, a unique kid" by Greg Capling, his POHI (physically or otherwise health impaired) teacher.

"He was a good kid and well-liked by everyone," Capling said. "He liked to interact with everyone here, including the staff. He'll be missed."

Ryan was in a POHI at Farmington's Eagle Elementary before coming to Warner. He would have entered Harrison High School next fall.

Survivors, in addition to his parents, include brother, Jeremy; grandparents, Philip and Pat Caskey and Elizabeth Young.

Services will be March 26 at the O'Brien Chapel Dr. S. Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi by the Rev. Peter Carlson of Berkeley Community Church officiating.

Memorials may be made in Ryan Young name to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

obituaries

ANTOINETTE J. WEAVER

Mrs. Weaver, 80, of Farmington died March 20 in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

Born in Detroit, Mrs. Weaver was a retired cook for DeLasalle High School. She attended St. Mary High School in Monroe and two years at U of D.

Survivors include her daughter, Judith A. Mariani; sisters, Beatrice Tomlinson and Eleanor Touqua; brother, Austin Koss; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated in St. Priscilla Catholic Church, Livonia, with the Rev. Kevin O'Brien officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Memorials may be made to the charity of choice.

SHIRLEY MAE CONGER

Mrs. Conger, 56, of Farmington Hills died March 21 in Grace Hospital, Detroit.

Born in Stambaugh, Mich., Mrs. Conger was a nurse. She graduated from Presbyterian School of Nursing of Chicago in 1957.

Survivors include her sons, James and Ronald; mother, Evelyn Anderson.

Services were at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. Dr. Gene Stone officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

RALPH JAMES AUTEN JR.

Mr. Auten, 68, of Hale, Mich., formerly of Farmington, died March 21 in Standaish Community Hospital.

Born in Farmington, Mr. Auten was retired from G.M.'s Detroit Diesel. He was a graduate of Farmington High School and Michigan State University. He was an Air Force veteran of World War II and former member of the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Lorraine; sons, Terry, Thomas and Jim; daughters, Deborah Yackley, Barbara Auten, Ruth Kenaga and Sally Pop; sister, Elaine Westphal; brother, Oscar Auten; 13 grandchildren.

Services were March 24 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. William R. Donahue of Hale United Methodist Church officiating.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 29450 Southfield Road, Southfield 48076.

DONALD E. McCULLOCH SR.

Mr. McCulloch, 75, of Farmington died March 22 in Grace Hospital.

Born in Apple Hill, Ontario, Canada, Mr. McCulloch was an analyst in the automotive industry. He was a 1935 graduate of St. Benedict High School in Highland Park.

Survivors include his wife, Anna; sons, Thomas, Donald, Edward, Leonard, Kevin and Mark; daughters, Mary Joseph, Kathleen Allistead and Barbara McCulloch; 22 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington, with the Rev. Monsignor Walter A. Hurley officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Deadline set for C'ville's schools- of-choice plan

By Merle Chestney
staff writer

Parents in the Clarenceville School District must decide by 4 p.m. May 1 if they want to take advantage next September of a schools-of-choice plan recently adopted by the school board.

Under the plan, students can attend either Botsford or Grandview elementary, no matter where they live in the district, and have transportation costs paid by the district.

"Parents should visit each school and make an informed decision," said board president Dale Weighill.

CLARENCEVILLE HAS published a brochure showing programs available at each school.

The brochure, for example, shows that both schools have latchkey programs but only Botsford has child care for ages 3-5.

However, the brochure shows that most programs important to parents (early childhood, special education, after school enrichment, etc) are available in both schools.

Schools of choice applies only at the elementary level in Clarenceville because the district has only one middle and high school.

All districts in the state must adopt a schools-of-choice plan by April 15.

The plan was formulated by a schools-of-choice committee composed of Ellen Davis, Grandview principal; Jesse Baker, Botsford principal; Anne Harrington, teacher; Mary Sue Duffy, teacher; Barbara Resetar, parent; Mary Schiffman, parent; John Shaw, parent; Debra Silvernall, parent; Lora Ghena, parent; Debbie Hayes, parent; James Kaminski, parent; and Barbara Wien, parent.

Under schools of choice, Clarenceville must pay transportation costs for youngsters who choose a school outside their neighborhood school.

CLARENCEVILLE SET the following transportation rules:

- Students riding buses up to now, but who no longer qualify for transportation under the new rules, will be given a one-year grace period.
- Beginning this fall, all other students who live less than one mile from an elementary school, must first walk to that school.
- If the student has chosen to attend the other elementary school, bus transportation to that school will be provided from the school the student has walked to.
- Students who live less than a mile from either Botsford or Grandview will walk to the school of their choice.
- Students who live more than a mile from either school will be bused to the school of their choice.
- Exceptions can be made if hazardous road conditions exist.

CLARENCEVILLE had an informal schools-of-choice program in the past, wherein officials could grant a transfer if a parent asked for one.

In the past, however, the transfer came with no guarantee that the district would provide transportation for the student.

Transfers can be denied if there is no room in the school of choice.

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BEAUTY and the BEAST (G)	12.00, 14.00, 16.00, 18.00, 20.00, 22.00, 24.00, 26.00, 28.00, 30.00, 32.00, 34.00, 36.00, 38.00, 40.00, 42.00, 44.00, 46.00, 48.00, 50.00, 52.00, 54.00, 56.00, 58.00, 60.00, 62.00, 64.00, 66.00, 68.00, 70.00, 72.00, 74.00, 76.00, 78.00, 80.00, 82.00, 84.00, 86.00, 88.00, 90.00, 92.00, 94.00, 96.00, 98.00, 100.00
EXPOSURE (R)	12.00, 14.00, 16.00, 18.00, 20.00, 22.00, 24.00, 26.00, 28.00, 30.00, 32.00, 34.00, 36.00, 38.00, 40.00, 42.00, 44.00, 46.00, 48.00, 50.00, 52.00, 54.00, 56.00, 58.00, 60.00, 62.00, 64.00, 66.00, 68.00, 70.00, 72.00, 74.00, 76.00, 78.00, 80.00, 82.00, 84.00, 86.00, 88.00, 90.00, 92.00, 94.00, 96.00, 98.00, 100.00
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• LAWYERMAN MAN (R) 12.00, 14.00, 16.00, 18.00, 20.00, 22.00, 24.00, 26.00, 28.00, 30.00, 32.00, 34.00, 36.00, 38.00, 40.00, 42.00, 44.00, 46.00, 48.00, 50.00, 52.00, 54.00, 56.00, 58.00, 60.00, 62.00, 64.00, 66.00, 68.00, 70.00, 72.00, 74.00, 76.00, 78.00, 80.00, 82.00, 84.00, 86.00, 88.00, 90.00, 92.00, 94.00, 96.00, 98.00, 100.00

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