



Michael "Shorty" Powers

October 17, 1951 - June 19, 2016

Michael "Shorty" Powers' wheelchair is empty today. His love for life, passion for the outdoors, zeal for adventure, coupled with his refusal to accept "limitations" and his readiness to tackle a challenge made Shorty a truly extraordinary & unforgettable man. Throughout his life, Shorty never met a stranger, with many becoming life-long friends. There's a void in all the hearts and lives Shorty touched throughout his action-packed life. You might have met him at a restaurant, POINT activity, rehab or the Wal-Mart parking lot. For many, their life was forever changed by their encounter with Shorty.

Michael Lewis Powers (aka Shorty) was born on October 17, 1951 in Oklahoma City, OK to the late Don and Ona Bea Wade Powers. Beloved husband to Nance Baumann Powers and father to Dylan Vaughan Powers of Terrell, Texas. Also survived by sisters Nan Johnson, Donna Vaughan, and Kelli Lawson; nieces Tina Vaughan, Jennifer Jeffress, Meg Guerra, Katy Williams, Sophie Lawson and nephew Woody Paul Lawson. The Powers family moved to Irving, where Shorty attended MacArthur High School, graduating in 1970.

On March 16, 1969, Shorty survived a tragic car accident that killed his best friend; his aorta bled out which resulted in paraplegia. Always a nature lover and avid outdoorsman, Shorty didn't let his wheelchair keep him indoors! He trail-blazed a path to start the first organized adaptive outdoor recreational

adventures for folks with disabilities. His impact on people who were “newly injured” was remarkable and life-altering! With new-found confidence discovered in conquering outdoor challenges, Shorty founded a non-profit organization, Turning POINT, in 1979. Shorty’s vision of empowering lives using the healing force of nature combined with adapted recreational activities for the mobility impaired community. Turning POINT was just awarded a TPWD Co-Op grant which will introduce members to new adaptive equipment hands-on at outdoor programs throughout the upcoming year - Shorty’s legacy lives on...

Some of Shorty’s accomplishments include:

Lone Star Legends, TPWD Chairman’s Award for Public Service: 1999

Barbara Jordan Award (for Turning POINT Video): 2000

The Hall of Fame at the TPWD Freshwater Fisheries Center: 2004

A Night of Light Awards of Excellence: 2006

He climbed a mountain, played tennis and basketball, scuba dived, sailed boats, hunted, kayaked, caught myriad fish, and loved people and life!

Shorty’s best friend, the late Randy Snow, once said “If anyone is meant to be in a wheelchair, it’s Shorty.... to show us the way”!

Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will be at Reunion Ranch, 10581 CR 312, Terrell, Texas 75161, Sunday, June 26, 3-6pm.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Turning POINT, 403 Pacific, Terrell TX 75160

www.TurningPointNation.org....and continue to support Shorty’s dream.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **26.** 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

The Bluebonnet at Reunion Ranch
10581 CR 312
Terrell, TX 75161

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael "Shorty" Powers*

October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *Am so sad to hear of Michael's passing. I returned to Dallas Sunday, read the paper only to realize it was too late to make it to Terrell for the celebration of his life. I have fond memories of baby sitting Michael and his sisters in OKC and then moving to Irving when they didOna Bea and I had our hands full raising 8 kids!!!! Michael was an unbelievable man....NOTHING ever got in his way to keep him from accomplishing whatever he set out to do. I was so fortunate to meet up with him when I moved back to Dallas after my husband Bill died in Scottsdale. Nancy, Donna and Kelly I would love to connect with you girls if the opportunity would present itself. My phone number is 214-912-4407. I hold you and ALL your family gently in my prayers.....Much love - Bev (Thomas) Morrow*

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Beverly Morrow - June 27, 2016 at 02:53 PM



“ 208 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - June 25, 2016 at 09:51 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket* was purchased for the family of Michael "Shorty" Powers.



June 22, 2016 at 06:24 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Lew Carpenter - June 22, 2016 at 01:56 PM



“ *Nobody was or will ever be again quite like Shorty. Thank you for being our friend for so many years.*

Love,

Cindy and TK



Cindy Bush - June 22, 2016 at 09:29 AM



“ *Quiet Expressions was purchased for the family of Michael "Shorty" Powers.*



June 21, 2016 at 04:29 PM



Cameron
Sutton

“ Shorty was a big part of my life during my childhood, growing up a member of Turning POINT going on my first hunting trip and several fishing trips with him and the whole crew. one of the most memorable times was at the extravaganza and fishing tournament with shorty, randy and crazy ray eating crawdads, then later on going on a hunting trip and getting my first deer kill, not knowing that my kill was an accidental release of an African red tailed deer that had just been brought in, boy did I bring in the prize, it could have gone so wrong but shorty was there to bring up the spirits and make us laugh through feeling bad that I had just killed someones prize deer, in recent years I only saw shorty a few times but when I did he always had a smile on his face and knew how to brighten someones day, may he rest in peace with our good ol buddy rand.

Cameron Sutton - June 21, 2016 at 04:11 PM

EK

“ Shorty has been my Dad's close friend since they were both little kids. I am very sad to hear the news of his passing. My brother, sister and I all loved Shorty. We always got so excited when we knew he was coming over. We have great memories of him when we were little- giving us wheelchair rides that included going down stairs and wheelies. We watched him on Airwolf and Born on the Fourth of July (so excited that we knew someone "famous"), listened to stories of adventure, watched him play basketball like the best of them, and ALWAYS had Coit's hot dogs and root beer when he came to Oklahoma City. He was always so amazing and fun to be around. All three of us, even as adults, were excited to see him. He will always hold a very special place in our hearts and we will never forget him. Our deepest condolences to his family.

*Erin Jeffers Kelley
Oklahoma City, OK*

Erin Kelley - June 21, 2016 at 03:52 PM