

A STATEMENT FROM THE FAMILY OF

Herman Taylor III
February 1, 1988 – July 12, 2006

When we speak of the word **LOVE** we instantly think of **Herman Taylor III**. Everyone who loved him had a special name for him: Baby Cousin, Baby Brother, and Lil' Bub, Bubby, and HT3. He loved his family very much, and was a loving son, good brother, committed friend, and dedicated student.

Herman Taylor III was never in any gangs or trouble with the police, but that did not stop him from becoming a victim of violent crime. He was a bright young man with a bright future who loved his Dorchester neighborhood and friends, just as they loved him. His teachers and fellow students at Belmont High School, where he was scheduled to graduate in 2007, also loved him. In a recent [Boston Herald](#) article, Coach Adam Pritchard described Herman III as "a basketball stand out who leaped ahead of his classmates to Belmont's varsity team." Due to his strong work ethics — always reliable, on time, and good with children — he was selected by his coach to help run basketball camps for kids this summer. In addition, he participated in the South End Baseball League and the Boston Neighborhood Basketball League.

Herman never walked alone. He saw beauty in people of all races and they saw the beauty in him. He was a nice person and everyone's first instinct was to love and protect him. He was never selfish or disrespectful, and always wanted peace and love to surround him. Herman gave his unconditional love and friendship to everyone in his life.

He was the kind of kid that would give his last dollar or the shirt off his back to help a person in need.

Herman Taylor III was never mean to anyone, never stressed about anything, nor raised his voice. He had a way of making everyone whose life he touched feel special and comfortable in any situation. To us, he was the perfect extension of our family.

The best words to describe Herman are love, strength, and kindness. He was our Son, brother, nephew, cousin, friend, and a fellow classmate. He will be deeply missed and forever loved.

The family would like to thank **Belmont faculty, staff and students** for all their support and words of encouragement during this difficult time.

In his memory, **The Herman Taylor III Summer Memorial Fund** has been established. To help send boys and young men from the Grove Hall community to basketball or baseball camps, deposits can be made to the Fund c/o Citizens Bank account #1305939945.

The Wake will be held on **Wednesday, July 19** from 6pm - 8pm at the Davis Funeral Home, 89 Walnut Street in Roxbury. Funeral Services will be held on **Thursday, July 20** at 10am at the Eliot Congregational Church, 56 Dale Street in Roxbury.

When Herman and I first met, I dropped my pencil in my eye. Herman laughed, and then asked me if I was okay. That was freshmen year. That's when I came to the conclusion that I liked him. I looked forward to going to Drawing and painting class everyday. On January 13, Herman asked me out by writing the question on his paper spelling my name wrong. I asked him who "Cara" was, and then I said yes. Then summer came and we was just friends. Sophomore year we hardly spoke from that I knew that I loved him. I constantly thought about him and turned every guy down because nobody could make me feel the way Herman, AKA, Bubby made me feel. That following summer right before school started we began to speak again. That's when he told me he loved me. That was all I need to hear to know that I wanted to be with him forever. Then there was junior year. I would give him all of my time and he would give me his. I went over to his house everyday after school and speak to him every night before I went to sleep also before I left for school. He was my life, my heart, my everything. I became really close with his family especially his sister Mesha. We would go over her house and she would cook breakfast and put it on the plate like the fancy restaurants would. His father would give me a ride home when I needed it and would sit with his mother and talk and watch.

Herman was more then just my boyfriend; he was my love and my best friend. He was with me at my best and worst. And we were inseparable. We still are because even though I can't see him anymore, I can still feel the love, which gives me the strength to get up everyday.

I just want his family to know that I feel closer to them as if they were my own. I am grateful for the time we had. I will never forget him and I will always love him and I know we'll see each other again one day.

Love,

– Kara Allen, Belmont High School

Six long years since The Prep days. Ever since we were in middle school, you were like an older brother towards me. We did everything together. I remember when we were at The Prep saying that we can't wait until we get to high school. Also, I remember when I got suspended for a basketball game at the Charter Cup, and you were telling Coach, "Can't he play? We really do need him." That made me real happy. Herman was the first person to try to help me play in that game. You were my right hand man when we were in high school. We were like, who are we going to talk to this year? We know who you gonna talk to first, that would be Kara, your baby. You and her lasted three strong years off and on. When you and her weren't talking, you were always coming to me for advice. The last couple days of school we were talking about all of next year...going to the prom, waiting to play varsity basketball next season. I'm gonna miss you, older brother. Every game I will think about you. I'm gonna try to bring a State Championship back to Belmont for you. You will always be in my heart, my older Big Herm. Miss you forever.

Herman was there when I needed him and I was there when he needed me. One day Herman and I were arguing who should get the number 11 jersey for school. Every day we would argue about it until this year, I was going to give it to him. Herman made Varsity at the end of the season and I was proud of him. Every day in the cafe we had a group of people arguing over the best NBA player. He would say that it was T-Mac and every body said he wasn't the best player at all. I will miss all the memories that we had since the 6th grade.

– Timmie Barrows, Roxbury
Prep/Belmont High School

Since the 6th grade me and you were boyz. Now that you're gone, I can't look back at one favorite moment, but rather recall all our years together. You're among the few I could call a true friend. Your loved ones and myself will always have you with us because you will always be in our hearts. And even though you will never really leave us, I wish you were still here. It's not even real to me that you're gone and I'll never get to hear you laugh again or come to one of your games. You're among the few truly good people I know and when you left, you took a part of me with you. But for all the gloomy days, the sun will shine again. All those who love you are now closer and as much as we want you back, your departure has shined a light on the darkness that is the society we live in. So with your passing, I know you still served a purpose in the struggle. My heart goes out to your family and may they be blessed, and may you be blessed in your Journey after life. Those who are loved are never forgotten. Those who are good forever serve a purpose. Those who we care about shall always look over us. I love kinfolk, and you forever shall have a place in my heart.

Your Fam, Darius
– Darius Thorne, Roxbury Prep/
Belmont High School

Dear Herman,
I miss you so much. You were my first boyfriend, yet more importantly my first love. You know that and I know that as well. I hate the fact that we couldn't finish what we began to build, yet I know you are watching over me, so everything is okay. Baby, you are my motivation from now on. Things are not the same. I feel like 1/2 of my mind, heart, body and soul is missing. I will always love you! Stay strong just as I will because I'm coming for you.

– Chynah Tyler, Roxbury Prep

Herman has been a close friend since I met him in the 6th grade at Roxbury Prep Charter School. I'll always love him and miss him and keep in my heart. He's more than a friend, and I know he knows I love him as a little brother.

One of my dearest moments with him is going to play basketball with him at Franklin Park, Trotter Park, Washington Park and South End BNBL basketball.

Ever since I met him I felt he was going some place one day, so I stood by him to try to support him but if he was here he would want us to celebrate his life.

I loved talking to him and listening to his advice and what he thought about certain things in life. He is still here in my heart and I know he's looking down on me now.

– Isaiah D. DePina, Roxbury Prep

One of my favorite memories with Herman is waiting for the bus every morning when we were at Roxbury Prep and going to Belmont high. Also just seeing him on his way home in the summer time and saying "Herman, ain't you suppose to be home?" And he would just smile and wave. I miss him so much!

– Jaleesa Turner, Roxbury Prep /
Belmont High School

Herm,
It is going to be a long year without you! I will always remember the times going all the way back to The Prep! I wish you were here with me to finish off our journey, but I am going to do it for you, knowing that you're watching over me. I love you, Herm, and I will see you soon.

Love, Dani

– Danielle Shearer-Coren, Roxbury
Prep/Belmont High School

Herman was one of my new best friends when I came into freshman year. That year we were both co-captains and just made our bond stronger. Me and him would always play 1 on 1 and we were very competitive. We would always get in each other's heads by saying stupid stuff just to throw our game off, but it was fun, though, and we both always laughed at the end of the game regardless of who won. We had friendly battles all the time, and when he spent the night over at the house, we couldn't play real basketball, so we played NBA Line, and that was so much fun, and we played for hours.

– Gaelen McGrail, Belmont High School

Me and Herman were the best of friends. I have never met anybody so nice and respectful to me and he would always talk in every class, make jokes about people and ourselves. Always talk about what girls looked pretty and which ones didn't. I remember his laugh like it was yesterday. The most unique laugh anybody ever heard. He showed me love like we were family and for hugging each other, we would get made fun of, but we didn't care because we were best friends.

– Axel Segura, Belmont High School

Herman was one of my best and closest friends. We referred to each other as brother and sister. Whenever we spoke, we told each other how much love we had for one another. Whenever I was mad, he'd tell me to cheer up and that he loved me. We could always talk. He'd always be there for me. I was his Doobie and he was my Herm-Diggy. I don't know how my life will be without him.

– Camille Clarke, Belmont High School

Well for the people that knew him, Herman Taylor was one of my best friends. I'm sayin I loved him to death, and every moment without him being here is another moment that makes me so angry. Just the thought of losin someone that was close to you is dreadful, and I dunno how its gonna be without him around. My prayers go out to his family, and to everybody else that feels my pain. I remember meeting the dude when he came in freshman year, and he was always looking at the bright side of things. He taught me to do the same. Me and Herman was closer than close. And I dunno what its gonna be like not havin' him here but I know he wouldn't want me or anybody else being depressed. SO try to look on the bright side of things like he would have done even though it don't seem like there is one. But never forget the man that changed all of our lives in very special ways. I'm sayin' we love you Herm, and you will never be forgotten and always will have a place in our hearts.

A name so important it shan't be forgotten, acting skills that no other possesses, Popularity and famously long gotten, An imprint of honor that truly impresses.

A lovable trait made for him only,

Known worldwide and remembered for ever, Now that the world is without you lonely, it leaves your works with us, still tender.

You fought with the strength of an emperor, although your mistakes were forgiven, with your absences it brings full terror, and faith and charm all long given.

So many movies done,

So little known,

Like birds that have now flown.

Maybe your body and life are gone,

But your soul and love are to us one. We shall grow a flower for your every heartbeat, We shall cry bitter tears of sadness,

But we know that no one will ever be able to beat, neither All the crazy things you've done nor all the madness.

I think I speak for all your fans when I say, That this day of your departure was a sad day.

Our long lasting love

Will fly next to you wherever you go,

As a pure white dove.

~Unknown~

– Mathieu Lainé, Belmont High School

I remember Herman in my classroom, in the doorway, saying hello and goodbye to and from school every day, organizing his binders on the first day of school, writing alone at a desk, and working. I remember his walk—confident and smooth, laid back. I remember him smiling with a hand on my shoulder in response to my nagging, “I got you, Ms. McCarthy, I got you.” I remember hearing Herman, his voice apart from the group, telling a story. I remember a paper he wrote about his favorite poem; he wrote that he liked this poem because it was about making something out of nothing, about continuing through the impossible. My last memory of Herman: he is standing in the doorway with his friends. He tells me he finished all his finals, that he will read his thesis book, that he will check in before our first summer meeting. I find some peace in knowing that he was part of a mini family within Belmont, young people who travel distances between two worlds every day to learn together. This family will continue—stronger, changed, loved because of Herman—with Herman's story to tell through their own lives. Every day at school he was present in his style, his grace, his laughter, his heart that was so big for others, his dreams—his gift to us.

– Ms. Jana McCarthy, Herman’s 10th grade English Teacher & School Choice Advisor

The last time I talked with Herman was on the phone. He offered me a job for the summer. What I know about Herman is that he wanted to graduate. He was ready to work hard his senior year.

– Brandt Toppin, Belmont High School

MEMORIES:

Herman walking up Harold Street in the snow to carpool to Roxbury Prep one morning.

Riding the bus home with my Girl, so she didn’t travel alone after school.

Reserved, respectful, and standing tall and proud amongst all of the guys, always making a point to catch my eye and say, “Hello.”

– Ms. Dawn Shearer-Coren, parent of Danielle Shearer-Coren, Belmont High School

Herman was always laughing. I would give the boys—Herman, Timmie, Darryl, Darius, and Sterling—rides home and they would trash talk each other the whole way to Boston. Our boys would watch each other’s games. They made each other better. That’s one best memory I have. Herman was very funny, very polite. Herman and the boys would fight to get into the car, and I always used to say that I’m not going to leave anyone behind, there’s room for everyone, but he and the boys would still rush to get in and then start trash talking, and my husband I would laugh so hard.

– Florence Laforest, parent of Darryl Laforest, Belmont High School

To a fellow classmate and fellow friend,
Herman,

Every morning I would wake up and go to Chemistry, and Herman would walk in and I would greet him with a “Hermburger!” and he would laugh and smile and say, “That’s my boy, ‘Tosh.” We would go through the year talking and he said how good I dressed, and I would reply, “No, you’re a fresh dresser.” He would give me advice and we would go to the Café and eat and share some laughs.

– Macintosh Bozier, Belmont H.S.

Herman was a very genuine person. I would describe him as good hearted, positive, fun, and he had a very warm personality. He was always upbeat and positive and constantly had a smile on his face that was very contagious to all around him. He would always take the time to say hello with a smile to anyone in passing. He was very fun spirited and Herman and I would always joke around a lot. He would tell me all the time jokingly that “he’s got my back.” I always had fun playing some pick up basketball games in the gym with him and the others guys. Herman was a student athlete at BHS that I really respected who really brought positive pulse to the school and to all the people he interacted with. Herman, you will be missed. I will miss your smile and vibrant spirit come next fall.

– Stacie Marino,
Herman’s Physical Education teacher

To Herman’s Family,
Herman was a true angel. I know how hard it truly is to lose someone very close and special to your hearts. But he has ascended to a better place now. One of my best memories would be seeing Herman walk into the gym with a smile on his face getting ready to PLAY BALL! with the many friends he has...although he had a funny and cute way of shooting his “J’s,” he still managed to get the majority of his shots in. He would always save a shot for me. He would say, “Karah, this one’s for you!” I would say, “Alright then Herman, do your thang.” He would bounce the ball a couple of times, shoot a “J,” and SWISH...it would go in...ALWAYS. I told him he has a gift and he will go far. With a smile on his face, he would say, “I’m trying my best, lookout for my name; I will be big one day.” I will always miss his warming hugs and how he would always ask how my day has been. He will be missed...R.I.P. Wish you the best, Herman.

– Karlah Paul, Belmont High School

My fondest memory of Herman was when he first came to the school. I used to play basketball with him after school, and from the start, he was really friendly and nice to me. I also remember all of the practices I have been through with him. He was always funny and knew everyone on the team well, and everyone liked him. Herman would always joke around off the court but when he got on the court, he was always very serious about the game, and I saw him as a leader.

– Phil Barera, Belmont High School

Herman Taylor was one of the nicest and most engaging individuals I have ever met. A moment that personifies him in my eyes occurred while we were practicing together during freshman basketball season. A group of children at a local elementary school mistook Herman for a player in the NBA. When he was approached, Herman played quite the part, laughing and signing autographs. Watching him interact with the children made me appreciate the genuine goodness in his heart, and it is an image I will never forget.

– Josh Levin-Scherz, Belmont High School

Herman and I used to stay at the gym during basketball season after practices and play games, and although I never could beat him, it was always a good time. Herman was always the nicest person on and off the court.

– Martin Connolly, Belmont High School

Herman Taylor III was loved by many.
Herman Taylor had something in common
with Jesus, a pure heart.

It was a pleasure to have known Herman.
You will be missed dearly and deeply.
Herman represented peace and love and I will
love to see his legacy carry on in that manner.

How did Malcolm X do it?
How did Martin Luther King do it?
How did JFK do it?

How did these men bring the people together
in a positive way?

This is my question to the people.

Herman didn't represent violence, he
represented peace and only peace can come
from his passing.

Love to his parents and sisters.
You must be honored to have had him be a
part of your family.
– Nadine Thorne, parent of Darius
Thorne, Belmont High School

Herman Taylor was the sweetest kid I knew,
you don't find many sweet boys in middle
school. Boys liked him, girls like him; he was
a good kid.

– J. Sawicki, Former Director,
Roxbury Preparatory Charter School

I remember the first time I met you
freshmen year in homeroom. Me and you
were the only METCO/ Choice students in
that room so I walked over and introduced
myself to you. I knew we were going to be
cool and you started laughing at me when I
got you confused with CJ. We had fun while
I was up in Belmont. I'll always remember
you.

– Johan Valerio

I will never forget Herman, his amazing
smile, his humor, and his amazing maturity
and respect he showed everyone around him.
He is and was so well loved by all! As his
guidance counselor, we talked a lot about
getting through this year and all his dreams
for next year, playing basketball, and classes
for his senior year. I am always going to hold
a special place for Herman in my heart. One
memory of Herman recently that I remember
is: I was walking the halls and walked up on
Herman and Kara outside the cafe,
Herman was so present and they both were
so in tune. Herman then saw me and with a
big grin tried to hide from me—he did not
want to lose this moment with Kara. I walked
by and remember smiling, thinking, what an
amazing heart and great person he is.

I am not I.

I am this one

Walking beside me whom I do not see.

Whom at times I manage to visit,

And at other times I forget.

The one who remains silent when I talk,

The one who forgives, sweet, when I hate,

The one who takes a walk when I am indoors,

The one who will remain standing when I die.

(Translated by Robert Bly)

– Ms. Julia Ober, Herman's Guidance
Counselor, Belmont High School

Herman,
I can't believe you're gone. I always admired
you from afar. From that time you first told
me about your plans to go to college, I knew
you were going far. You will truly be missed
and that smile, oh God, how I loved that
smile. You will live in our hearts forever.
Thank for making high school a bit more
bearable for all of us. We love you.

– Sonia Segura, Belmont High School

Dear Family,

I am so sorry for your loss. I did not know your son but I know his sister, Marisa. I had to show respect for a life that lived and is dearly loved. May God be your strength in this time of sorrow. May he be your comfort where none seems to exist. I grieve for you and pray for you. Herman seems like he was a fine young man. He didn't deserve this but I believe that God has special place in his heart for children. Although he was young man in his maturity and the responsibilities he took on, he was still a child with many more years to go. I find comfort, in all the injustice that he is in good loving hands. May God bless you. May God bless our community. May God bless our children.

– Alenor

Picture two new third graders at Paul Robeson Institute, who did not know what to do. That was Hakim Hill and Herman Taylor III. As young as we were we did what every new student did: we followed someone else. He followed me and I followed him not knowing that neither one of us knew what to do. We got into trouble every Saturday. But of course, I would do it again just to see his smile. I loved that guy.

– Hakim Hill

What I remember most about him is how polite he was. He was always careful to say, "Hello, Mrs. Rinder, how are you?" every time he saw me in the hallway, and he never once acted up in class for me freshman year. He always acted with the utmost respect for me and for his classmates as well.

– Ms. Lindsey Rinder, Herman's 9th grade English Teacher, Belmont High School

Some students are proceeded by their siblings, their friends, or even their reputations. A young man of his own making, however, Herman was proceeded by his smile. During those first weeks in September, when many students are still searching for their comfort zones, Herman was strolling through the halls of Belmont High School with his carefree grin and charming twinkle in his eye. I can't count how many times Herman's smile helped me to get through a difficult lesson with my students, but I can remember one particularly difficult day for me that Herman unknowingly turned around with his kindness. Upset and frustrated by a challenging encounter with a few students, I decided to stand in the hallway during a class period change. Among the milling, socializing students, the busy hallways are often the best places to disappear for a moment of privacy or reflection. Melting into the wall, I was passed by dozens of students chatting eagerly amongst themselves during their brief burst of freedom. Feeling alone, I wondered how I would make it through the day after being so shaken early that morning. Then, a radiant smile broke through the crowd, forcing me to make eye contact. Herman, always the gentleman, would not ignore one of his teachers in the hallway. He paused with his friends just long enough to ask how my day was going. Meeting his eyes and being blessed by his honest, heartfelt smile was all it took for me to respond, "Much better now, Herman, thank you." As Mother Teresa said, we are not expected to do great things, only small things with great love. Herman was a remarkable young man and I will always be grateful for the small things that he did.

– Ms. Gina Chaimanis, Herman's 11th grade English Teacher, Belmont High School

My first time meeting Herman...

It was two years back; I wasn't even in the school yet. I walked into the Belmont High gym with my brother and he introduced me to Herman. After that we started playing ball and from then we became cool. I wish I had talked to him more throughout high school because he was a friendly person and his personality attracted everyone towards him. I looked up to how he dressed and composed himself. He was what you call a "ladies' man." R.I.P. Best wishes to his family.

– Devon Pittman, Belmont High School

I know from talking to students, coaches, and faculty that Herman was a wonderful, respectful, and fine young man, but I didn't know him personally. Since I work in the main office of the high school, I would see students during the day with discipline issues, but I don't ever remember Herman sitting on "the bench" to receive detention. I will keep Herman and his family as well as all of the students at the high school in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you all. Regards,

– Mrs. Carolyn Bunyon, Secretary to Mr. Harvey, Principal of Belmont High School

I will always remember Herman's smile in Spanish class and as we passed each other in the hallway.

– Sarah Myers, Belmont High School

Herman was a quiet, respectful, and caring young man. Every encounter I had with him was positive. Herman is gone, but never forgotten.

– Mr. Brown, Guidance Counselor, Belmont High School

Big Herm. Yo let's listen to S.P. the ghost my dude.

– Best friend, Lyttle

Herman, wherever you are I hope that your soul rests in peace. You are in God's hands now. I will always remember you.

– Yours forever, Nate

The last memory I had with Herman was when I was in the 'caf' with him helping him fill out his ACT papers. I could read the questions to him and he would fill them out then he would make a joke and we would just start laughing. He could get frustrated with me and try to take the paper back, but I couldn't let him. Then we were goofing around having a good time and we still managed to fill it out. I don't remember anytime that I was with Herman that I didn't laugh. He was a fun person to be around and I will carry the memories in my heart.

– Heather Centeio, Belmont High School

Herm was my man since we was young. I'll always keep him in my heart.

– Isaiah

Big Herm,

I luv u my Doo. Always miss u 4ever, wait for me still Get at me. 02118 (me) & 02120 (you)

– Anonymous

They is great the day is good. Neva thought u'd leave the hood...Ahh man good times were good times, bad times were back times. From k-1 to high school you were my light. U were my Doo...why would they take u? I remember the day we were brothas.

– Always, Anonymous

I love you. Miss you. We'll see each other soon. The Mortal Kombat on PS2. I going to miss your beautiful smile. P.S. yo, play that karma: Lloyd Banks.

– Best Female Friend, Tia

You will always be missed and we will always be your boyz. We love you to death and we want you to know you will always be in my heart.

– Anonymous

My favorite memory of Herman would have to be the first time that I met him. He was happy, full of smiles, just an all around guy. Everyone loved being around him, he was the type of person who knew what to say and when to say it.

– Michael

I remember when Herman came to talk to me about the senior thesis project. He was very excited to read the summer reading book *Friday Night Lights* for his chosen thesis topic, Sports. He was extremely courteous and genuinely interested in the project. He told me he looked forward to English class next year. I am sorry I will not have the chance to teach him and know him better as he made a wonderful impression on me.

– Sharlene Olson, English Teacher,
Belmont High School

There's a lot to remember Herman by. He had one of the greatest smiles you could ever see...his sense of humor...his ball playing skills. We all going to miss him. My boy Herm, R.I.P.

– Myles Humphrey

Rest in Peace. Always loved and Remembered.

– Tara and Tashara

My best memory of Herman is when he always used to play basketball. No one would pick me but he always made sure I was on his team. Everything he did, he always included me, he never left me out and that's what I remember most.

– Victor Gray, Belmont High School

Rest in peace my Herman, aka Herm. I remember when Nate used to call you his cousin when you used to chill outside. Then, he introduced you to me and we was always cool after that. I remember when I used to play ball at the Trotter before they changed it to a nationwide park. We used to always play ball together then it was me, you and Nate. You were always a good person, not like the rest that used to be out here. I'm gonna miss you, especially playing football with you. I remember me, you, Nate and Isaiah aka Izzy use to chill. I'm gonna miss you. Rest in Peace.

– Robert Rogers

What I remember most about Herman was his love for basketball and I remember playing ball in the upper gym when we had free periods before English class.

– Anonymous

Dear Herman,

I'm going to miss you so much. I remember the last time I talked to you it was sophomore year. I remember you laughing because you couldn't believe it was me on the other end. I told you to be safe and you said the same as well. You were funny. That's how I will always remember you. We were in the same advising, you and me and Isaiah would always joke and make me laugh. You will be missed terribly God is with you, and will protect your family. I know you're watching over all of those who miss you!

– Kyeanna Parkin

On Thursday, Jul 13, 2006 Herman's father said to me, "He will never forget his son's million dollar smile." I will always remember Herman for his smile. – R.I.P. Big Herm

– Anonymous

I myself didn't know Herman like most other Belmont students did, but we were friends. In fact, me and Herman didn't start hanging 'til '06. But getting to know him, I met a respectful, hard working, down to earth person, and a trustworthy person at that. Talking in the 'cafe, on the bus, or wherever. Herman was a good person and he will definitely be missed.

– Anonymous

I will always will miss you out on Crawford St. playing ball with us. You gone but never forgotten. Your name and spirit still lives on. Rest in Peace. See you when I get there at the golden gate.

– Kwmaine Davis

Now it hasn't hit me yet. It's so hard to believe that such good friend and person could die so young. I really connected with Herman in the 7th grade and me and him started becoming good friends in the 8th grade. Herman was such a cool dude and had good energy and that's why I liked being around him. But I went to high school in Rhode Island and he went to Belmont and I regret that. I truly do because now I had no chance of ever connecting with him. A part of me feels as if it's so surreal. I never thought the next time I'd see him was like this. Although, he's gone his memory doesn't fade. Herman showed so much love respect to everyone including me and for that I have just as much love for him. Heaven has gained an angel and you will be missed.

– Your Boy, Darius Glover,
Roxbury Prep

I remember since I met Herman how non-confrontational he was and he never even got into arguments. I have nothing but good memories. Most of the time I would play ball with him and everything was cool.

– Colby

I will always remember him especially his passion to play ball. I was a junior at BHS when he came in as a freshman. All I know is whenever I wanted to play ball he wanted to. He always wanted to play ball whenever he could. For the four years I knew him I could tell you he was one of the nicest kids I knew. Always had that huge smile on his face whenever I saw him.

– John Igu, Belmont High School

Herman,

I remember when we were talking and you looked at me and said, “there are worst things that can happen, don’t worry about the small things he’s done. He still loves you. I know he does.” He was helping me and his friend work through a problem. It seemed as if the problem wasn’t worth the fuss after talking to him. You will forever be remembered.

– Love, Shabori.

I just wanted to say Herman was one of my only close friends. And that day 07-12-06. He was chillin’ with me all day. That is why I feel so bad. RIP Herman.

– Elias Reyes

Herman was a loving, helpful, and dedicated friend who would be by your side whenever you need. He could make any situation a happy one with his charm and sense of humor. He was always smiling and tried to make everyone feel accepted and just as happy as he was. He was a very good friend of mine and he will be forever missed.

– Lea Revallion, Belmont High School

I remember Marisa talking about her brother years ago, when we worked together at Citizens Schools. I could always hear the pride in her voice and although I never knew him from the words people have spoken today and all that I have read about him, he remains in my thoughts as a remarkable young man, who lived a life full of laughter and joy. He is lucky to have such a wonderful strong family. My blessings thoughts and prayers are with you.

– Rachel Green

No matter what time of day, you walk in the ‘Cafe and Herms always there. I was always saying, “Oh my goodness then why ain’t you in class? You know you don’t have no frees.” And he would always reply, “come on man, my class got cancelled” with that Herm grin on his face. Somehow he still managed to do what he had to do and have time to chill. He’ll always be missed but never forgotten.

– Taia, Belmont High School

Thank you Herm for a good friendship. Sorry things had to end so soon. When I see you in the crossroads we gonna get that 1-on-1 b-ball game.

– One love, Matthew

Herman was a close and dear friend of mine whom I will never forget. His smile could lighten up a room. His heart was big enough to hold the emotions of a million people. And hopefully the life he lives beyond this one will be 11 times greater. RIP HT3

– Melvin McKenzie, Belmont High School

To Herman’s Family,

I cannot make any sense of Herman's death. It is hard to imagine how anyone ever could make sense of this heartbreak.

I wish you strength, each other's love, justice and the capacity to forgive, and the strong light of memory to keep Herman's spirit alive throughout your days.

Perhaps Herman's memory will inspire others to create peace on Boston's streets.

With my heartfelt sympathies for your loss,
– Jonathan Landman, former
Principal of Belmont High School

Herman was a student in my “You and the Law” elective this past semester and was, to put it simply, your classic “great kid” that every teacher feels lucky to have in class. What I’ll always think about when I remember Herman is his kind, easygoing disposition, the respect he always showed classmates and teachers alike, his innate ability to make everybody around him feel comfortable in a course that constantly deals with uncomfortable issues, and his quiet but wonderful sense of humor. I truly wish I could have 100 kids like Herman every semester. I’ve never respected a student more and I doubt his classmates have ever respected a colleague more.

I will miss him tremendously. My thoughts and prayers go out to Herman’s family.

– Eric Berkman, Social Studies
Teacher, Belmont High School

In the short time Herman interned for us at Year Up, I felt the warmth as soon as our hands grasped one another's in a bond of trust that will last for eternity. His positive attitude along with his intelligent mind-set, brightened my day, every day, and his memory shall live forever, in the hearts of everyone he has touched in his life, especially mine. One love forever,

– Duran MacArthur, Colleague,
Year Up

Grace. It is very rare for a young man to carry himself with such physical and emotional grace. Herman could stop a soccer ball and spin on a dime (even though that wasn’t his sport) or listen to a friend’s story without a bit of self-consciousness. He was effortlessly himself.

– Anonymous

Herman was a member of my American Studies class during the 2005-06 school year. Herman was nothing if not reliable. He showed up to class every day, always had a smile on his face, was always respectful and always wore his Cincinnati Reds baseball hat, tilted just a bit to the side. Herman was really a terrific young man. I remember talking basketball with him during the winter, especially after he was elevated to the varsity. One afternoon, I remember shooting baskets together before a teacher-student basketball game, with Herman was ribbing me about my lack of a jump shot. Herman was a great kid to have in class. His work improved as the school year continued, and he went to great lengths to put his full effort into one project at the end of the year, coming by to see me on multiple occasions to make sure he got it just right. To me, Herman Taylor was the just the type of kid that we, as teachers, want to have in our classes. I am thankful for having had the opportunity to spend the time with him.

– Josh Goldfine, Herman’s History
Teacher, Belmont High School

What I remember most about Herman is his kind nature and sweet smile. When Herman would ask “How you doing Ms. Rodriguez?” He didn’t say it just to be polite. He wasn’t rushed when he asked. He really wanted to check in on people and see how they were. . . . I also remember his summer school graduation in August of 2003. He was told to bring anybody he wanted and he brought Isaiah DePina to celebrate the end of four years of hard work.

– Ms. Rodriguez, Director of High School, Roxbury Preparatory Charter School

Herman and I got to know each other only recently, as he applied for a post-prep internship through the Graduate Services Program at Roxbury Prep Charter School. One hot afternoon in late June, we met at Year Up, his internship site. Two former RPC classmates were also there--Jessica Pomare and Danielle Shearer-Coren. Herman called me fifteen minutes before the scheduled interview time and he mentioned that he was already there. I was impressed with him from the start. During the two weeks prior to his internship start date, he must have called me five times, confirming the start and end dates, the hours, the dress code, etc. I specifically remember him calling me the night before his first official day of work, asking me if I thought it was alright for him to wear a pair of black Dickies and a button down shirt. Sure, I told him, as long as you tuck in the shirt. Okay, he said. He sounded excited for his internship. He sounded ready for a change in his life. May his soul rest in peace.

– Ms. DeLeon, Graduate Services Coordinator, Roxbury Preparatory Charter School

Positive. Herman had to apply himself to achieve what he did in school, so it would have been easy for him to complain, defy, or quit, particularly during summer school after eighth grade at Roxbury Prep. Herman never asked why – he understood that school was important, and that showed when he graduated from Roxbury Prep with two fellow classmates in August of 2003. Herman was filled with so much pride that day, his smile even more electric than usual. A stage of his life was coming to a successful end, and a new one was just beginning.

– Mr. Austin, Teacher, Roxbury Preparatory Charter School

I just found Herman’s original application to Roxbury Prep. Along with his cumulative records sent from the Winship School was a note from his 5th grade teacher. She said she was very pleased that he was accepted to Roxbury Prep and she commented that she “knew him to be an empathetic encouraging friend.” It was signed Carol Airasian. I think those are beautiful words to describe him.

In class, Herman was hard working, willing to take chances, and kept a smile on his face. Even when the work wasn't easy, Herman would keep trying until he got it. He maintained a positive attitude and outlook in situations where his classmates found that difficult. In addition, he was always kind to his classmates whether they were his best friends or students who ran in a different friend group. His smile was contagious. He will clearly be missed immensely.

– Dana Lehman, Co-Director, Roxbury Preparatory Charter School

Dear Herman,

As much as you have heard me talk in class and push on you to write, it is difficult for me to say or write anything at this time. For the past seven years, I have watched you grow and I have bags full of memories of you. The one memory I want to remember is the one I cherish the most. On May 31st, 2006 you called me to inquire about the Roxbury Prep summer internship opportunities. You said you were thinking about teaching/coaching as a possible career track. I remember the conversation well because I emailed the Roxbury Prep teachers (Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Lehman and Mr. Phillips). My note read, "A new day has come. Herman Taylor has called me on his own volition to ask about how he can participate in a summer internship. Wow! Our kids are growing up." I was so proud of you, as I told you in subsequent conversations. It was the first time, without pressure from Marisa and your mom, I witness you take control of your life. So this is how I want to remember you: as a teenager who was at the brink of maturing into a responsible young man. I am forever grateful I was able to participate in part of your journey into adulthood.

Yours truly,

– Ms. Saintil, Herman's Teacher,
Roxbury Preparatory Charter School

I will always remember Herman running down the soccer field dribbling the ball with his feet, pointing to his teammates with one hand in preparation for a pass, and holding his Roxbury Prep sweatpants up with his other hand.

Herman Taylor was careful with the words he chose, always making sure the language he used in the work place was professional and fit for the occasion. His energy for his summer internship was explosive. He worked hard, he completed tasks quickly and, always, he finished his work with poise and a sense of accomplishment. Never once did Herman complain, but instead asked, "What else can I do to help you?" Herman's manners were as impeccable as his good looks, as he presented himself handsomely and ready for the professional environment. In the short time he worked with our organization, Year Up, he touched the hearts of the instructors and was quickly making friends with the student body. He had come in very interested in learning, and that is what he did, taking all of us in and sharing himself with us. The news of his loss is a tragic blow to our community. He will be sorely missed.

– Melissa Falcon, Learning
Director/Internship Supervisor Year
Up

I didn't know you, but I have met you through your friends who love you and miss you greatly. Thank you for the inspiration of your life to all of us, even me who has just now encountered you. I can see the coolness of your being, the presence of your eyes, and the beauty you've given to many. I'll carry you always in my heart.

Yours who admires what you've been to so many,

– Hugo

