



Richard "Big Foot" Taylor

January 31, 1953 - April 14, 2026

We love and remember Richard "Big Foot" Taylor – 01.31.1953 - 04.14.2026 – devoted husband, beloved father, a friend to all; the man who never met a stranger.

His life full of storytelling, helping others, and heartfelt laughs began in Greenville, South Carolina, and ended at his Christiansburg home in the arms of his loving wife of 52 years, Paula Gayle.

Richard enjoyed floating down the New River with a fishing rod in his hand, driving his old "bowtie" Chevy truck down winding roads, and spending time "puttering" in his shop. He was proud to have been the only civilian (as far as we know) to fire the VT cannon (the Skipper) commemorating his retirement after 37 years working with Virginia Tech.

Memories will be held close by the love of his life, his "dear, sweet, lovely," Paula, daughters, Emily (Chris) and Adrienne (Elijah), grandchildren, Mathew, Morgan, Macy, Jewel, Stella, Maxton and Lawson, as well as six great-grandchildren. He is also cherished by his siblings, Nancy and Craig. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Mary Taylor of Newport, VA.

Richard was a man of integrity, loyalty, humor and hard work. He loved his family fiercely and was a faithful friend. His life will be celebrated at

Blacksburg Christian Fellowship on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 2pm.

His family is deeply grateful for the support of so many friends (the “old guys”), loved ones, and especially the team at Good Samaritan Hospice. In such trying times, each of you brought comfort, laughter, and companionship.

Previous Events


Celebration of Life

APR **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Blacksburg Christian Fellowship
2300 N Main St
Blacksburg, VA 24060-1308
(540) 552-8002

Tribute Wall

DG

“ My heart and my love are truly with you today! May you walk in the peace of God that amazingly does “pass all understanding” of our natural minds! I love and treasure you so much my friend! ❤️🙏🏻🙏🏻


Debbie Gusler - April 23 at 06:25 AM

AE

“ Aaron Deplazes & Va Heavy Equipment purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.



Aaron Deplazes & Va Heavy Equipment - April 22 at 07:48 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.



April 22 at 09:53 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.

April 22 at 09:53 AM

CD

“ Carolyn "Coot" Davis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.



Carolyn "Coot" Davis - April 22 at 07:24 AM



“ I'll never forget the first time I met Big Foot! What a sweet and positive soul even when life throws you a curve ball. You can tell how wonderful a person is by how the people around him love home so much. Although I won't be able to be there on Thursday know that the girls and I are sending loving thoughts your way Adrienne and Gayle 💕💕💕

Shaunalee Bailey - April 21 at 07:01 PM

PM

“ Penny Mappin purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.



Penny Mappin - April 21 at 09:18 AM

RT

“ Robin & Martha Taylor purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.



Robin & Martha Taylor - April 21 at 07:49 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.*



April 20 at 02:42 PM



“ *Florence B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.*

Florence B. - April 20 at 09:50 AM



“ *I became a friend of big foot driving the schoolbus together after talking I learned that my former boss that I worked for at Radford arsenal was friends with Bigfoot then I found that he was friends with the crew at blacksburg auto parts that I had been friends with all my life I was always amused at his funny comments and his good friendship sorry I didn't get to see him in later years*

Arnold Lafon - April 19 at 12:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.*



April 17 at 06:08 PM

RL

“ Roger and Kay Lucas purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.



Roger and Kay Lucas - April 16 at 06:13 PM

TF

“ The DuBose Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.



The DuBose Family - April 16 at 01:36 PM

TF

“ The DuBose Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Big Foot" Taylor.

The DuBose Family - April 16 at 01:36 PM

AW

“ Paula and family. I am so sorry for your loss of Richard. He was always the same regardless of where you saw him. He always had something funny to tell you and was always a ray of sunshine. I know you will all miss him dearly as everyone who knew him will. I pray Go wraps his loving arms around you and gives you peace and comfort. RIP Richard you will truly be missed.

Anna Lee (Cox) Williams - April 16 at 01:22 PM

SC

One of the best friends I've ever had! I will miss him! Sandy Collins

Sandy Collins - April 16 at 04:11 PM

LS

Paula my heart breaks for your loss. But know he is in heaven enjoying a good laugh with Sidney. I know you will miss Big Foot. Lisa Smith

Lisa Smith - April 16 at 10:27 PM

RS

“ *When its stated Richard was a man of integrity, respect, laughter, hard working and a man that never met a stranger, states it all. Thoughts and prayers for Paula, Nancy, Craig and Family members.*

Ruby and Larry Sheppard - April 16 at 12:25 PM

CE

“ *Paula and family, I am deeply sorry to hear about the passing of Richard. He was loyal, kind, passionate, funny and a genuine gentleman. I can remember when he came to the office, he would tell stories about me, whether true or not. He was a heck of a classmate. He loved my grandsons too. My deepest condolences to everyone. He will truly be missed. Paula, he loved you and the family so deeply. May God heal your broken hearts a little each day. God will have his hands full. May God bless each of you during this very difficult time. Thank you for sharing Richard with me and the many folks he came in contact with. Much love and prayers being sent to each of you.*

Charlotte Epperley - April 16 at 12:05 PM

MM

Paula, I'm so very sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of Richard. He's so funny. I rode with him to Chorale rehearsals and remember sitting in the back seat laughing hysterically while wishing he'd slow down just a little. One of a kind. Peace to you all.

Mike Montgomery - April 16 at 12:40 PM

JW

Taylor family: so sorry for your loss. We would see Richard at Wendy's when Nancy had him out to lunch. What a delightful, spirited man he was. Always a smile and kind words. Sincere condolences to all and God Bless you. Praying for peace as you navigate these next days and coming weeks.

Jackie and Pam Williams - April 20 at 07:29 PM