



## Taylor J. "Red" Genson

May 25, 1985 - December 6, 2022

Taylor J. "Red" Genson, age 37, of Park Ridge, formerly of Kankakee, sadly and unexpectedly passed away Tuesday, December 6, 2022 in Park Ridge. Although he is gone far too soon, he lived a life that gave him unconditional love and faith, while also constantly giving him experiences that gave him great stand-up comedy material. He was known as "Red" by many friends.

He was born May 25, 1985 in Kankakee, the son of Mark & Terri (Allyn) Genson, joining his big brother, Aaron and quickly taking over the household with his silly expressions and creativity. He inherited many beautiful Genson traits such as his love for theater, natural musical ability, a passion for cooking, swearing on the golf course, loyalty to any and all Chicago sports teams, and always having a joke ready for any occasion.

Taylor was active in theater for Kankakee High School, KVTA, CTW, and The Second City in Chicago. Theater brought so much joy in his life, including his stage name and nickname "Red", many lifelong friends, and his wife, Melissa. Taylor and Melissa married on September 6, 2009 in Manteno on a gorgeous Illinois day filled with lots of love, laughter, and choreographed dance moves to Michael Jackson.

The perfect day for Taylor would start with dark roast coffee, followed by fishing or a round of golf, then cooking up something super creative and tasty (with picture perfect presentation) for his family. After wrestling around the

house and doing funny videos with his 3 boys, he would take the stage doing stand-up comedy or karaoke, and end the night playing his favorite guitar, "Layla" around a campfire with his favorite people.

In between adventures on stage and in lyrics, Taylor found a passion for driving school buses. He adored the kids on his routes and had great comradery with his co-workers and managers. He was promoted to Safety Manager in 2021 for First Student in Elk Grove Village.

Taylor was raised in the Lutheran Church in Kankakee and was baptized into the Christian faith at South Park Church in 2017 in Park Ridge. He volunteered with the youth group, church praise team, and participated in several different ministries. His greatest adventure was going to Haiti in 2017 with his Uncle Jon Genson and their church team.

Surviving are his wife, Melissa Genson of Park Ridge; three sons, Landon Bennett Genson, Jameson Aaron Genson, and Nolan Andrew Genson, all of Park Ridge; two brothers and two sisters-in-law, Aaron & Laura Genson of Bradley and Master Sergeant Andrew & Michelle Genson of Delaware; one brother-in-law, Andrew Gaug of Kansas City, MO; maternal grandmother, Patricia Allyn; paternal grandmother, Norma Genson; nieces, Aurora Genson and Nellie Genson; nephews, Jacob Genson and Bennett Genson; father -in-law & mother-in-law, Paul & Lynda Gaug of Long Island, NY; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Taylor was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Richard Allyn; paternal grandfather, Joby Genson; and his best friend, Tim Johnson.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial visitation will be held from 9 a.m. until the time of the 11 a.m. memorial service on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Pastor Paul Gaug will officiate the service.

Memorials may be made to fund his children's education.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

DEC 17. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Memorial Service

DEC 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Fields With Sympathy Combo Tin was purchased for the family of Taylor J. "Red" Genson.*



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December 16, 2022 at 03:36 PM



“ *Love, The Levanduskys purchased the Classic Charcuterie Snacks Gift Set for the family of Taylor J. "Red" Genson.*



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**Love, The Levanduskys** - December 13, 2022 at 03:13 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. I was hoping to attend the memorial service but there are no seats available on any airlines. Please be assured that I will be praying for you. Love, Amy Pflug*

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**Amy Pflug** - December 12, 2022 at 06:30 PM

MH

“ Taylor "Red" was my grandson when we worked together at CTW in "Over the River and through the Woods." He was such a delight! He came rushing in from work, so I made him nightly sandwiches and we all enjoyed the homemade cannoli nightly in the play! His sense of humor was admirable and wonderful! I have enjoyed following his antics and adventures on his Facebook page, and seeing all the photos of his boys and family. Life had to have been fun daily! My heart and prayers go out to the family, and to Jon Genson who also loved him dearly. May he fill heaven with more laughter than angels knew before!  
Marsha Hill

Marsha Hill - December 12, 2022 at 05:48 PM



“ I met Taylor in highschool and he was in my drama class. We hung out a lot and we use to write and make sketches of comedy together. I will never forget you buddy. You always made me laugh and 😊 smile thanks for all the memories 🙏🥹❤️🕊️



Kenhiah Nelson - December 12, 2022 at 04:31 PM

KM

“ Red was a perfect Barry to play with at Tony N Tina's. He was just himself. Wonderful musician, comforting, steady, funny, and easy to talk to. He left a lot of memories and smiles behind. He will be missed.



Kelley Mauro - December 12, 2022 at 02:08 PM

SJ

“ Taylor was a friend in high school and he was one of those guys that everyone loved and seemed to love everyone in return. Our thoughts are with his family during this time.

Sarah Faford Johnson - December 11, 2022 at 06:15 PM

LL

“ Taylor made drama class and the school plays so fun and realistic with his incredible acting skills! He will be missed by KHS classmates.

larry Lewis - December 11, 2022 at 03:24 PM

MZ

“ Aaron, Laura Rory and Nellie,  
Sorry for your loss you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.



MaDonna M Zasada - December 10, 2022 at 03:28 PM

DM

“ I was deeply saddened when I heard of Taylor's passing! What a great loss for you all! I have known Taylor for a long time as we both participated in theatre through KVTA, but I really got to know him well when he and I played the parts of the old Ernestine and Frank Gilbreth as narrators for KVTA's Cheaper by the Dozen in 2006! I had always been a "behind the scenes" person, stage crew or props and had never been ON stage in an acting role and somehow was talked into auditioning by my daughter and landed this role of narrator alongside Taylor! I knew he was a seasoned actor and boy did I feel very nervous working along side of him as an amateur myself, but he was so encouraging and gave me such confidence and we really pulled off being brother and sister on stage! Following that we were both part of Mash, and a couple of other plays, but I was blessed to know him and Melissa and attend their wedding and just got to know them so well, fast forward to 2016 when I had to put my mom into a Memory Care facility and met Taylor's mom, Terri, she was the director of Memory Care and her and I became fast friends, Taylor and Melissa were now living in the Chicago area, but I spent so much time at the memory care facility and Terri and I would talk about our kids and our families, I felt like it was such a blessing because not only did I get to hear about Taylors family and the boys and what they were up to, I formed a great friendship with his mom! What a great family you have! I am blessed to have known Taylor on this side of heaven, he was such a fun loving person, great spirit and personality and he will surely be missed. Your family has been in my daily prayers since I heard this tragic news, I pray for peace and comfort from our Heavenly Father to hold you up and help you keep going through the days, weeks, months ahead. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24. Sending love and hugs and prayers! God Bless you all, Diane and Brad Marcukaitis

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Diane Marcukaitis - December 10, 2022 at 11:34 AM