

James W. Taylor
Selinsgrove, PA

James Wian "Jim" Taylor, 88, of Selinsgrove, passed away peacefully with great dignity on Friday, January 10, 2025, surrounded by his loving family at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

Born on April 23, 1936, in Lewistown, PA, he was the son of the late Harry H. and Edith E. (Wian) Taylor. On June 8, 1985, he married the former Mary Jane Lybarger, who survives him. Together, they shared a devoted marriage of over 39 years. Jim was preceded in death by his first wife, Nancy Ann Taylor.

Jim was a 1955 graduate of Lewistown High School and a 1959 graduate of Shippensburg State College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. He was a middle school science teacher in the Selinsgrove Area School District for 34 years, leaving a legacy of inspiration and mentorship.

Jim's passion for athletics and education was evident in his outstanding coaching career. He established the track and field program at Selinsgrove High School, coaching for 16 years. Under his leadership, the team achieved remarkable success, including winning the PIAA State Championship in 1976. His contributions to Selinsgrove's athletic program earned him induction into the Selinsgrove Area High School Hall of Fame.

Jim continued his coaching career at Susquehanna University, leading the men's track and field program for 16 years. During his tenure, his teams secured 11 MAC championships, produced seven national champions, and celebrated 32 All-Americans. His exceptional coaching earned him a place in both the Susquehanna University Hall of Fame and the Middle Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame. Jim was also honored with the Susquehanna Crusaders Men's Track and Field Certificate of Excellence. Beyond coaching, he served the university as the Coordinator of Students for the Business Admissions Department for 16 years.

A mentor to countless students and athletes, Jim's enduring motto, "It's a Great Day to Get Better," reflected his commitment to helping others achieve their best.

Jim enjoyed a life filled with family, adventure, and hobbies. He loved boating, kayaking, camping, gardening, traveling, watching football, cheering on his grandchildren at their sporting events, and spending time with his beloved dogs.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather. In addition to his wife, Jane, Jim is survived by his children: Kathi (Brent) Taylor-Hackenberg and their children, Michael and Lauren; Richard "Rick" Lybarger and his children, Olivia, Luke, and Sophia; Bryan (Page) Lybarger and their children, Jack and Raleigh; Marlin (Cindy) VanHorn and their children, Katie and Kelly; and Rob (Pat) Wintersteen and their children, Megan, Ryan, and Katie. He is also survived by six great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and his cherished furry companion, Bailey.

Jim was deeply loved and will be profoundly missed by his family and friends.

Services

A visitation will be held on Friday, January 17, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Susquehanna University Garrett Sports Complex-Robert I. Estill Field House, 181 E. College Circle, Selinsgrove, PA. A second visitation will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at

Susquehanna University's Weber Chapel Auditorium, 46 Weber Way, Selinsgrove, PA. The Celebration of Life Services will also be held at Weber Chapel at 2:00 p.m., officiated by Rev. Dr. Dietmar Plajer. Light refreshments and fellowship will follow in the Charles B. Degenstein Campus Center, 151 Weber Way, Selinsgrove, PA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made payable to "Susquehanna University", to the "Coach Jim Taylor Memorial Fund" in his honor. Make a gift online at www.susqu.edu/CoachTaylorMemorial. We invite friends and family to join us as we celebrate Jim's life and the joy he brought to all who knew him.

Arrangements are by V. L. Seebold Funeral Home, 601 N. High Street, Selinsgrove, PA.