

Biography for Robert Bryan Baumann

Robert Bryan Baumann was born November 11, 1961 to Allen and Sharon Baumann of Burrton, KS. On November 5, 2009, he married Anne M. Fleagle at Burrton. She survives. Other survivors include: step daughters, Amy Knolla (John), San Diego, Calif., Alise Taylor (Ira), Wichita; brother, Jim Baumann (Kathy), Overland Park; sister, Brenda Sooter (Craig), Halstead; sister-in-law, Samantha Baumann (Don), Burrton; and four grandchildren and 7 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, Michael Baumann.

He attended Burrton Schools throughout grade school, junior high and high school and played the trumpet and was on the football team. While in high school Robert's interest in cars and mechanics began to bloom. Robert's love for cars really got cranked up when his parents decided to buy him a car his junior year in high school; a bright RED 1966 Chevy Chevelle SS. After graduating from high school Robert moved to Wichita and earned his auto mechanic degree at Wichita Automotive Technical College. After graduation he worked for several auto shops and dealers in Wichita.

The summer of 1985 Roberts's world change forever when he had a water accident at Table Rock Lake that resulted in his paralysis with little or no movements from the shoulders down. Although Robert was bound to a wheelchair, he persevered through the pain, fatigue and rehabilitation process of starting a life that would be different but manageable. Although he never really thought of himself as disabled, because that's not the way he thought. He never received any federal or state disability or assistance. It was his love of mechanics and insatiable determination that helped him figure out ways to solve many of his life's new challenges.

Robert's career continued after his accident as he began working at Center Industries in Wichita; a metal fabrication and assembly plant that specializes in employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. During that time Robert was recognized nationally at a convention in Florida for his work ethic, spirit and inspiration that he gave countless others while at Center Industries.

Although he enjoyed working at Center Industries, he really felt like he could do more. He was thrilled when Textron Cessna offered him a job in their CNC shop machining parts for airplanes. Because of his experience at Center, and his love for mechanics, he moved up within the department doing various jobs and mentoring many of the new employees in the shop. Robert worked there for 20 years.

Robert rarely missed a family event, whether it was the holidays, graduations, birthdays or the like. Although he never had children of his own, he considered his nieces and nephews and Anne's family his kids. Robert's heart was genuine and good and was an inspiration to others. He never complained about his "situation" and just dealt with things as they came along. Whether it is driving his own van, cooking, cleaning, shopping, working full time at Cessna or traveling, he never let being in wheelchair confine him.

Robert passed away on November 9, 2016, at Via Christi St. Teresa Hospital, Wichita due to complication of urinary tract sepsis. He was 2 days shy of his 55th birthday.