



DAVID P. BULMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (2005)

The late David Bulman was a bear of a young man: 6-foot-3 and 250 pounds at age 19. Not surprisingly, he was a standout football player, co-captain of his Oliver Ames High School team in Easton, MA. His nickname was "Bull".

But the stereotypes end there. Bulman is remembered above all as a supportive friend, a tender father to his baby daughter, a loving son to his parents, a committed churchgoer, and someone as happy fishing alone for hours as sharing a spaghetti dinner with 45 teammates and his girlfriend.

From his classmates, he inspired comments like these: "He would do anything for anyone," "Everybody loved him," "I never saw him mad or sad."

In 1999, Bulman was halfway through his freshman year at Salve Regina University when a fire swept through his apartment building. He helped guide his friends to safety, and apparently had headed back into the smoke-filled hallways to help others, including a teammate who was trapped on the third floor. Bulman was the only one to perish.

Though his parents Paul and Mary Beth Bulman were willing to accept it all as a tragic accident – despite multiple fire code violations that might have made a difference – they accepted that their then-11-month-old granddaughter, David's daughter Cayce, would need and deserve the financial support that he would have provided.

Enter attorneys Kevin Reddington of Brockton and Angel Taveras of Corley Taveras & Petrarca in Providence, who pursued the case on behalf of young Cayce. When an out-of-court settlement was finally approved in late 2005, the two lawyers had not only assured their tiny 'client' considerable support for her schooling and other expenses for the rest of her life, but they went one unusual step farther. They both reached into their own pockets and established this scholarship fund in David Bulman's name at his high school.

"Learning about David during the course of our work, I realized he was a special person," relates Taveras. "David was a gentle giant. At 6-foot-3, David could have pushed people around if he had wanted. Instead, he went out of his way to make sure no one was ever left out.

"Kevin and I wanted Cayce to always know her father was a very special person. It was important to us on both a personal and professional level that he be remembered, and this way he will be. Here's a scholarship that will bear his name every year, which will be given to someone who reflects the kind of person David was. That's the kind of legacy he and his parents, his girlfriend Melissa Constantine, and his daughter deserve. We're honored to make it happen."