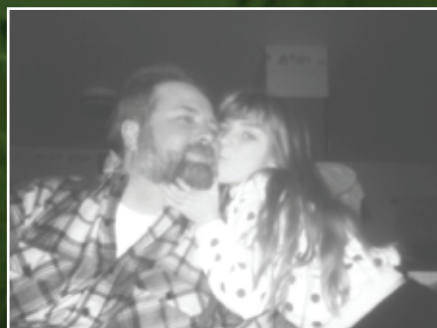


Preston Swinehart

February 14, 1953 - December 24, 2012



Preston's Life Story

A family man through and through, Preston Swinehart considered his family to be his greatest blessing. He was also a friend to many, and could be counted on in good times and bad. Preston possessed a zest for life all his own. Generous and loving, he gave his all, and then some, and will never be forgotten as his memory lives on.

Although conservative in nature, the decade of the 1950s sculpted the culture of America. Everything from music to movies, art and media to beloved comic strips and cartoons introduced

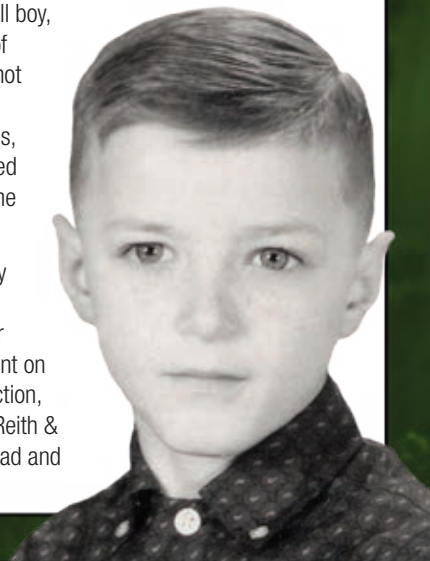
households to a whole new way of life.

With manufacturing and home construction on the rise, the economy boomed as the suburban dream was being realized. Amid these exciting times in 1953, the Korean War came to a welcome end. Indeed a time of change, the year also brought forth the blessing of new life in the lives of Roger and Cudnada (Brooks) Swinehart. Born on February 14, 1953 in Cadillac, Michigan, baby Preston Roger was welcomed with open arms.

The Swinehart family made their home in Plainwell, Michigan where Preston would come to be a lifelong resident. The oldest of ten children, he was a good big brother and helped his mother often with his younger siblings. From his earliest years, Preston possessed a kind and giving heart. As a youngster he always gave his outgrown clothes to his brothers without even being asked. All boy,

Preston enjoyed and played a variety of sports throughout most of his life. He not only played basketball, but was on his high school football and baseball teams, as well. In his later years, he also picked up the sport of hockey and played in the Over 30 League for many years.

During high school, along with his busy sports schedule, Preston worked at the Satellite Burgerteria in Plainwell for pocket money. After graduating, he went on to work at Picket and Skewer Construction, and eventually landed a position with Reith & Riley where he worked alongside his dad and





uncles before taking on a career with the Perrigo Company. Dedicated and a hard worker, he worked in the warehouse there for the last 21 years.

When children came into Preston's life, he could not have been happier, or more proud. His firstborn was his son, Chad, followed by another son, Preston. After ten years of loving and watching little Preston grow, the family's heart was broken when he sadly died. Preston took the death of his son hard, but knew he had to be strong for his family. Before long, Darrell and

Kenny Brown joined the family, and it also made his heart glad to welcome the birth of his baby girl, Heather.

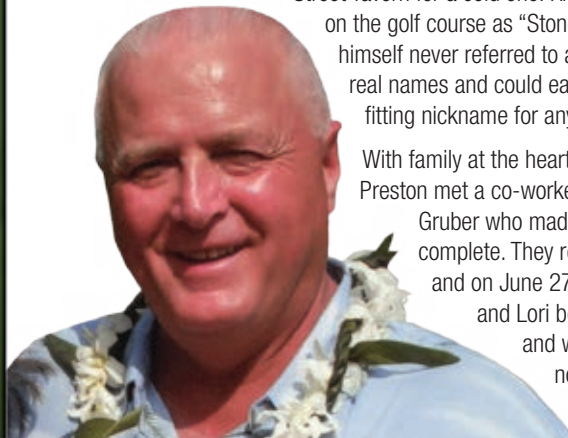
Preston knew how to enjoy himself, and when not working, he could be found playing golf. He loved yearly trips with his family to Myrtle Beach where he played at Oyster Bay. Whenever Preston traveled, it was sure to be by car as he didn't care much for flying. He enjoyed trips out west and loved taking in the rodeos while visiting Cody, Wyoming. It only stands reason, because Preston was an avid John Wayne fan and loved Westerns. He always enjoyed sitting

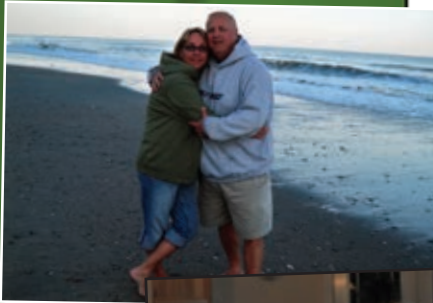
down to a good movie, whether it be at home or on the big screen.

When the kids were young, many enjoyable family vacations were spent on the beaches in Florida. He especially loved going to Cedar Point, or any amusement park for that matter, as long as they had roller coasters. Preston loved the thrill and was a coaster dare devil, tried and true. Preston simply loved any type of excitement and fun, and was truly a kid at heart, living life fully and completely at every opportunity. To him, there was nothing quite like a good porch party with a few of his buddies, or going down to the 10th

Street Tavern for a cold one. Known especially on the golf course as "Stone-Man", Preston himself never referred to anyone by their real names and could easily muster up a fitting nickname for anyone.

With family at the heart of his life, Preston met a co-worker named Lori Gruber who made his heart complete. They really hit it off, and on June 27, 2009, Preston and Lori became husband and wife. His family not only grew to





include Lori, but the addition of her children, Matthew, Alisha and Joshua were lovingly welcomed into Preston's heart, too. When grandchildren came into his life, Preston's heart overflowed with love; they were his ultimate, favorite little people.

Christmas was a special time for Preston and he looked forward to spending Christmas in Massachusetts with his daughter, Heather and her family this year. He and Lori made the trip there, but sadly, on Christmas eve, December 24, 2012, Preston died very unexpectedly at the age of 59.

Family was everything to Preston Swinehart, and he never thought twice when it came to being by their side. He was generous with his time, money, and most importantly, his love. He went out of his way to bring a smile to someone's day, and loved bringing laughter their way. He knew how to live, and lived abundantly. Deeply missed, he will be forever remembered.

Preston was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Preston Swinehart. He is survived by his wife, Lori Swinehart; his children, Chad Pearson, Darrell (Annette) and Kenny Brown, Heather (Don) Lonsbury, Matthew (Katie) Gruber, Alisha Harthorn, Joshua (Sam) Gruber; his grandchildren, Jake, Tony, Nick, Austin, Hunter, Skyler, Morgan, James, and Hannah; siblings, Jay, Curtiss, Linda, Ty (Shelly), Christine, Robin, Rhonda, Rodney (Dee), and Ricky (Donna) Swinehart; and numerous other family members and friends.

Visit with Preston's family and friends on Sunday, December 30, 2012 from 2-5 PM at Life Story Funeral Homes, Plainwell; 120 S. Woodhams (685-5881) where his funeral service will be held Monday, December 31, 2012 at 11:00 AM. Memorial donations may be made to Wings of Hope Hospice or Smiles for Hope. Please visit his personal web page at www.lifestorynet.com to share a memory or photo of Preston and to sign his online guest book.



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