



CITY OF PEEKSKILL
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa
Mayor

Renamed “Hassan Bolton Basketball League” Celebrates Dedication, Caring of Peekskill City Employee.

Much Loved and Admired, Bolton Died Unexpectedly Last Year at Age 27.

Ceremony Took Place Thursday July, 22 at 6 p.m. at LePore Park off Main Street.

For Immediate Release

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PEEKSKILL, NY—Peekskill is celebrating the heart, soul, and dedication of Hassan Terrick Bolton, a gentle man whose commitment to the community’s sports programs was so great he was willing to use his own money to make sure the kids got to play.

Bolton died suddenly last year at the age of 27. He was as a security guard at the Park Street School, where he was very much liked. But it was the work he did with local youth sports teams that won him the respect and admiration of the community.

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During Bolton's time as coach of the Peekskill High School Track program, the team achieved New York State Championship status. He worked with the Peekskill High School Football team as well. But his crowning achievement was the creation of a summer basketball league in LePore Park in Peekskill in 2001.

In a ceremony that took place Thursday, July 22, at 6:00 p.m., at LePore Park right off of Main Street, that program will be named after him, says Fran Brunelle, the city's director of community services. "Hassan was very much involved in getting the league off the ground," he says. Today the league that was a mere idea when Bolton began working with it draws more than 200 kids annually aged eight to 16. "We miss him. The kids miss him. He was an important part of our program," Brunelle says.

"He was a big old teddy bear of a guy who loved kids," says Parks and Recreation staffer Ray Glashoff. But Bolton's commitment went deeper than words and encouragement, says his mother, Juanita Bolton. "My son's goal was to look out for the youth," she says. "He was a faithful, considerate kind person who wanted to give back to the neighborhood," she says. "He was very into helping young people. He wanted to give them what they needed and provide a positive role model for them," she says.

Hassan wasn't just generous with his time. He was willing to spend his own money to keep the league going, Brunelle says. "He made sure this league went on even if he had to take money out of his own pocket," he says.

Now Hassan may be gone, but his achievements will live on as an inspiration, Ms. Bolton says. "It's a privilege that they recognized his hard work. I'm sure he'd appreciate that and be honored by it," she says.

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