

## **Richmond Fire Fighters' Marvin Griffin Memorial Golf Tournament**

Marvin Griffin was a giant of a man, jovial and apt to bear-hug and kiss friends on the top of the head.

“He was a true firefighter,” says Wesley Taylor, commanding officer of Richmond Fire Department’s Quint Company 8. “He was a ladder man all the way. If you needed to get into a building, he would do whatever it took.”

Griffin was paralyzed in an auto accident more than 14 years ago. The news stunned Taylor but motivated him to start a golf tournament to help his friend purchase a handicap-accessible van.

The first Richmond Fire Fighters Marvin Griffin Memorial Golf Tournament was held on a hot July day in 1997. Everyone had a great time, and nearly \$10,000 was raised.

“Marvin was at the tournament and in great spirits,” Taylor says. “There wasn’t a dry eye there.”

Four days later, Griffin suffered a blood clot and died.

Taylor gained permission from Griffin’s surviving family to continue the tournament in the departed firefighter’s name. Now the event benefits the Muscular Dystrophy Association and pays for children to attend camp in Wakefield.

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