

Michael Billington

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP — Michael Billington, 22, of Liberty Township died April 12, 2007 at his home following a 22-month battle with Stage IV alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma, a very rare cancer of the soft tissue.

Born Nov. 14, 1984 in Secaucus, he was a son of John and Patricia Billington of Liberty Township.

Mr. Billington had just finished his sophomore year at Seton Hall University, where he studied political science and was a member of the Pep Band. He was treated at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan and participated in a clinical study.

As a student at Hackettstown High School he was a member of the National Honor Society and graduated in the top 10 of his class. Mr. Billington was an active member of the band program, playing alto saxophone and serving as assistant drum

major for the Tiger Marching Band during his junior year and drum major his second year. He received the Bausch & Lomb Science Award, represented Hackettstown at Boys State, enjoyed athletics and was active in his church.

Mr. Billington participated three times in the Appalachian service project through Trinity United Methodist Church, which helps build and refurbish housing for the poor in the Appalachian Mountains. He was also a member of the Hackettstown and Belvidere swim teams.

While he was battling cancer Mr. Billington always kept a positive attitude and used his disease to make others aware of how important cancer research is. He held a "Battle of the Bands" with the help of the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church raising money for its youth program. He was also a team captain for the Relay for Life at Seton

Hall and was given the honor of cutting the purple ribbon in the opening ceremony. In October, with the help of the Allamuchy Cub Scouts, he held and was DJ for a Halloween party to raise money and collect food for the church food pantry.

In addition to his parents, surviving are his girlfriend, Meghan Brady; a sister, Melissa at home; his grandfather, William Falduti of Nutley; an uncle; and many aunts and cousins.

Services were held April 15 at the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Michael Billington Fund, c/o Panther Valley Ecumenical Church, 1490 Route 517, Hackettstown, NJ 07840.

Arrangements were by the Cochran Funeral Home in Hackettstown. Online condolences may be sent to www.cochranfuneral.com.

The Warren Reporter: May 18, 2007

NAME: Michael Billington

DATE OF DEATH: April 12, 2007