

It's no secret that Cory had a problem with substance abuse. And while it may have caught up with him in the end after over 2 years of strong recovery, we have to remember that addiction was only a very small part of who Cory was and it certainly did not define him. If you knew Cory, you knew he was kind, he was smart, he was always willing to lend a hand, he had a great sense of humor, and was a man of simple needs. He rarely asked for anything, and really could care less about new cars, the latest electronics, and often much to his mother's chagrin, he didn't care about new clothes.....but he did love his Dunkin Donuts iced coffee though.

What Cory cherished most was spending time with his family and his friends. He loved doing things that involved being with people that he could share an experience with. Going to concerts, to Red Sox games, to Patriots games, camping, fishing, hiking, going to a movie, grabbing a bite to eat, it's all time spent with someone building a lifelong memory.

When I think about Cory, I think what stands out most in my mind was that he was compassionate. Even as a child, I was always amazed about his intuition of people; how he was able to see through the façade we sometimes present and size up people for who they really were or what they were feeling. You know, at some point in your life, you ask yourself that age old question wondering "Why am I here?". I think Cory finally found his calling to help people and after his own struggles, he knew he could help others struggling.

Finally, it would be a dishonor to Cory if I didn't mention something about this scourge of addiction that is sweeping our country. It needs all our attention before it consumes us all. Hardly anyone anymore is immune to its effects, and as you look around today, its claws have extended a little further touching even more people. If you're struggling with addiction yourself or have a loved one struggling with addiction, please, I beg you to reach out and ask for help. Don't hide it away hoping no one will discover your secret. Addiction is a disease. It's a devastating disease, but it's a disease no less. It's nothing to be ashamed about. And most importantly, I want you to know that you don't have to go through it alone. You just have to reach out and ask for help. And when you do, know in your heart that Cory will be there to love you, to embrace your soul, and support you through it all.