

# Michael McClernon Memorial Scholarship

## *Musical talents*



A scholarship in Michael McClernon's name is being offered through the generosity of his friends, Jonathan Nelson and Paula Vullo. A \$1,000 award will be awarded to a graduating Wyoming Area senior who has used his/her musical talents in a way similar to Michael. Preference will be given to musical talent but other related talents will also be considered. The recipient will be a student who represents the entire Wyoming Area student body and should be well-rounded with school and community involvement with at least an average academic record and who will be attending a trade, technical, 2 or 4 year college or university. Final selection for this award will be made by the Michael McClernon selection committee.

Michael J. McClernon, 39, of West Pittston, died on September 28, 2011, at Hahnemann University Hospital, Philadelphia. Born in Monticello, NY, May 02, 1972, he was a son of the late Frederick and Helen (McCloskey) McClernon. He was a 1991 graduate of Pittston Area High School, and he was employed at the Tobyhanna Army Depot. he was a Golden Glove boxer and was trained by his very good friend, "Irish Gene Reed." He performed in many local rock bands. He was fiercely committed to organ donations, and following his death, he "gave" of himself by donating his organs to The Gift of Life Foundation.

The condition of Michael's heart may have been the source of his passing, but despite its weakness, his "heart" was a vast and expansive terrain within which he loved deeply and connected with others in profound ways. At the core of his heart was his family, especially his beloved wife Gena (Raymond), and their dog, Britney. He fondly referred to them as "his two favorite girls."

Gena and Michael shared a rare, special and beautiful bond. They were together for nine years and just married in November 2010. Words cannot convey the depth with which Gena will miss her husband.

Michael was blessed to forge and sustain many close friendships. Memories of his smile will live on and he will be remembered by his friends as a person who possessed a truly genuine spirit, a heart of gold and as someone who deeply valued his close relationships.

Michael had an incredible voice and performed in many local rock bands. He was committed to using the gift of his voice to serve others and did so by singing for numerous fundraisers. Michael's generosity will, quite literally, live on in the lives of others because he "gave" of himself through his organ donations. His life may have been short lived but Michael lived robustly and fully. His life will be a source of steady inspiration to those who knew and loved him.

**Essay Required:** In at least 500 words, tell us how your life is similar to Michael McClernon's to include why you should be awarded this scholarship.