



## Juanito "A.J." Tax-Serfass

March 3, 2006 - October 1, 2023

Juanito 'A.J.' Tax-Serfass, age 17, of Grove, Oklahoma, tragically lost his life in a drowning accident on Sunday, October 1, 2023. A.J. was born in Norfolk, Nebraska on March 3, 2006.

A.J. had recently moved to Grove from Monkey Island, Oklahoma. He was a junior in high school at Oklahoma Connections Academy.

He was accomplished in Tai Kwan Do and enjoyed self-defense classes. He had a collection of Marvel comics and delighted in a variety of video games and remote cars. A self-proclaimed Mama's boy, he was kind, funny and selfless, and never liked to be a disappointment in any way. Cooking was one of his specialties, and his favorite was spaghetti and meat balls. A.J. loved 'fixing stuff' and had recently moved to a recreational lake development where he assisted his dad in working on the recreational vehicles.

His memory will always be cherished by his parents, Mary and Adam Nelson, and his two sisters, Nataleigh and Angelicyah, and many extended family and friends.

A visitation for A.J. will be from 4-6pm Friday, October 6, and funeral services will be at 11am Saturday, October 7, 2023, both at Nichols Stephens Funeral Service.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 6. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Nichols-Stephens Funeral and Cremation Service  
10201 U.S. Highway 59  
Grove, OK 74344  
(918) 786-6761  
nicholsfunerals@yahoo.com

## Funeral Service

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Nichols-Stephens Funeral and Cremation Service  
10201 U.S. Highway 59  
Grove, OK 74344  
(918) 786-6761  
nicholsfunerals@yahoo.com

# Tribute Wall



“ Nichols Funeral & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Juanito "A.J." Tax-Serfass



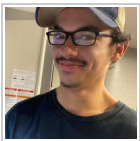
Nichols-Stephens Funeral & Cremation Services - October 09, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ Missing you



Angelicyah - October 03, 2025 at 09:48 PM



“ This was after AJ took the Golfcart up to the shop to clean it up.



Mary Tax - October 06, 2023 at 12:51 AM

MA

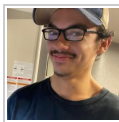
“ Aj was a very great friend and had an amazing work ethic and view to life. Always made me laugh when I talked to him or he said a joke. Mj or May he called me, always liked that nickname over Mak like most people call me. "Like mak and cheese?" Was his thoughts over that name. Can't say I disagree.  
Out of all the people in the school or outside world I've talked to, Aj was one to always say "hello how are you" to me before I even said hi that day. Always a great friend to everyone he met.  
Youll be missed greatly by your friends and family. Your sisters are also so fun to talk to and I see you in them too. Watch over them.  
I'm sure they got great things in store for them too.  
Miss you Aj. Fly high!

Makayla Anderson - October 05, 2023 at 08:53 PM



Thank you for sharing your memory of AJ!!

Nataleigh Tax-Serfass - October 05, 2023 at 09:33 PM



Thank you May for those beautiful memories of AJ! I enjoyed reading your post! How are you doing? -Miss Mary

Mary Tax - October 05, 2023 at 11:37 PM



“ A.J was the type of guy that brightens everyone day and can make anyone laugh. He was super chill and fun to talk to. When i did online, we would have this group chat which has like 30 people in it, and we would constantly send chats back and forth accumulating over 1k webmail’s notifications until the principal had enough and put a stop to it. I remember In one of the webmail he wrote “meow meow”. It was so out of the blue that it caught me off guard and to this day, I kid you not, i would say meow meow under my breath for no odd reason.

*That’s my little memory of A.J’s.*

*Prayers goes out to the Tax-Serfass family*

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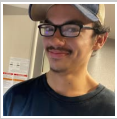
**Caden McWhirter** - October 05, 2023 at 03:17 PM



♥ *thank you for the memory Caden*

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**Angelicyah Tax Tzunun** - October 05, 2023 at 05:57 PM



*Yes Caden thank you for the October email! -Miss Mary*

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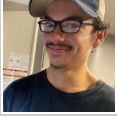
**Mary Tax** - October 05, 2023 at 06:05 PM



*Thank you for sharing the memory you shared with AJ*

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**Nataleigh Tax-Serfass** - October 05, 2023 at 06:20 PM



*Meow Meow Caden...that sounds like my son alright!*

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**Mary Tax** - October 05, 2023 at 11:38 PM

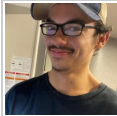
AF

“ Although I only knew AJ for a few months as his US History teacher, it was such a privilege. He regularly attended lessons and made such positive contributions to our discussions. He was kind and funny. Thank you for sharing him with us, he was a wonderful young man whom I am thankful to have known.  
Mrs. Frank



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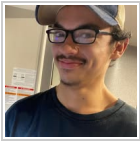
**Audrey Frank** - October 05, 2023 at 10:04 AM



Thank you Mrs.Frank so much for those shared memories of AJ! -Mary

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**Mary Tax** - October 05, 2023 at 10:25 AM

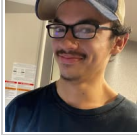


“ Mary Tax lit a candle in memory of Juanito "A.J." Tax-Serfass



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**Mary Tax** - October 05, 2023 at 07:52 AM

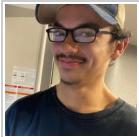


“ AJ, Nataleigh and Angelicyah really enjoyed going to their Tai-Kwondo classes while we were in Galveston last winter. They all tested for and received their white belts that night. They all were so excited to get their white belts! This was one thing AJ enjoyed doing because he was able to do this with his sisters as bonding time.



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Mary Tax - October 05, 2023 at 07:47 AM

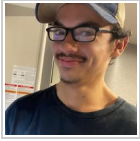


“ This was one of AjJ's golfcart adventures! We were given some leftover beef stew we were able to heat up for lunch that day this was taken. We asked hi to take the Golfcart up to the office and see if there were any bowls of any sort up there and brig some home. The girls were starting to get hungry and looked around the house for AJ. No AJ to be found. He had been gone so long we forgot what he was supposed to be doing, until he came back home walking absolutely covered in mud. Adam asked him what the heck he was doing and why on Earth did he have mud on him. He sighed goes “Oof! It's stuck.” At the time we couldn't see it was stuck...well sunk in the mud. He pointed up the road and he said it's up there Dad I was trying to see if there were any bowls up there like you said to do. We ended up having to get that towed out of the rut it sunk into, and this was taken immediately after it got towed out of the mud. He gained a new nickname that day. I miss you Crash. - Mama



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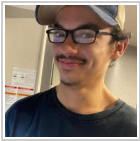
Mary Tax - October 05, 2023 at 07:23 AM



“ This was the last time AJ baked cinnamon rolls hoping I would be proud of him. I was, am and will always be proud of the gentleman who he was becoming before my eyes!



Mary Tax - October 05, 2023 at 07:13 AM



“ This was the last job AJ was able to help Adam with here at the rv park. I wish I had taken more pictures of him working on that job looking back now! I knew there was something special about him, but I couldn't believe I was able to capture that on Saturday. He was a great helper and a very humble and generous little man! AJ I love and miss you dearly! -💙 Mom



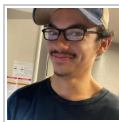
Mary Tax - October 05, 2023 at 07:09 AM

NT

“ AJ was such a kind-hearted person who was very beloved by most. He always enjoyed making everyone smile- especially if it meant it was with Mom. He was a momma's boy and never failed to show it. When he wasn't busy with his schoolwork, he would always be quick to help Dad with several jobs until they were either finished or at a stopping point. He was very motivated and devoted to working hard and doing what was right. He never liked to disappoint anyone. He was always quick to try and help anyone in need when needed. AJ will always be an amazing brother and friend to others, and he will be greatly missed by lots!!



Nataleigh Tax-Serfass - October 04, 2023 at 07:53 PM



Thank you, sweetheart that was absolutely beautifully, put! -Mom

Mary Tax - October 04, 2023 at 10:07 PM

CH

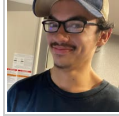
“ AJ was my grandson .. not biologically.. but he just was .. a great young man .. that was so well mannered .. and had respect everywhere he went .. I'm so proud that I knew him and he will always be in my heart .. always! May God Bless you Adam.. Mary.. and the girls ! Praying for all of you !  
Love Grandma Cheryl❤️

Cheryl - October 04, 2023 at 04:54 PM



thank you 🍷

Angelicyah Tax Tzunun - October 04, 2023 at 04:58 PM



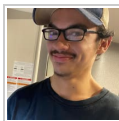
*Thank you, Mama Cheryl for praying for us!*

**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 06:33 PM



“ *A.J. Was always polite and well mannered as well as very dedicated to his family! Although we only knew him for a short time he left a lasting impression on our ❤️! I am going to forever remember his golf cart adventures around the park! He will truly be missed by our family and we will think of him often. May the Lord bless you all and keep him close to his Angel family forevermore.*

**Rachel Meister** - October 04, 2023 at 03:50 PM



*Yes. He backed up into our car door and also got the golfcart stuck in the mud next to the new rv spots closer to the shop. AJ always kept everyone on their toes, especially us! I reminded him to go on the grass path around the equipment until there was some rock put in place on the road. All AJ said was "Oof! Ok Mom geez!" -Mary*

**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ *Juanito "A.J." Tax-Serfass*

October 04, 2023 at 03:23 PM



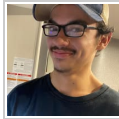
“ *Adam and Mary, AJ was a very special young man! I will never forget him coming to Honey Creek and laughing so hard at "Jan". I will always remember him waving and saying "hello" to me. I know how hard this is and believe me, I am right there with you all. I have been totally emotional the last few days. May he rest in peace and fly high as he can, Love you both, Prayers and hugs coming your way!*

**Mark & Laura Mathews** - October 04, 2023 at 01:48 PM



*thank you*  
❤️

**Angelicyah Tax Tzunun** - October 04, 2023 at 05:00 PM



*He sure did like Jan the Squirrel! -Mary*

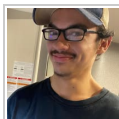
**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 06:59 PM

AT

“ *A.J. is the kindest person I've ever met, always giving and loving. He had a fantastic sense of humor that kept us kids laughing late into the night. He showed compassion and respect to everyone he came across and never left without a smile. He is the best big brother I could ever ask for and I hope he knows how much he is loved. He cared so deeply for everyone he knew. He is a true angel, and I hope he rests easy in heaven.* ”



**Angelicyah Tax Tzunun** - October 04, 2023 at 01:42 PM



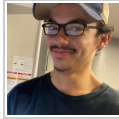
*Thank you sweetie! I'm sure he knows he was very loved!!*

**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 02:41 PM

SH

“ *Mary, Adam and girls many prayers and hugs for healing. Meet AJ last year, was such a quit young man. Watched him work tirelessly beside his dad. You will never loss the pain of losing a child, just remember he is now an angel watching over you. 🙏 Sherry and Terry Heitman.* ”

**Sherry** - October 04, 2023 at 01:27 PM



*Thank you so much Sherry and Terry! I know AJ enjoyed hanging out with y'all at Jamaica Beach last year! -Mary*

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**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“*Thank you to all of you for commenting about our sweet son, AJ. We are delighted to read and learn of the lives he impacted. AJ was definitely a mommas boy but he wanted to be like me more than I ever realized. He had a love for repairing RV's and helping me in any way he could. He was the kind of son that would bring us coffee in the morning and have breakfast made just to make our lives easier. He was always thinking of others way ahead of his own needs. AJ was a model of selfless that we all can learn from. He was so independent and often figuring out anything he could on his own. He didn't like asking for help. I can only strive to be the man that our son was. Learning of AJ's passing, a young boy that AJ once played with approached his mother Mary, gave her a hug, smiled at her and rubbed her shoulder and arm. He then said, "you don't have to worry about your son. You don't have to wonder where he's at. He's safe. He's home. He's with Jesus and all of the other Angels. He was needed in Heaven. He was a very special Angel that was called home to Heaven. Gods peace be with you always! All of the Angels are surrounding you and your family protecting all of you! You can breathe, rest and have peace knowing he's no longer suffering or in pain. He is where he belongs at home in Heaven. I know you don't understand this and why it happened. But just know he's safe and home with Jesus and the Angel Army and they will be with you everywhere you go."*

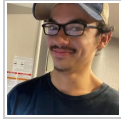
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**Adam Nelson** - October 04, 2023 at 12:11 PM

MM

*He will be greatly missed by everyone in our household. Unfortunately we are not able to be there but if you need anything we are alwaysba phone call away.*

**Mark Mathews** - October 04, 2023 at 01:01 PM



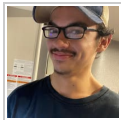
*Thanks Mark, Laura and David!*

**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 01:50 PM

NJ

“ *Although I only knew A.J. for a few months as his English 11 teacher this semester, he was a student that stood out in all the best ways! A.J. was faithful to come to the group LiveLessons and had a great rapport with all of the other students. He was polite, respectful, funny, and always ready with a kind word, humorous comment, or helpful suggestion! I'm grateful I had the privilege of having him in my class, and I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.*  
- Miss Jones

**Naomi Jones** - October 04, 2023 at 11:58 AM



*Thank you Miss Jones, for sharing the way AJ's personality and character had been! He was an extremely humble and down to earth person! he definitely cared a heck of a lot more but making sure that everyone else had what they needed before thinking of doing anything for himself. -Mary*

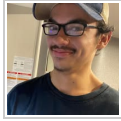
**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 12:31 PM

AT

“ *Angelicyah Tax Tzunun lit a candle in memory of Juanito "A.J." Tax-Serfass*



**Angelicyah Tax Tzunun** - October 04, 2023 at 11:17 AM



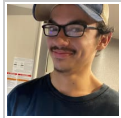
*Thank you Baby for doing that! Your big brother will really appreciate it knowing you're thinking about him!*

**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 11:19 AM

MM

“ *I remember seeing AJ with Nataleigh and Angie, as well as Mrs. Tax and Mr. Nelson last year, during testing. I remember thinking how close the children were to each other and how they truly seemed to care for one another and have respect for each other as well as their parents. That is a rare thing today. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Mrs. (Cole) McCombs, (counselor)*

**Mary McCombs** - October 04, 2023 at 09:29 AM



*Thank you so much for that wonderful memory Mrs. McCombs! -Mary*

**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 10:45 AM

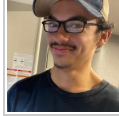
GE

“ *A.J. was an exceptionally enjoyable ST. He was a delight to interact with - always so sweet and respectful. I loved seeing his thoughts at work in his lessons and his considerate and helpful contributions during Live Lessons - he was a significant influence in the positive tone of our lessons.*

*His warm heart was evident in his speech and conduct with myself and other students. It was a blessing to have known him and I am very grateful for his meaningful impact and for the memories A.J. has given us.*

*- Genevieve Estes, English 10*

**Genevieve Estes** - October 04, 2023 at 09:28 AM



*Thank you for your kind words Ms. Estes! -Mary*

**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 10:43 AM

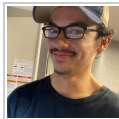


“ *A.J. was always so funny and respectful in our interactions. He was a hard worker and always had a smile. I will never forget meeting him in Poteau. You should be proud. A.J. was a wonderful young man.*

*God Bless.*

*Mr. James*

**Jesse Jams** - October 04, 2023 at 09:01 AM



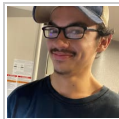
*Thank you so much Mr. James! I know that means a great deal to not only Adam and Angie and Nat, but also AJ and me as well!*

**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 09:25 AM



“ *A.J. was so kind, respectful, and enjoyable to have in LiveLesson. He would stop in just to say hi, and he was always so kind in our interactions. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to know him!*  
*-Mrs. Schroeder (biology)*

**Rae Schroeder** - October 04, 2023 at 08:24 AM



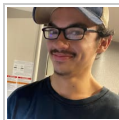
*Thank you for sharing your kind words about AJ with us! We appreciate it!*

**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 09:27 AM

HV

“ Through only small interactions with AJ over tips using certain software it became obvious quick that he was a very passionate respectful guy. He wasn't shy or dry, he had a very positive vibe that followed him. I was in a few live lessons with him and his sister, and they both had the same caring and respectful attitude towards what they were doing. Many times, my mom would mention AJ about how sweet and determined he was, and how he would be participating in the Purple Heart Schools group. It is not very common to see someone with that much determination and will to help others beyond what is expected. Fly high AJ - Hayden Vandenberghe

Hayden Vandenberghe - October 03, 2023 at 07:42 PM



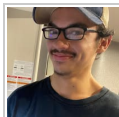
Thank you so much Hayden! AJ really loved being able to help others whenever he was able to do so. Thank you for all of the wonderful memories you've shared here! AJ was the most beautiful and humble angel on Earth I've ever known! -AJ's Mom Mary

Mary Tax - October 04, 2023 at 04:50 AM

NJ

AJ was a perfect example of how you hope and pray your kids become, he was kind hearted and willing to help others anyway he could. Aj was a wonderful young man and I know he will be greatly missed.

Nancy Jackson - October 04, 2023 at 06:36 AM



Thank you Nancy! Yes if AJ knew that he had something he felt another person was needing, he went out of his way to make sure they got it!

Mary Tax - October 04, 2023 at 08:14 AM

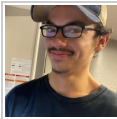
TV

“ *Tara Vandenberghe lit a candle in memory of Juanito "A.J." Tax-Serfass*



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**Tara Vandenberghe** - October 03, 2023 at 05:52 PM



*Thank you so very much Mrs. Van! Blue is one of AJ's favorite colors! - Mary*

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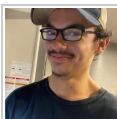
**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 05:27 AM

TV

“ *AJ was such a caring, compassionate young man. He was always friendly to those he met. He was respectful and never left without a kind acknowledgement before he said goodbye. I would always think he stayed after to ask a question, but he truly wanted to show others that they mattered by taking the time to tell them he hoped they had a good day. He and his sister have impacted my life in the most positive ways. The impression they left on all those they spent time with is a testament to their family and how they were brought up in their home. He was a joy to spend time with and help along his high school journey. My life will be forever changed for the better having known him. Thank you for sharing him with me. I will miss him deeply. Mrs. Van*

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**Tara Vandenberghe** - October 03, 2023 at 05:52 PM



*Mrs. Van, I really appreciate you checking on us especially the girls as that's what AJ would have wanted, someone to check on us to see how we're doing. You are such a wonderfully kind person and I know AJ was so so so blessed having you as one of his teachers! He had an impressive impact on so many peoples lives I can't fathom the extent! - AJ's Mom Mary*

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**Mary Tax** - October 04, 2023 at 05:24 AM