

On November 4, 1990, my life was tragically changed.

I am James Taylor Carter. Grew up in Windsor.

I was called Taylor growing up as my father was James, aka Nick. When I went to Boston University and then the Peace Corps (Malaysia) Jim became my permanent name.

After 2 years in Malaysia my wife and I returned to Vermont and I became a public-school teacher/coach in Essex (5 years), Milton (4 years), Mt. Abraham (4 years), Winooski (20 years).

On

November 4, 1990, our youngest daughter, Andrea a Senior at Mount Mansfield High School was involved a car crash a quarter of a mile from our house in Jericho. She had attempted 3 times to put on a front seat passenger safety belt. The Vermont State Police later found it was broken. When I retired in 2000 from Winooski, I decided to go to Driver Education classes and volunteer to do a class presentation on the importance of wearing a seat belt and the meaning of being a Tissue and Organ Donor.

Andrea donated her Corneas, Heart, Liver and Kidneys.

In my presentations over the years more than 20 living donors or recipients have joined me in the presentations.

I have been invited into over 40 high schools on a semester basis since 2000 I have made over 5000 classroom presentations.

It is quite possible you know a student that has been impacted personally by my presentation.

I have seen first-hand the power and influence of the classroom teacher.

During the Covid epidemic when I attempted briefly, along with Driver Ed teachers to teach via zooming and online and found it to be very ineffective.

As a lifetime public school Social Studies teacher is there a more important class for adolescents to be involved in with a classroom teacher than Driver Ed?

I would say emphatically and absolutely "NO".

What would you say?

Regards,

Jim Carter