

# Ian Lee Tilmann

10/26/76 – 5/26/05



**Ian Tilmann** loved skateboarding and spent many hours enjoying the sport. He loved feeling the wind surrounding him as he sped downhill carving each and every curve of the road beneath him. He was fearless with a strong belief in enjoying life to its fullest. He was a street surfer....his passion was long-boarding.

On the evening of May 16, 2005, Ian and several friends were skateboarding down Hercules Ave. in Clearwater, FL on a hill known locally as Cemetery Hill. As he was making his last run down the hill that evening his skateboard suddenly stopped and he was thrown headfirst onto the

pavement. Ian was NOT wearing a helmet and as a result he suffered severe traumatic brain injuries. Ian never regained consciousness and died 10 days later on May 26, 2005. Our beloved son was 28 years old. When people hear Ian's story many ask with shock and disbelief "he died from falling off a skateboard"? We truly believe our son's death could have been prevented by simply choosing to wear a helmet.



Ian served our nation admirably as a member of the U.S. Marine Corp. He had a passion for humanity and helping others. Ian's family and friends understood this passion and his "pay it forward" attitude. We will

forever miss him. It is our hope that through our tragic loss we can pass on Ian's passion for humanity by saving other families the pain that we have endured.



**THE IAN TILMANN FOUNDATION, INC.** was incorporated in November 2005 as a Florida Non-Profit corporation. The Ian Tilmann Foundation is certified as a Public Charity under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) with Florida Tax Exemption Certification. Our core mission is brain injury prevention and the approach is simple and direct. If you promise to wear the helmet when skating, the Foundation will give you one....free! Since Ian's death the Foundation has given out over 1,400 FREE Helmets.

In 2009 the FREE Helmet program will focus on public and private skate parks that operate the "Helmet for a Promise" program in their neighborhoods. The Foundation operates in partnerships with City and County Recreation Departments and private operators of public skate parks. In 2008, the Helmet for a Promise program launched in 10 public skate parks in Florida and 2 skate parks outside of Florida (Baton Rouge, LA and Malibu, CA). Approximately 95% of our helmets are given to young people under the age of 18 years old.



Additional programs include educational presentations at local schools, skate parks and public safety events.

On April 21, 2007, the City of Safety Harbor renamed and dedicated the skate park located on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Safety Harbor in memory of our son. The Ian Tilmann Skate Park provides a safe and fun environment for skaters and also serves to remind all skaters how important it is to always wear a helmet when skating. We thank the City of Safety Harbor and all of our supporters for their help in our mission to increase community awareness on helmet safety for skating and bicycling sports.



### **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

To continue our programs and further the mission of the Foundation. We are seeking contributions, volunteers and Corporate Sponsors to sustain the Helmet for a Promise program.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Are applied almost entirely to the helmet program that costs approximately \$25.00 / helmet. Administrative costs represent less than 15% of expenses.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Are needed to assist with helmet distribution, skating events, phone chains, school presentations and fundraising

### **CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Are needed to adopt a skate park in their community and assist with funding for helmets. We also need event support, product contributions, volunteers and sustaining funds. To learn more about being a Corporate Sponsor, please call for the Corporate Sponsor Kit.

Please contact us. We appreciate your ideas and contributions:

Marcy Tilmann, President  
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# **THE IAN TILMANN FOUNDATION**

**SKATE SMART ...  
WEAR A HELMET ...  
LIVE TO SKATE TOMORROW!**

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