



DAVID EARL TAYLOR

Mr. David Earl Taylor, age 44 of San Antonio, Texas and formerly of Houston, passed away June 30, 2009 with his family singing and praying around him. He was born December 5, 1964 to Jesse and Lamoure Taylor in Athens, Georgia.

Mr. Taylor was the lead vocalist for '80s hard rock band, Drive. Formed in Houston, Texas by Rick Chavez and Mercy Valdez, Drive soon found their voice in a young David Taylor, just barely out of his teens. In the mid '80s, the band moved to Los Angeles, which was quickly becoming the epicenter of the '80s metal scene. Winning a radio contest with their song "I Need The Nights," Drive landed on the Best Of The West compilation that was released on Rampage Records. Rampage soon signed to band, and in July of 1988, released their debut, Characters In Time. The album received tremendous reviews from the industry's top hard rock press, including the coveted 5 "K" rating from Kerrang magazine. The album also received solid airplay from hard rock stations around the country, including Los Angeles powerhouse, KNAC. What separated Drive from the "hair" bands of the Sunset Strip, was their intelligent lyrics, intricate musicianship, and of course, Taylor's suburb voice, that fell somewhere between Ronnie James Dio and Queensryche's Geoff Tate. And what endeared them to true metal critics and fans alike was that they were more Iron Maiden than Poison, more Judas Priest than Winger. Characters In Time was followed by the more mature and sonically advanced, Diablero on Zoo Records. Unfortunately, a shake-up at the label along with the dawn of the metal-killing "grunge" scene, left the album without much of a push, so the band's recording career was put on hold as the band members moved back to Texas, where Taylor was living in recent years. While driving along a San Antonio interstate on June 25, 2009,

Taylor apparently lost control of his vehicle after a tire came off, causing him to crash. He was airlifted to an area hospital where he died of his injuries five days later.

Survivors include his mother Lamoure Gunnells, of San Antonio; father Jesse Taylor and wife Dellarie, of Crockett; loving sister Teresa Dupaul and husband Chuck, of San Antonio; devoted brother, Terry Taylor and wife Amanda of Crockett; loyal sisters Trina Taylor-Janowski and husband, Jason, of Spring, Tina Taylor-Helmore and husband Craig, of Spring; and caring stepmother Janet Taylor, also of Spring; along with numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

Funeral and Graveside Services were held at Sunset Funeral Home and Sunset Memorial Park, respectively, located in San Antonio, Texas.

A memorial site has been created for David and can be viewed at www.davidtaylormemorial.blogspot.com