

PUTTING ON THE BATMAN SUIT

On a Sunday evening in August 2015 in Maryland, according to *The Washington Post*, the Batmobile pulled into a gas station to the stares of awestruck children.

Lenny Robinson – always prepared to snap into character – gifted the kids with autographed superhero paraphernalia before climbing back into his customized black Lamborghini and driving off.

But minutes later, Robinson pulled over with engine trouble on an unlit stretch of Interstate 70 near Hagerstown, Maryland, police said. The people he had just met parked behind him, turning on their emergency lights.

His car was stopped in the median but still partially in the fast lane when he got out to check the engine, according to state police. Around 10:30 p.m., a Toyota Camry slammed into the Batmobile, propelling the steel-framed hunk of black metal into his body. Robinson, 51, died at the scene.

Robinson had become famous as his alter-ego years earlier when a video of him being pulled over by police in full Batman dress went viral. The video showed up in millions of Facebook news feeds, and was even featured in a Jimmy Fallon monologue. Nevertheless, his identity had remained a well-protected secret until *The Washington Post* revealed it at his death.

Family and friends gathered at his parents' home in nearby Owings Mills, Maryland, to remember him as a devoted father to three boys. "He was my brother, business partner, my best friend," said Scott Robinson. "He touched a lot of lives and made a lot of kids smile. That's all he wanted to do."



Although Robinson made his money in the cleaning business, he spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on his 1960s-style Batmobile, his costume, and the autographed trinkets that he loved to hand out to children. He first donned the Batsuit for one of his sons who had become a huge fan. When Robinson noticed the effect the suit had on children, he discovered a new purpose.

No one loved Batman more than young Elizabeth Gardner, who suffers from TAR Syndrome, a genetic disorder that left her with severely shortened arms. She was age 6 and intensely afraid of costumed characters, according to *The Post*, when she first met Batman. They clicked.

(more)

Elizabeth later told Robinson that she was being bullied by other kids at her elementary school. “They don’t believe that Batman is my friend,” she told him. Robinson went to school with her, appearing in full costume before the student body. He told Elizabeth’s classmates that bullying was wrong, and called her onstage to give her a Batman necklace. “Elizabeth is my friend,” he announced.



We don’t get to choose when or how we die. But we can choose how to live life before we die. Robinson was an example of making the most of that choice. He may not have been the real Batman, but that doesn’t mean he wasn’t a real hero.

He died at the end of a long day spent making a difference in the lives of some seriously sick children. Both literally and figuratively, Robinson died with his Batman suit on. He was an inspiring example of a true hero.

Isn’t that how every Christian should want to go out? We should hope to be discovered, at the end of a life of dedicated service, doing the thing that God put us on this earth to do. After all, He created us with a purpose and plan in mind.

God has a service for you to perform, a suit for you to don. And when you do, it will change you.

Now God give us many kinds of special abilities, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are His. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 TLB).

– Beecher Hunter