

## Timothy J. Casey Memorial Fund

PO Box 1015 | Mattituck, NY 11952

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

Dear *Jim*,

For the last thirteen years I have sat down to write this letter and the words have come without too much difficulty. After all, it is always easiest to write about that which you care the most. This time around, however, I find myself grasping. The reason is because I do not write to you today to invite you to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Timothy J. Casey Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, but rather, to announce that our beloved event has come to a close.

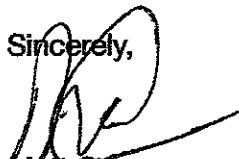
It is extremely difficult to capture with words what the annual "tourney" has meant, not only to our family, but also to those who have attended over the years. I dare not try. I have written before about the relationships that have been forged at the courts and at the party afterwards, and since thrived over more than a decade. I have written about how thankful we have been, and continue to be, for the immense love and support that has been shown year after year. I have testified to the incredible fun that we have on this day – every single year – celebrating a life that was tragically lost.

What is easy for me to say is this: I feel extremely lucky to have been both a witness to, and active participant in, this incredibly fulfilling experience. From the moment that I conceived of the Memorial Fund and the basketball tournament, and every year thereafter, we never quite knew what to expect. Yet, year after year after year, the donations poured in, the teams showed up to play, the spectators cheered on and the joy readily flowed. And that is what made this decision so very difficult for our family to make. Nevertheless, we know that it is the right time.

While the basketball tournament has come to an end, we will be accepting, and encouraging, one more round of donations this year. We plan to award a scholarship to a graduating senior at Mattituck High School both this year and next. The remainder of our funds will be given to support the incredible work being done at the Peconic Community School. We encourage you to visit their website to find out more about their mission ([peconiccommunityschool.org](http://peconiccommunityschool.org)).

One last time: thank you.

Sincerely,



Matt Casey