

Joseph A. Ries Memorial Scholarship

The Joseph A. Ries Memorial Scholarship was founded by the Jerry and Renee Ries family in loving memory of their son and brother Joe. Joe died as a result of an accident September 5, 1989. The Ries family is honored to offer this scholarship in his memory.

A dear family friend, Mary Ellen Kincanon, wrote a special tribute to Joe at the time of his passing that reflects his fun-loving spirit. They wish to share it with you.

Memories of Joe, a special child.

Joseph Ries, a precocious child who did more living in his less-than-five years of life than most people ever do. Like an explosion of curiosity, Joe absorbed everything he witnessed and wanted to do everything he could in his "awesome" world. Life for Joe was an adventure where nothing should be out of his reach; nothing unobtainable. He used every waking hour of every day learning, exploring and experiencing things such as opening paint cans, using grown-up tools, riding trikes, bikes, wagons, horses, whatever it was that moved, tried driving the car and climbed in to explore the top cupboards. He shot off firecrackers with no fear, liked big trucks, baseball and football. He wanted to bat the ball even before he was old enough to hold the bat. He also liked music and books and people. Everyone in the neighborhood knew Joe.

When God chose the parents for this little boy He knew that their parenting would have to be a balance between protecting and letting go. Joe was a free spirit. He gave us laughter. He gave us courage. He touched our lives.

Joe, you were awesome. We will never forget you. We loved you.

Your friend and neighbor, Mary Ellen (or as Joe called me, Mary "Melon")

The intention of the scholarship is to reward a student for their well-rounded involvement and strong work ethic in their high school and community.

Selection Criteria:

1. Student must have been enrolled a minimum of 2 years at Norfolk High School and be a member of the current graduating class.
2. The more involvement, the better. Selection will strive to identify students that are broadly active/involved and demonstrate a good work ethic, whether that is a high level of school activity involvement or high community involvement, or some combination of the two categories defined below.
 - a. Student must have been involved in at least one NSAA school activity all four years of High School.
 - b. Community involvement will be considered (i.e. volunteering, a job, church, etc).
3. Grades/GPA will be considered as secondary criteria in the event that two candidates seem equally qualified in regard to involvement.
4. Selection will be made by the NPSF Scholarship Committee