



Show your VIKING PRIDE !

Please support the Michael J. Martin Memorial fund at Central Cabarrus High School

Hello, we are Mike and Bonnie Martin and we would like to take a few moments of your time for a notable cause. September 15, 2005, was a sad day for many of us that will always be remembered in Viking history. On that day, our son, Michael J. Martin and Andy Janda, members of the varsity soccer team at Central Cabarrus High School, were passengers in a car heading to our Viking Stadium from a team dinner in Harrisburg, NC to challenge our rivals, the Bulldogs from J.M. Robinson High School. Unfortunately the car they were riding in took a bad turn and hit a tree on Pembroke Road. Andy died instantly, while Michael J. hung on to life for an hour before finally passing away. We, the team, and the Viking community waited anxiously for their arrival at the stadium that evening, only to learn they were involved in this terrible accident and were now in God's hands in Heaven.

Overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring of support from the whole Viking community, the Martin's set up a memorial fund at the school to help the Viking soccer program. Michael J and Andy's legacy had led to the creation of a memorial garden behind the soccer field house at Viking stadium. The "Vikings Pride" Award, given in honor to the player with the most heart and effort, has been transformed into the Michael J. Martin Award. Michael J's number 6 and Andy's number 16 have been retired by the Viking's soccer team. The greatest manifestation of this memorial fund has been the awarding of financial scholarships to deserving members of the men's and women's soccer teams at Central Cabarrus High School. An award is a very nice thing to give a student, and as a student, it is a very nice thing to receive. A monetary cash award to aid the future of a student, in honor of Michael J. Martin, is a wonderful and beautiful testament to who he was to all who knew him, and is something he would be extremely proud of.

As emails began filling up in Michael J's guest book online, it became vividly evident how loved and respected our son was. Some excerpts included how he was a friend to all, how he was the first person someone met at Central, how he hardly ever had a bad day, and how he was always there to help ! Additionally, many people commented about Michael J. and Andy's infectious smiles, contagious spirits, and caring personalities. Coach Wolfe described Michael as "the salt of the earth."

Central Cabarrus



Vikings Soccer

Michael J. Martin Scholarship Fund

Unable to meet the costs associated with playing club soccer, Mike managed to coach his son through a career of recreational soccer and AYSO, to win an improbable position of the varsity of an elite high school program. Michael J. often stated, "I always wanted to do something that everyone says I can't do!" HE DID! The day he made the Viking varsity soccer team was his proudest moment! Now it could be his legacy. In a conversational exchange between Mr. Martin and one player from the team at that time, Mike asked, "Isn't it hard to believe that with only recreational experience, MJ was able to win a spot on the varsity?" The player's response was, "No sir. He should have been the first on picked. We've never seen a kid work his butt off like that!"

Michael J. had many friends in other areas of athletics, particularly football and baseball. His parents were very visible at many events to show their support for his friends. Since the day after the funeral, Mike and Bonnie Martin have proudly stood side by side with the Viking's soccer team, as well as other Vikings sports, and have been actively engaged in motivating others to get involved and stay involved. Today they continue to support each new generation representing the school their son was so proud of.

Mike and Bonnie would like to make everyone, including the entire Central Cabarrus Viking Family and Community aware of the Michael J Martin Memorial Fund. Sharing their story and vision they have helps create this awareness. You can help by showing your support for this worthy cause. They would like to invite anyone to make a gift to this fund to show your Viking Pride or simply to invest in the future of our children. Your time is valuable and important, as is your monetary contribution to this fund. The more time you spend with the children and families of our Vikings community, the stronger our bonds and friendships will become and each of our lives will be enriched by it.

So far, this fund has aided only the sport of soccer, but hopefully with your help and generosity, it can and will grow to help other sports at Central Cabarrus high school. Let the sky be the limit! Michael J and Andy died as "Viking" as they could be. Wouldn't it be great if their legacy could contribute and add value to the wholesome lives of future Viking stars, not just through awards, but also through scholarships? Consider it an investment in the future of our world.

We were very blessed to have such a beautiful child. We will be forever thankful for your support and prayers during our darkest hours. Losing a child is a nightmare we hope none of you have to face. Bonnie and I will always be coping with this the rest of our lives and we will never forget our son. Somehow now our energy and focus is devoted to helping others. We are doing our best to be there for the kids...that's what MJ and Andy would want and that's what we want! It's all about giving back.

Remember, a lot of modest gifts could go a long way! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your consideration in contributing to this Memorial Fund.

Tax deductible donations of cash or checks payable to Michael's Moon can be mailed to:

Michael's Moon
2634 Parks Lafferty Rd.
Concord, NC 28025
Memo: The Michael J Martin Scholarship Fund

Or payable to Central Cabarrus High School
505 Highway 49 South
Concord, NC 28025
Attention: Financial Secretary
Please Memo The Michael J Martin Memorial Fund

Gifts will be recognized by return mail with receipt information for your tax records.