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Describe how your personal goals, challenges or commitments exemplify or are inspired by Michael Rothberg's legacy.

Michael Rothberg was a good human being, donating his money and his time to causes that he believed in. He gave back to the communities that helped him to become the person he was. Many of my goals in life exemplify his legacy. At the moment, I plan to become a teacher to give back to a community that gave me so much. Although I am unsure if I will come back to Sharon to teach, I can definitely imagine myself back here teaching in the high school and coaching the wrestling team.

Even today, I feel that my actions exemplify the legacy of Michael Rothberg. I was the captain of both the varsity soccer and wrestling teams and I am a two-year member of the National Honor Society. Doing all of these activities has led me into community service activities. I coach recreational soccer, teach youth wrestling, and I participate in community service projects through NHS, such as the Walk for Breast Cancer in Boston. Michael Rothberg's legacy lives on in Sharon because of the person he was and the lives he touched. He must have been a great person with a big heart, a great role model to follow. His story is one of success, and he is remembered as a hero among friends, family, and the entire community. Many of my goals and activities exemplify his legacy, and I am inspired to do even more by his legacy.

How have acts of terrorism around the world affected your life and your outlook on the future?

Acts of terrorism have affected my life directly and indirectly since September 11, 2001. In 2004, I traveled to Israel with 42 other teens from CYJ, a Jewish camp in New Hampshire. There was a day on the trip when our plans were changed due to a terrorist threat in Tel Aviv the same morning we planned to visit the city. I remember my reaction was not one of fear, anxiety, or distress. I was calm, and I simply called my parents and told them I loved them. This single experience exemplifies my general reaction to terrorism around the world.

There is no guarantee in life, no warranty, no refunds. Life can end at any moment, which was true before the threat of terrorism became so prevalent. Terrorism, a daunting reality of the world we live in, has caused me to appreciate even more the life I live each day and to enjoy the company of my loved ones to the fullest. In my life, it is more important to enjoy the small things, like going to a Red Sox game with my family and playing wiffle-ball with my friends, than focusing on the various terrorist sects plotting against the world.

I view the future as important to plan for, but at the same time, it remains more important to live in the present. Terrorism has caused me to live my life to the fullest each and every day, making connections and being with the people I love.