

REQUIRED ESSAYS: Patrick Sean Doherty

Please address these topics in separate essays (approx. 250 words each):

- A. Describe how your personal goals, challenges, or commitments exemplify or have been inspired by Michael Rothberg's legacy.

Throughout his life Michael Rothberg displayed an exceptional level of humanitarianism, charity, and benevolence. It is rare for those who are devoted and occupied with their careers to even consider giving financial aid to a cause, let alone offer both their time and services to multiple foundations as Michael did.

Likewise, I have spent a significant portion of my high school career in community service. Since eighth grade, I have spent essentially every Saturday morning in the fall and winter at Heights Elementary School, assisting Recreation Department Director Dave Clifton with the first and second grade instructional basketball program, donating approximately three hundred hours of work. For the last three years, I have cooked dinners bimonthly for the MainSpring House homeless shelter in Brockton, and also served dinner there during the summer before my junior year. I have participated numerous times in Halloween for the Hungry, a canned food drive for the Stoughton-Sharon Food Pantry on Halloween night. I also raised money and awareness for savedarfur.org with the sale of wristbands, the profits of which went to aid the African Union Front.

However, I am most proud of my work during my sophomore year, when I was deeply involved in bringing twelve children from Chernobyl, Russia to the United States for the summer. In addition to raising \$400 for the cause, I was also involved in organizing, monitoring, and running four different fundraising events, each between four and six hours long. As an adult, I hope to follow Michael's example and never forget the importance of philanthropy.

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

Prior to September 11, 2001, I had had very little experience with terrorism. The concept was essentially nonexistent in my life, save for the occasional thirty second news reports from countries on the other side of the world. Yet September 11 was different; these were my countrymen, my neighbors.

I have always been very interested in politics, yet nothing from current events had ever shook me quite so strongly as the sight of the World Trade Center towers, a symbol of financial and political power in America's greatest city, collapsing at the hands of terrorists. I was in seventh grade at the time, just beginning to take a greater interest in the world beyond Sharon. Ever since then, I have had a heightened interest in learning about world politics, cultures, and societies, and I feel I have tried to take the most out of my education as a result of September 11.

I am particularly interested in international affairs, law, and policies, which I feel are the most important issues facing America in the twenty-first century. As a result of the terrorist attacks, America must find the right balance between security and freedom. Too much of one will result in the loss of the other. The events of September 11, 2001 heightened my interest in politics and international relations, and I hope to pursue a career that will allow me to participate in that debate.