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Michael C. Rothberg September 11th Memorial Scholarship Essay

Genuine Adventuring

Michael genuinely cared for and encouraged everyone around him. While it is routine to be described by coworkers as intelligent, friends as kind, and family members as loving, it is rare to have everyone in your life regard you in all these ways and more. No matter where he was or whom he was with, Michael was genuine.

Exploring the many tributes written by friends and family, I feel as if I am meeting Michael. I find friend John Massingale most compelling. John shares a selfless Michael reluctantly buying a convertible and their first adventure that ensues.

When I think of attending college, I often feel a similar sense of guilt, selfishness. Growing up in a loving household, resourceful school system, and supportive town, I have opportunities others seldom receive. Recognizing this, I will not let my blessings go to waste. I am going to ambitiously apply my knowledge from past involvements to the incredible experiences ahead of me to help others. For example, just as I have listened to, motivated, and actualized the needs of NFTY-NE members and derived shared initiatives, I look forward to becoming an educator and helping future generations develop their character and actualize their goals. I will create meaningful changes in my communities in college and beyond all while being grateful for my parents, sister, teachers, mentors, and now Michael for showing me how. Most importantly, I will be my genuine self and love others for their genuine selves too.