



Paul J. Westberg Memorial Scholarship
Greater Worcester Community Foundation

When Paul Westberg passed away in 2000, his loved ones and colleagues wished to celebrate his life and long career in the Worcester County Sheriff's Office. After raising funds through a golf tournament and personal donations, they created this scholarship in his name. It is awarded to students from Worcester County who plan to pursue a career in criminal justice.

Paul was born in Worcester in 1952. A lifelong resident of Worcester, he was passionate about his career, local Democratic politics, and Little League baseball. He worked in corrections for 28 years, beginning as a correctional officer and rising to third in command -- First Assistant Deputy Superintendent -- in the Sheriff's Office. He also owned several local restaurants, including Someplace Else and Tavern on Main.

Paul served on the Worcester Democratic City Committee (WDCC) for 20 years, leading multiple campaigns and chairing the annual JFK Memorial Dinner (where the Paul Westberg Award is now presented every year). In 1992, the WDCC named him "John F. Kennedy Democrat of the Year."

Coaching baseball was another activity to which Paul generously gave his time. Over a span of 20 years, he coached two Little League teams in Worcester and a Senior Babe Ruth team for older teenagers.

Paul, who was close friends with Mayor Raymond Mariano, served on two city committees: Youth-at-Risk and Worcester Fights Back. In a Telegram & Gazette article after Paul's death, Mayor Mariano said, "Paul was my best friend, the kindest, gentlest person I've ever met. He was fiercely loyal. The tougher the circumstances, the more you could count on him -- you couldn't have a better guy in your corner."

Paul was a Board member for the March of Dimes Foundation and the Salvation Army, and helped with fundraising events for local nonprofits serving low-income youth. He belonged to St. John's Church, the Knights of Columbus, and a local Elks Lodge.

Tragically, Paul passed away at the age of 48 due to complications from diabetes. He left a hole in the City of Worcester and in the lives of his family, which included a son and daughter as well as nieces and a nephew to whom he was a second father. Paul's generous spirit and commitment to law enforcement live on in this scholarship.

For more information, please contact:
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