

Dr. Dennis Riker, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Nazareth Area School District
One Education Plaza
Nazareth, PA 18064-2397

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SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Dr. Riker and Selection Committee,

I would like to respectfully nominate my father, Alan G. Miller, for recognition through the district's new 'I Touched the Future' program. My father enjoyed a 35 year career with Nazareth as a teacher at the High School and Middle School. He was dual certified in Secondary English and Social Studies, teaching American Cultures, History, Reading English and Dramatic Arts over the course of his career.

In addition, my father taught Intro to Audio Visual and created a study skills course that was required for all Sophomore students. He also developed Nazareth's first SAT preparation course. Year after year, my dad specifically requested to teach remedial students for his English, Reading and History classes, students that were typically labeled "slow" or "trouble makers" by others.

My dad saw hidden potential within those students and he refused to let them give up on themselves. He employed a unique classroom approach that never taught down to his students. Instead, he raised them up to the next level by using his own personally created teaching aids, puzzles he designed, his sense of humor and a constant stream of encouragement.

Nothing about my dad's classes were standardized. He had a file cabinet with multiple lesson plans he created for each section, so that he could tailor his approach to the individual class.

I've had the pleasure of meeting some of my dad's former students, a surprising number of whom even took the time to come to his funeral. Each of them told me a similar story- They were frustrated with school and didn't care anymore by the time they reached his class. They spoke of my dad's patience and how he believed in them, showing them that they were capable of much more than they had thought and helping them improve.

In addition to teaching, over the course of his career, my father was the Advisor for Student Council, Drama Club, Stage Crew and was the Class Advisor for multiple Sophomore, Junior and Senior Classes. He was also coached the Scholastic Scrimmage team to a championship, managed the School Store and he worked with the High School band. Further, my dad maintained and distributed all the audio visual equipment at the High School, was Director of School Supplies and served as a longtime negotiator for the Nazareth Area Education Association.

My father was Assistant Coach of the Track Team when they won their first League Championship in 29 years, in 1966, at the newly-dedicated Andrew S. Leh stadium. The following year, he was Head Coach of the team with Ray Nunamaker as his Assistant Coach, when they won the championship again. He also served as Assistant Director of Athletics and Assistant Director to the Marching Band.

One of my father's most enduring legacies was his work to establish the Channel One partnership with the school district in late 1989. His negotiations with Whittle Communications, who produced Channel One, garnered Nazareth free televisions installed in every classroom, free satellite dishes mounted on the schools' roofs and morning newscasts broadcast to all students, beginning in March of 1990.

Thank you very much for your time, I appreciate you considering my father for recognition.