



To Our Friends at Huntington High School (teachers, students, administration):

Try to live with Mr. Potter's voice in your ear as often as you can. Take his lessons with you wherever you go.

He was an amazing and loving husband, father and teacher. He did so much for so many people in his short life. Many people were deeply affected and saddened by his death.

Many who felt as outcasts by the 'regular' community for various reasons told us that they felt comfortable talking to Mr. Potter because he had a way of accepting them, showing respect for them and making them feel good about themselves.

He was someone who tried to give encouragement to all those around him. He first and foremost encouraged and gave strength to his family. But his goal in teaching was to inspire creative thinking, wanting students to feel special, confident, and secure with who they are. He would want each of you to have the ability to feel solid in facing challenges, he believed in each and every one of you...hopefully you will believe in yourselves!

While death is inevitable when it is sudden and unexpected the grief seems very intense. One day we might desperately try to avoid the pain, anxiety and feelings of helplessness we feel when a loved one dies. Other days, we feel like life has returned to normal--at least until we realize that our life has changed irrevocably.

Despite the gamut of emotions we feel, grieving helps us cope and heal. The intense, heart-breaking anguish indicates that a deep connection has been severed. Without a doubt, grieving is painful. But it is also necessary.

Time is our family's healer and we rejoice in the love we share with Robert and now the support from our family, friends and community.

Robert's family, Isabel and I thank you all for your outpouring of love and how you are honoring Robert's memory at a place he loved working and being a part of...I think the note he wrote to himself on the inside front cover of his 2009/2010 yearbook expresses perfectly how he felt!

...Many blessings, Jan & Isabel Potter