

# **Al Yaracz and Kevin Halloran Memorial Scholarship Endowment**



Al Yaracz and Kevin Halloran were the best of friends. They bonded over their shared hobbies, love of sports and their strong hometown ties. They enjoyed going to Red Sox games, traveling to Las Vegas and watching the horses at Saratoga.

Al was born in March 1963, and attended Westfield Public Schools. After graduating from WHS in 1981, he went on to earn his Associate's Degree in electronic technology from STCC in 1983. Al worked for Hamilton Standard for twelve years before he became an electronic technician for the Westfield School Department in 1996. It brought him great pleasure to work for his hometown.

Kevin Halloran was born in December 1961, attended Westfield schools and graduated from St. Mary's High School. He worked for the Coca Cola Company for 27 years, until his untimely death in May 2017.



Al was a beloved son, brother and friend. He had a zest for life! He found joy in his recreational activities, his work, his daily life and in his love for his family. Fishing, bird hunting, golfing, gardening, bowling and cooking were among his favorite activities. Al was especially proud of his famous peach cobbler! He was also known for his quick wit and unmistakable chuckle! Al's smiling face and positive attitude were always present, even in the face of life's challenges. Al was only 42 when he succumbed to illness in July 2005. He is remembered for his humor, courage, kindness to others and for his friendship.

Kevin was a beloved brother, uncle and friend. With his unrivaled friendly demeanor, he befriended everyone he met. His smile was contagious and his “wicked” sense of humor could make anyone laugh! Family, friends and sports were central to Kevin’s life. He loved all Boston sports, especially the Bruins. Kevin was the best uncle his nieces and nephews could have ever asked for! He took them everywhere: the Hockey Hall of Fame, Fenway, the Garden, school clothes shopping and every sporting event in-between. The highlight of Christmas was waiting to see what crazy Yankee Swap gift Uncle Kevin would come up with! He truly was “one of a kind!”

After Al passed away in 2005, family and friends, including Kevin Halloran, raised money to establish this scholarship. It was agreed by all to include Kevin after his passing. Friendship can truly last beyond a lifetime, and this scholarship is a testament to that. In the spirit of Al and Kevin’s lives and friendship, we encourage the recipient of this award to not only stay focused and study hard, but also to remember the importance of making time for hobbies, travel and friends.

Written by: Sue Tatro and Michael Halloran & family      March 19, 2018