

Joel Philip Brown Memorial Endowment Scholarship



Joel Philip Brown was born on March 11, 1948 and was raised in Granville. In order to attend St. Mary's High School in Westfield, Joel had to commute the distance from Granville. It was at St. Mary's that he made it his goal to attend the College of the Holy Cross. He worked hard, applied and was accepted to Holy Cross. It was with the help of scholarship awards in 1966, 1967, and 1969 through the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of Westfield, which enabled him to financially reach this goal. Joel graduated from Holy Cross in 1970, and went on to pursue a successful career in finance and banking.

Joel began a career in banking which focused primarily on commercial and community lending. His career took him from Northampton National Bank in Northampton, MA, to Shawmut National Bank in Worcester, and then to The Bank of Bermuda. While there, he was the manager of commercial lending from 1994 until 2000. He arrived in Nantucket in 2000 to take the position of Regional President at Pacific National Bank where he worked until his retirement in 2007. Throughout his career, it was very important to Joel to give back to his community. He often found himself enjoying the role of mentor to others in the banking community. On Nantucket he was involved in various nonprofit organizations including the Boys and Girls Club, A Safe Place, Habitat for Humanity, and others. He was a member of the Rotary Club for many years, and in 2007-2008 he was president of the Rotary Club of Nantucket.

Joel was a voracious reader, and he enjoyed hiking, tennis, golf, and almost anything that allowed him to be outdoors surrounded by nature. Joel had great respect, appreciation and love of nature. He trained for and completed the Bermuda Marathon. He climbed and summited Mt. Kilimanjaro, and recently put 4,000 miles on his newest Harley-Davidson. He and his wife Valerie spent countless hours together in the renovation and enjoyment of their property on Nantucket. A "banker turned carpenter" in his retirement, Joel took on carpentry, plumbing, landscaping, and any other renovation project with passion and commitment, just as he did everything throughout his life.

And when Joel was diagnosed with cancer, he faced that "challenge" with exceptional strength and an incredible attitude, continuing to set a positive example for those around him. Joel passed from this life on August 30, 2011 peacefully at home with the same amazing grace and dignity with which he lived. Family and friends were always his priority. He was a man of amazing integrity and an exceptionally loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, sibling, and friend. He is survived by his wife, Valerie Sampier; his son, JP Brown and daughter-in-law, Doniel; and his grandsons, Cole and Carter.

Even with his passing, Joel wanted to continue the legacy of giving back to his community. With deep gratitude, it was his wish to set up the Joel Philip Brown Memorial Endowment Scholarship through the Citizens' Scholarship

Foundation of Westfield. He wanted future students to have the same opportunity that he had been given to pursue their educational dreams. He remained grateful throughout his life for the scholarships which helped him to get the education which provided such a solid foundation for his successful career and life.

As his wife, I know that Joel would want the recipients of this scholarship to remember the importance of giving back, touching the lives of others in a positive way, and letting the ripple effect of all that you do make the world a better place...In this way, through you, Joel's legacy lives on...

Written lovingly by: Valerie Sampier, Joel's wife

February 11, 2013