# John Glatz Memorial Scholarship

***No Application needed***



John Harold Glatz (known affectionately to us as Uncle Johnnie), was someone who was able to see the light in every situation and share that light with others. Born December 11th, 1966, he started his career as a loving son and jokester, later taking on the roles of brother, cousin, best friend, that kid in the back of the class that's always causing trouble, uncle, and mentor.

John had lived in West Pittston practically all his life and definitely left his mark on this town. Whenever he started a story with, "When I was your age..." or, "When your dad and I were kids..." our ears would perk up at the chance to share in one of his crazy childhood memories. One time, he told us about a science kit he got as a kid and how he used that science kit to accidentally burn a hole not just through the kitchen table, not just through the kitchen floor, but through the concrete floor in the basement below! Another time, he told us how he wrote "Teacher is a jerk" on our dad's homework without our dad knowing. Let's just say that didn't go over too well with the teacher!



He carried his childhood with him proudly into his 20s, 30s, 40s, and 50s. Growing up with him as an uncle was basically, as our mom described it once, like growing up with our "own personal rock star". His imagination and adventurous attitude never escaped him. Described by the people around him as "genuine" and "lighthearted", he had a way of taking even the smallest moments and turning them into something special. A trip to the grocery store for crackers or bread ended in buying crazy new foods to try when we got home. Rainy afternoons led to the movie theaters with an extra-large popcorn. Taking grandma for a haircut meant brunch afterwards and yet even more crazy stories from his childhood (and even more ammo to use against our dad). Building model rockets and carrying out science experiments with him became a staple in our house. He had a gift for making each moment count.

This gift, unfortunately, was fully realized for all the wrong reasons. John was diagnosed with esophageal cancer on December 26th, 2018, but he never let the disease define him, not even for a second. He didn't let it overcome him or take away who he truly was at his core. Whether he was at home, in the hospital, or even in his last days at hospice, he was fighting to get out those witty comments and one-liners. Till his last day, he was surrounded by those he loved doing what he loved: making everyone around him laugh and smile. He was taken from this earth entirely too soon on November 13th, 2019. He had told us hundreds of stories, but there were hundreds more to hear. We had made thousands of memories, but there were thousands more to make.

"My sister and I would love nothing more than for his memory to be carried on in a way that truly encompasses some of his passions in life. He lived in West Pittston for the majority of his life and worked as an electrical engineer at the Army Depot in Tobyhanna and volunteered to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan as a radar repairman. His love for his community and his job (and science in general) is why we chose to award the John Glatz Memorial Scholarship to the Wyoming Area graduating senior residing in West Pittston who has the highest weighted average in science and must have successfully completed a science course in grade 12 (based on cumulative GPA from 9th - 12th grade which will be available early to mid-May, 2020). We know the recipient will carry on our uncle's passions and values with pride."

This award is being offered through the generosity of John's two nieces, Gwen ('18) and Ellie ('20) both Wyoming Area graduates.