

Richard G. Belza Memorial Scholarship

On Wed, May 18, 2016, Richard G. Belza, known by his friends as Rick, died unexpectedly. His family including his high school sweetheart and wife of 53 years, Arlene, along with their children, Richard, Leandra and Robert are remembering their dad with this scholarship. Keeping his memory alive in the community is important to them and helping kids realize the dream of an education is what Mr. Belza would want because that is what he devoted most of his life to after his family.

He spent time as a witty charm on air personality with a smooth voice on the local radio stations. He also was musically gifted which exhibited itself in his membership in various local bands. He later realized his true passion was in law enforcement. He rose to Sergeant in the Exeter Police Department where he served for over 30 years. He also served as a Pennsylvania State Constable.

Rick also devoted many years serving the youth of the community in various ways, among them: coach/board member of the Wyoming/West Wyoming Jr Warriors football and Little League. He spent time as part of the coaching staff of the Wyoming Area and Crestwood Area HS football teams. He was a certified PIAA official.

As a police officer he taught D.A.R.E (*Drugs Alcohol Resistance Education*) to Wyoming Area Catholic and Wyoming Area 5th grades, a program he knew was important and he taught it with a passion. He was all about helping kids. He loved working with the 'kids' and was always willing to help any of them on a moment's notice. Well respected, his family was touched by the overflowing amount of the Wyoming Area Family and surrounding community of friends and colleagues that showed their respects to him at the time of his funeral services.

Most important to him was his family. He served as a wonderful role model for each of his children and grandchildren in their own special way.

The Belza Family Selection committee will select the recipient of this award.

CRITERIA: Applicant will be a Wyoming Area Graduating senior who has been accepted to a trade, technical school, a community college or a 2 or 4 year college or university. Preference will be given to those who will be studying law enforcement, criminal justice or a related area.

Required essay: In a solid essay of at least 500 words tell us why you feel you deserve this award. In your essay tell us about how you may have helped a younger person and how you made a difference in their life. Be as specific as you want and include multiple examples, if available. Also, please mention briefly what subject of higher learning you are going to pursue and why. Good Luck!