



VIANNEY NAMES SCHOLARSHIP FOR FALLEN SOLDIER

By Jameka Merriweather
Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Lt. Daniel P. Riordan died as a soldier in the U.S. Army while on duty in Iraq June 23, 2007.

He was humble. He was generous. He was selfless.

"He had literally given the shirt off his back to help someone," his sister, Suzanne Wallace said. "He had accomplished more in his 24 years than any of us could accomplish in our entire lives."

So, how does one give back to the person who gave it all?

As a 2001 graduate of St. John Vianney High School, Riordan was active and popular, not just among the students but with the faculty and staff, too. He was a member of the varsity cross country, track and football teams. On top of his athletic abilities, Riordan was involved in the photo club, yearbook club, plays and musicals. He earned both the Gold Circle and Marianist Awards for his dedicated involvement. Riordan kept in touch with his Vianney family in Sunset Hills even after graduation, while he attended Southeast Missouri State and during his time in Iraq.

Wallace said her brother had a special commitment to education and service.

Beginning in fall 2009, the Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Memorial Scholarship will be given to students at Vianney High School with financial need and who represent the qualities of faith, honor and service.

Beginning with one freshman student in fall 2009, the family hopes to raise enough funds to eventually furnish four fully endowed four-year scholarships for students at Vianney, one in each grade level.

Last year, the family hosted the first annual Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Memorial Trivia Night. With more than 700 supporters and raising more than \$29,000, the event was a success. Now, the family is gearing up for round two.

"Last year, we started out hoping for 500 people," Wallace said. "But with the tremendous response we

received, we had to move it to the new field house (at Vianney)."

The family will host the Second Annual Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Memorial Trivia Night Saturday, Nov. 8, at Vianney High School, 1311 S. Kirkwood Road. The doors will open at 6:15 p.m. and the trivia begins at 7 p.m.

Registration is \$200 per table of 10, which includes beer, soft drinks, set-ups and water. Participants are welcomed to bring outside food and drink as well. In addition to the trivia, the night will be full of door prizes, raffles and a silent auction.

Since the family began raising funds for the scholarships in June 2007, they have raised nearly \$80,000 through fundraisers such as trivia night, a golf tournament and other small events. The goal is to raise \$800,000, which will cover the four scholarships.

"Dan always felt education was an important thing. He appreciated the work the teachers at Vianney put in," Riordan's twin brother, Nick said. "We felt he would be really humbled that a scholarship would be in his name and help others afford education."

Riordan, who was born in Fort Worth, Texas, he was a Southern gentleman. He was a lover of the outdoors. He was a fan of country music.

Riordan felt serving his country was his duty and what he was called to do. He wanted to "protect the way of life for Americans."

Now, his family feels it's their duty to keep his legacy alive. The family is still in need of gift certificates, silent auction items, beverage donations and even sponsors. He died serving his country and even in his death, his name lives on to help others.

"Dan was very selfless and generous in all facets of life," Nick said. "We created this scholarship fund in hopes that it will live on forever."

You can contact Jameka Merriweather at jmerriweather@yourjournal.com.

What: The Second Annual Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Memorial Trivia Night

When: Saturday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:15)

Where: Vianney High School, 1311 S. Kirkwood Road.

Cost: Registration is \$200 per table of 10

For more information, visit www.ltdanriordan.com.