



IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN REITZ

March 16 of this year brought tremendous sadness to so many people who had crossed paths with John A. Reitz: guidance counselor (and so many other roles, both official and unofficial) at East Rochester for 28 years, and a man who continued to work with and for the kids and adults in the District long after his 2010 retirement.

John Reitz joined the ER faculty in 1983 and quickly became an integral and respected member of the school community. His first love was the students, and he was a master at helping them find their strengths and develop their talents. He believed in all the kids, and as one former student said, “He was the rock for everyone else.” John always looked for (and found) the good in everybody. He was a generous, giving person who constantly found ways to engage students and adults alike. No one worked harder than John.

Throughout his years with the school John was responsible for starting many new programs, all aimed at helping kids. He introduced the Door Monitor program, in which sixth-graders greet the kindergarten students every morning and help them get ready for the day. The older students not only become mentors for the younger ones, but also often remain their friends and supporters as they continue through their school years. He also developed the HYPE (Helping Youth through Preventative Education) program, in conjunction with the YMCA. This is an after-school initiative in which high-school students not only academically tutor fourth- through sixth-graders, but also help them develop and enhance their social-emotional skills and self-esteem – and again, cultivate lasting, supportive friendships.

John was the driving force in the institution of the annual eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. He used this activity as a way to develop a good work ethic in the students, as they were required to participate in can and bottle drives, car washes, and other fundraisers to earn the privilege of going to D.C. He had students participate in all aspects of the trip – planning itineraries, calling Washington to arrange visits, booking reservations, writing checks, and speaking with nervous parents about their kid’s upcoming adventure. So many students still consider this trip a highlight of their educational experience at ER. He was also a huge part of the PTA’s Breakfast with Santa. John built many of the props for this annual event, including his famous ‘chocolate machine.’ John helped at Breakfast with Santa this past December, even though his health had declined so much. He never once considered giving up on the school and kids he loved so much.



John had a magnificent sense of humor, always helping everyone see the lighter side of situations. He often appeared as a guest performer in school musicals and Sing-Out shows, always playing a broad comedic role and delighting the audience.

As a counselor John helped students face, deal with, and overcome the large and small crises in their lives. Even after they ‘graduated’ from eighth grade and started high school, they trusted and relied on him to listen to their concerns and treat them without judgment. The teachers and staff at school were also quick to go to John for advice, whether it was on a professional or personal level. His experience and wisdom always seemed to help put

things in perspective. He treated everyone with respect, concern, and dignity.

John was also famous for being the ‘writer of notes.’ He would often leave a note with an encouraging message or heartfelt ‘thank you’ taped to a student’s locker or a teacher’s computer. He was the writer of a note on every student’s progress report and report card every time one was issued. No one took the time to make a difference more than John did.

At the time of his passing, messages from hundreds of people whose lives had been touched by John appeared everywhere....

“You were there for everyone and guided everyone.”

“I’m so grateful my children and I had his love, guidance, and support.”

“He truly believed that everyone could make a difference.”

“He was our leader, mentor, friend, coach, father, and hero all at once.”

“You were an angel on earth.”

“He was a selfless, dedicated, hardworking, and wonderful man.”

“He believed in the possibilities of every individual who crossed his path, young or old.”

“A man who gave so much to those around him, but would take nothing in return.”

“Thank you for believing not only in me, but in every student.”

“He was the heart and soul of our school.”

“He turned my life around.”

“Know that you are responsible for raising multiple generations of people who are more caring, more giving, and far more engaged because you cared.”

The March 25 Kaleidoscope Concert featured a finale rendition of Ohio State University’s fight song, ‘Across the Field,’ in a tribute to Mr. Reitz. A few photos are available at www.tinyurl.com/knbrejs.

East Rochester has lost an extraordinary man in John Reitz. He was dedicated to our school in a way that can never be measured. He was also devoted to his wife, Bonnie; his children, Charlotte and Allen, and their families; and the rest of his family – even while spending so much time giving to all of us in ER.

John’s favorite poem was *The Dash*, by Linda Ellis. It speaks to the fact that we are born, and later we leave this earth, but it’s the time spent between those years – our DASH – that matters. It’s those years that make us the person we are, and create the legacy we leave. John Reitz spent his DASH in the most amazing way. His love, care, work ethic, and true dedication to what he believed in will live on in all who were privileged to know him.

– Helen Tortorici

~ From the Reitz Family ~

Dear East Rochester teachers, students, parents, and friends,

We would like to thank you for your generous contributions to the John Reitz Scholarship. This scholarship meant so much to John. He was worried about it running out and was hoping to fund it himself, but you have made it possible for the scholarship to continue. This would have made him so happy and thankful.

John loved ER’s school, teachers, students (his kids), and community, and would take any opportunity to tell people just how much he did. Thank you for making John and us feel like an important part of the ER family.

Sincerely,

Bonnie, Charlotte, and Allen Reitz

ERAF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2015 Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic Golf Tournament set for Friday, Aug. 7

This year's Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic tournament – the ninth annual – is set to take place at Lima Golf & Country Club on Friday, Aug. 7. The event, hosted by the ER Alumni Foundation, is our major source of the revenue we use for Excellence in Education grants, which benefit all ER students. Last year the SUAC generated more than \$18,000 for the Alumni Foundation; since its inception, the tournament has raised in excess of \$80,000.

The tournament is designed to appeal to players of all skill levels. Our two main purposes are to raise money for the Alumni Foundation and to bring lots of current and former ER friends together for a fun day of golf and camaraderie. To this end, the tourney uses the 'scramble' format, in which handicaps are not used and each foursome's score is determined by combining the best shots made by all team members on each hole. Originally known as the East Rochester Open, our tournament was renamed the Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic in 2008. Our intent was to honor our dear friend and a true golfing legend. In addition to his many sporting, social, and charitable contributions, Sam was a founding member of the ERAF Board of Directors and a key member of the ER Open committee.

Registration, a continental breakfast, and a putting contest will begin at 7:15 am, and the tournament kicks off with a shotgun start at 9 am. Because there will be more than 200 players, the tourney will be played on both the Charleston Pines and Island Oaks courses. The entry fee of \$95 per person includes the continental breakfast, greens fees, a cart, a drink ticket (new this year), tee prizes, a hot dog and soft drink at the turn, a fabulous buffet lunch, loads of door prizes, free driving range privileges, and a donation to the Alumni Foundation. On the day of the tournament a putting contest, Mulligan purchases, skins games, and a giant raffle are also available for additional charges. In addition, tickets for lunch only are available for \$25. (During lunch we will also be pleased and proud to honor this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient – **Mary Steigerwald Whittier, ERHS '83** and Executive Director of Bivona Child Advocacy Center.)

To avoid course and banquet delays, a maximum of 55 foursomes (220 players) will be allowed. We will try our best to accommodate foursome preferences with regard to course selection. Early registration is encouraged and sincerely appreciated! Early registrants will be given priority when it comes to course selection. In addition, foursomes who have registered and paid by Tuesday, June 30, will be entered into an 'early bird' drawing, and the winning foursome will receive a full refund of their \$380 registration fee.

Registration forms are available at the ER District Office, the ER Town/Village Office (317 Main St.), and Lima Golf & Country Club (7470 Chase Road, Lima), and on ERAF's Website – www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm. You can also copy or clip out the entry form on the next page. For lunch-only tickets, please contact Carl Tobin at ctobin@frontiernet.net or 526-6120.

To preserve the nature of this event, at least one member of each foursome must be an ER alumni, a current or former teacher or staff member, a town/village resident, a local business owner/operator, a student, or an Alumni Foundation sponsor.

The Tournament Committee is looking for new members to help plan the event, and/or anyone interested in serving as pre- or post-tournament volunteers. If you'd like to help, have a question, are interested in becoming one of our event sponsors, or want to discuss making a donation of any size, please contact Carl Tobin at the email address or phone number above.

~ BACCALAUREATE 2015 ~

All are invited to come and participate in the traditional Baccalaureate program, which includes a candle-lighting ceremony for all ER alumni. It's planned for **7 pm Monday, June 22**, in the school auditorium, and the scheduled **guest speaker is Bishop Emeritus Matthew Clark**. Baccalaureate is sponsored by the ER class of 2015 and the ER Association of Churches. Please put it on your calendars, and come show your support for the graduating seniors.

Please visit the Alumni Foundation's Website, at www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm!

This year's tournament takes place at Lima Golf and Country Club, 7470 Chase Rd., Lima, NY 14485 on Friday, August 7, 2015. We have adopted a "Scramble" format to encourage participation by players of all skill levels. The contest will be played simultaneously on both the Charlestone Pines and Island Oaks courses.

Registration, a continental breakfast and a putting contest will begin at 7:00 am. The tournament kicks off with a "shotgun" start at 9:00 am.

The entry fee of \$95.00 per person includes: greens fees, a cart, a continental breakfast, tee prize(s), a hot dog and soft drink at the turn, (1) free drink (beer, wine, liquor or soft drink) at the dining room bar, a fabulous buffet lunch, loads of door prizes and a donation to the East Rochester Alumni Foundation.

On the day of the tournament, a Putting Contest, Mulligan purchase, Skin Games and a giant Raffle are available to players for additional charges.

We will attempt to accommodate foursome preferences with regard to course selection. To avoid course and banquet delays, a maximum of 55 foursomes (220 players) will be registered. Early registrants will be given priority in regard to course selection.

Early Bird Special!

Foursomes who have registered and paid by June 30, 2015 will be entered in an "Early Bird" drawing. The winning foursome will receive a full refund of their \$380.00 registration fee.

While player entry fees include a donation to the Alumni Foundation, this event relies heavily on its sponsors for prizes and awards as well as for the additional funds needed to underwrite future foundation grants and projects.

PLEASE CONSIDER RENEWING YOUR SPONSORSHIP OR BECOMING A SPONSOR FOR THE FIRST TIME

***** SPONSOR LEVELS *****

Team Sponsor

(Cash donation of \$500.00 or more)

Includes entry fees for one foursome, (2) 18" X 24" Tee Signs, program designation as a *Major Tournament Sponsor* and one year website recognition as a *Foundation Benefactor*.

Key Sponsor

(Cash or product donation of \$175.00)

(2) 18" X 24" Tee Signs, program recognition as a *Key Sponsor* and one year website recognition as a *Foundation Benefactor*.

Hole / Memorial Sponsor

(Cash or product donation of \$65.00)

(1) 18" X 24" Tee Sign, program recognition as a *Hole Sponsor* and one year website recognition as a *Foundation Sponsor*.

Friend

(Cash or product donation of \$20.00)

Program recognition as a *Friend of the Foundation* and one year website recognition as a *Foundation Sponsor*.



2015 PLAYER REGISTRATION

Sign Up For:	Price:
(1) Team Sponsorship*	500.00
(1) Foursome	380.00
Single Player	95.00
Key Sponsor	175.00
Hole / Memorial Sponsor	65.00
Friend of the Foundation	20.00
Total Amount Included: _____	

*Team Sponsorship includes your foursome's entry fee and a \$120.00 donation.

PLAYER NAME(S): _____

Please identify your team's captain with an asterisk and include the captain's e-mail or telephone number below:

Please send a check and this form to:

East Rochester Alumni Foundation, Inc.
 c/o Carl Tobin
 3331 County Rd. 20
 Stanley, NY 14561