

Scholarship to honor Fox, aid Centennial student

By Gary Weckselblatt Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 11:00 pm

Brad Fox's legacy appears to have taken a strong foothold in the Centennial School District.

Darren Meehan, executive director of the Officer Brad Fox 5K Foundation, told the school board Tuesday night that \$2,800 will be awarded to a scholarship fund in Fox's name.

The money will go to a graduating senior who plans to attend a four-year university with the goal of a career in the military, criminal justice or law enforcement. Academic achievement, community involvement and school spirit will also play a role in selecting the scholarship winners.

"We want to honor Brad and the legacy he left behind," Meehan told the board Tuesday night.

Fox, who grew up in Warminster and graduated from William Tennent High School, was shot and killed in September 2012 while working as a Plymouth Township police officer.

A decorated U.S. Marine veteran who served two tours of duty in Iraq before he was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant, Fox and his K9 partner, Nick, were on foot pursuing a motorist who fled from a hit-and-run accident when they were ambushed.

Fox left behind a pregnant wife and one young child.

Meehan said the Warminster community "has been an integral part of our success and we look forward to continually building on this relationship in the coming years."

He hopes that as students learn about Fox's selflessness they "understand and appreciate the impact they can have on their community."

Along with the scholarship award, a student was honored for winning the inaugural essay contest under the title "What Makes a Hero?"

Kevin Simonson, a junior at Tennent, bested all middle and high school students and had his essay printed in the event program for the Fox 5K run.

"Heroes are able to be heroes because they have courage," Kevin wrote. "They aren't afraid to do things that everyone else is afraid of doing. They do not care about being judged. They just care about doing what is right."

Meehan said Kevin's essay "clearly articulated what it means to be a hero."

Simonson is a student in Brian Bassler's 11th grade American literature honors class. Bassler grew up with Fox and graduated from Tennent with him in 1995.

Bassler said the home of Tom and Kathy Fox, Brad's parents, "was the house you would go to where everybody would meet up. That was the home away from home for everybody in the group."

He called it “special for me” to teach at Tennent where “I’ll have the ability to help extend Brad’s legacy.

“It’s important for kids to live up to what he did. When they hear someone like that came from the same place they’re coming from it’ll mean something to them.”

Fox’s parents shook hands with school board members Tuesday night but chose not to speak.

“It’s still very hard to talk in front of a large group of people,” Kathy Fox said. “We’re just hopeful that Brad’s legacy will live on.”