

Scholarships will keep spirit alive

Come to think of it, he had that covered, too. There are Marine barracks messier than his closet in Huguenot, where Joe and Linda Cammarata keep Mike's room the way he left it, except for the memorial quilts sent by strangers from all over the country. Long-sleeved shirts over here, short-sleeved there, sleeveless Tee-shirts all the way to the right.

"He was very neat," Linda Cammarata says.

You think? You mean not every 22-year-old bachelor has his Tee-shirts arranged according to sleeve length?

And there's the calendar on his dresser, left open to September 2001, with the tryout times — 11 to 1, every Tuesday — written in magic marker.

So, no, he didn't miss the first day of tryouts because he punked out, or forgot. The probie just didn't want to be too pushy, asking for the day off. More than anything, he wanted to fit in with the guys.

He's with them forever now.

All six men who rode Ladder 11 to the World Trade Center — Lt. Mike Quilty, John Heffernan, Eddie Day, Matt Rogan, Rich Kelly and Cammarata — were lost when the towers came down. Kelly had 24 years on the job. Cam-

marata had nine months. No age limit on heroism that day.

None of it should've happened, but it did. Now the Cammaratas do what they can to honor the "in-case-something-happens-to-me" note Mike left on the night table; especially the part that asked, "Make my spirit live on."

There's a street sign with his name on it, waiting to go up. The family has sponsored hockey teams and clinics, and a memorial tree at the neighborhood library. Later next month, a team of Mike's high school and college teammates (the Faces; what else?) will play the Fire Department team he never got time to join.

When his brother Joe married the former Maria DeCarlo, they left an empty chair at the head table. How could Joe have a best man, if Mike wasn't there?

For their parents, the Hall of Fame scholarship was one more way to perpetuate the discipline and camaraderie Mike found at the ballfield, and on the ice, and took with him to the firehouse.

"I want to do this for kids involved in sports," his mother says, "because I see what they did for mine."

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Induction ceremony on Nov. 23

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame will formally induct its class of 2002 on Saturday, Nov. 23 at the CYO Center on the grounds of Mount Loretto in Pleasant Plains.

Seven new inductees will be honored: Major league pitchers Jack Taylor and Karl Drews; softball trailblazer Darlene Crowe; 4-minute miler Charlie Marsala; college basketball stars Kenny Page and Geraldine Saintilus; and

Monsignor Farrell football coach Ben Sarullo.

In addition, presentations will be made to the 2002 scholarship winners.

The festivities will begin at 4 p.m. with a reception at which light refreshments will be served. That will be followed by the formal ceremony at 5 p.m. The Hall of Fame will be open for tours as well during that time.

Admission is free and the public is invited.