

Hundreds Turn Out to Remember Kevin Williams

By Diane Burkhardt
Observer Staff Writer

Many hundreds of people came to the East Wind Estates on Monday, October 8 for a remembrance of the life of Kevin Williams and to express their condolences to his family, his fiancée Jillian Volk, and to close friends. Williams, 24, lost his life in the terrorist attack on September 11. The former Shoreham resident was a bond salesman employed by the firm Sandler O'Neill located on the 104th floor of World Trade Center Tower Two. He and Volk were to be married on December 1.

Among the hundreds were many of Williams' high school and college classmates, SWR baseball and basketball teammates, neighbors, former teach-

ers and coaches, and countless others from the SWR community and beyond who knew Williams and his family. The crowd also included others who did not know Williams or his family.

"We don't know them, but wanted to be here to show our support and to let them know that the whole community is with them," said one Wading River resident as she and her husband waited in a long line to greet the Williams family.

Displayed on tables and easels around the large room were photos of Williams with friends and family at every phase of his life, personal memorabilia such as uniform jerseys and news clippings of his athletic feats, and a collage of post-September 11th events and activities such as the Sandler O'Neill Memorial Service at Carnegie Hall, the Service of

Prayer and Remembrance at Yankee Stadium and others.

On Tuesday, October 9, a memorial Mass was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church in Wading River. A standing room only crowd filed solemnly into the church for the 11 a.m. service while a lone bagpiper played America the Beautiful, Amazing Grace, and other melodies.

Jamie Williams, a freshman at Northeastern University, evoked both laughter and tears as he eulogized his older brother, "my role model."

Matthew Dettleff, a friend of Williams since they met in kindergarten, also delivered a eulogy to his "best friend."