

State of New York

Proclamation

DEDICATION OF

KEVIN WILLIAMS MEMORIAL FIELD SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

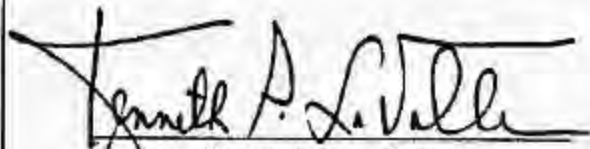
AUGUST 24, 2002

I consider it a privilege to join with the family and friends of Kevin Williams, as well as the members of the Shoreham-Wading River community, in dedicating the baseball field of the Shoreham-Wading River High School as the Kevin Williams Memorial Field.

Kevin Michael Williams represented the very best our society has to offer in terms of character, achievement, and devotion to his family, school, and community. A 1995 graduate of Shoreham-Wading River High School, where he was an honor student and Most Valuable Player in golf, basketball, and baseball, and a 1999 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Boston College, Kevin Williams will be best remembered for his all-encompassing love of life. Kevin truly lived life to the fullest and succeeded in projecting his zeal for life's challenges and opportunities to others. Kevin would not have chosen the label of "hero" or "role model" for himself, but he personified the qualities that have made our nation the greatest on earth, and his untimely death on September 11, 2001 in no way diminishes what he achieved during his lifetime.

In keeping with "American tradition," one of Kevin's greatest loves was baseball. It is, therefore, entirely fitting that the High School's baseball field be dedicated in his honor. Kevin's love for baseball inspired his family and fiancée to establish the Kevin Williams Memorial Fund to "keep his spirit alive and to give a lot of children the opportunity to learn and enjoy baseball." This "living legacy" will enable many children in the New York area to have the opportunity to attend baseball camps and participate in Little Leagues.

On behalf of the people of the First Senatorial District, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Kevin's mom and dad, Mike and Pat Williams, and to his sister Kelly, brother Jamie, and fiancée Jillian Volk for sharing this fine young man with our community, as well as my gratitude and best wishes to all those whose love and admiration for Kevin Williams have brought us together here today, not only to honor his memory but somehow to take back with us some of the life-affirming spirit that graced his life.


Senator Kenneth P. LaValle

