

Dear Granite City Electric,

I would like to share with you an essay written about the hopes and dreams that our baseball complex provides to our community. It provides a place where we can get together as a group, enjoy the town and the folks in the surrounding area and provides a perfect place to watch our kids grow. A place where young and old alike can enjoy time together. Lights would be a great addition to our complex and would allow us to even enjoy such a short season even longer.

Hope you enjoy the essay, it sums up our love as well as the importance within our community.

Thank You, Mike Lebel, Representative, South Berwick Rollinsford Little League
South Berwick ME

A FIELD OF DREAMS

I KNOW THAT WE ALL THINK OF THE MOVIES AND HOLLYWOOD WHEN WE SEE THIS TITLE, BUT THIS JUST SUMS UP MY IMPRESSION OF OUR LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY CELEBRATION, HELD MAY 4TH, FOR THE SOUTH BERWICK/ROLLINSFORD LITTLE LEAGUE CELEBRATION

IT WAS A DAY OF CELEBRATION. A DAY TO HONOR OUR HOMETOWN HEROES. THE DAY HAD BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE LITTLE LEAGUE ASSOCIATION, WORLDWIDE, TO HONOR THE FOLKS THAT UNSELFISHLY RISK THEIR LIVES AS PART OF THEIR JOBS, TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE. THE POLICE, FIREMEN, RESCUE TEAMS AND OF COURSE THE MEMBERS OF OUR MILITARY. IT WAS ALSO A DAY TO CELEBRATE OUR BASEBALL COMPLEX. ONCE A SINGLE FIELD WITH A TINY SHACK FOR SELLING SNACKS, NOW A 3 FIELD COMPLEX COMPLETE WITH DUGOUTS AND A SPANKING NEW CONCESSION BUILDING ALL BUILT FROM DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS. ALL OF WHOM HAD REACHED DEEP INTO THEIR POCKETS TO PROVIDE THE CASH, DONATE THEIR TALENTS, AND GIVE THEIR TIME, OF WHICH IS A PRECIOUS COMMODITY, TO CONSTRUCT THIS PLACE THAT OUR KIDS, AND THEIR KIDS, AND FAMILIES FOR YEARS WILL COME AND ENJOY.

THE CEREMONY BEGINS AND AWARDS ARE PRESENTED TO PEOPLE AND COMPANIES IN THE COMMUNITY. THE LIST INCLUDED TWO SPECIAL AWARDS THAT WERE GIVEN TO TWO UMPIRES, WHO HAVE GIVEN A COMBINED TOTAL OF 48 YEARS OF SERVICE, UNSELFISHLY.

I CONTINUE TO PEER OUT THE DOOR OF THE DUGOUT THAT I AM STANDING IN AND LOOK UPON THE FIELD. CIRCULING THE BASES, BASEBALL TEAMS, BOYS AND GIRLS, ALL DRESSED IN COLORS OF THE

RAINBOW, SITTING UPON A PLUSH GREEN CARPETING OF GRASS. THE BRIGHT SUN SHINING ON THEIR FACES. LINED ALONG THE BASE PATH FROM 3RD TO HOME IS OUR HONORIES, MEMBERS FROM THE SOUTH BERWICK AND ROLLINSFORD POLICE FORCE, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE RESCUE TEAM. ALL DECKED OUT IN THEIR UNIFORMS. HAIR BLOWING IN THE HEAVY WIND, BADGES SPARKLING AGAINST THE SUN. A MEMBER FROM THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD, AN ARMY RESERVE, A FAMILY MAN, JUST RETURNING FROM A 7 MONTH DUTY IN BOSNIA. HOME PLATE, 3 NAVY SOLDIERS FROM THE USS ALEXANDRIA, STANDING AT ATTENTION, HOLDING OUR AMERICAN FLAG. PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FRIENDS AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS CROWDING AROUND THE ENTIRE FIELD, CHATTER AND LAUGHTER FILL THE PARK. THEN, THREE 5TH GRADERS, STANDING WHERE THE UMPIRE USUALLY STOOPS, START TO SING. THEY ARE SINGING OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM. HONORIES IMMEDIATELY SNAP TO ATTENTION, HANDS ON THEIR HEADS, SALUTING. BASEBALL CAPS AUTOMATICALLY COME OFF, HANDS ON HEARTS. ITS DEAD SILENCE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THESE THREE YOUNG VOICES.

THE CEREMONY IS NOW OVER BUT AS I REFLECT BACK, I WONDER WHAT EVERYONE WAS THINKING. I OVERHEARD ONE POLICEMAN SAY TO THE UMPIRE THAT HAD BEEN THERE FOR 30 YEARS. HEY, YOU USED TO COACH ME, REMEMBER? THE 3 SOLDIERS MENTIONED THEIR ENJOYMENT OF DOING THE PRESENTATION; IT REMINDED THEM OF THEIR DAYS IN LITTLE LEAGUE AND OF THEIR HOME. HOW ABOUT THE LITTLE LEAGUE KIDS, WERE THEY THINKING WILL I GET A HOME RUN? WILL I MAKE THAT CATCH?

WHAT ABOUT THE COACHES, THE PARENTS AND THE YOUNGER BROTHER AND SISTERS JUST WAITING FOR THEIR TURN TO PLAY. WHAT ABOUT THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE. HE GREW UP IN THE TOWN, PLAYED BALL AS A KID. HE BROUGHT HIS KIDS UP THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION. WHAT WAS HIS THOUGHTS? AS HE HANDED OUT THE THANKS AND THE PLAQUES, I NOTICED HIS NAME WAS MISSING. HE HAD DREAMED TO MAKE THIS PARK WHAT IT IS TODAY. HE HAD BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE FOR YEARS, THOUGH HIS KIDS HAD SURPASSED LITTLE LEAGUE, HE HAS SWEATED, DEDICATED, AND DONATED HIS TIME AND MONEY AND CONTINUES TO DO SO. DID HE STAND THERE AND LOOK OUT AT THE FIELD, AS I, AND REALIZE THIS DREAM OF HIS, THAT HE AND MANY OTHERS HAD WORKED SO HARD FOR HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

THIS DAY WAS DEDICATED TO MANY HEROES. TO THE MOTHERS AND FATHERS THAT DONATED THEIR TIME IN THE CONCESSION STAND. TO THE MOMS THAT BAKED GOODS AND COOKED HAMBURGERS TILL THEY SMELLED OF GREASE. TO THE COACHES THAT GIVE THEIR TIME TO TEACH A CHILD ALL THEY KNOW, AND WHO HIGH FIVE THEM WHEN THE GOING IS GOOD OR BAD. TO THE UMPIRES THAT STOOP BEHIND HOME PLATE, GAME AFTER GAME TILL THEIR KNEES ACHE. TO THE GUY THAT

DRIVES BY THE FIELD AND STOPS BECAUSE HE SEES SOMEONE THAT MAY NEED HELP. TO THE MOM AND DAD THAT CHEER FOR THEIR CHILD WHEN THEY SCORE, AND GIVE A SUPPORTING HUG WHEN THEY LOSE. TO THE BUSINESSES THAT SPONSER A TEAM, AND TO THE MERCHANTS THAT DONATE ITEMS FOR FUND RAISING TO KEEP THE LEAGUE GOING. IT TRULY TAKES A COMMUNITEE.

SO AS I SIT AND THINK, AND FEEL GOOD ABOUT WHAT I HAVE JUST PARTICIPATED IN, I SMILE TO THINK THAT MY KIDS WILL GROW UP IN THIS COMMUNITY, AND RUN THOSE SAME BASES. I SURE WANT TO THANK EVERYONE THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT AND ESPECIALLY WANT TO REACH OUT TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS IN THE PAST YEARS AND THE MANY MORE TO COME.

I THINK WE HAVE A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR, AND A WHOLE LOT MORE OF DREAMING TO BE DONE.

IT'S JUST SUCH AN UNDERATED STATEMENT WHEN WE SAY, HEY, IT'S ONLY BASEBALL!

