

Thomas Reid
69 Morse Street
Sharon, MA 02067
781-784-4206

Growing up in Sharon, I often felt cut off from the world outside of our small town.

Although Sharon is a fantastic place to be educated, it was always my belief that I needed to get out into the larger world to see what I could contribute. I settled on studying foreign service at Georgetown University because of my fascination with foreign cultures and languages; however, rather than simply studying this material, it is my goal to immerse myself in these cultures and determine how conflicts between various peoples can be peacefully resolved. I feel that Sharon has given me the tools I need to explore the issues of our time and offer my own perspective to the debate.

Like Mr. Rothberg, I look forward to making my own mark and leaving behind my own legacy. Just as he excelled on Wall Street, I hope to have an impact in Washington or in some other area of the world through my hard work and determination. From what I have learned about Michael Rothberg's life, I have come to see that what you do outside of work is just as important in life. The continuation of my participation in charitable organizations must never take a backseat to my international affairs aspirations, and while I examine and work to improve relations abroad, I cannot forget the importance of my relations with loved ones back home. To be able to live up to the legacy of Michael Rothberg would be a true blessing.

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Since September 11th, 2001, the world has undergone enough change to render it unrecognizable to those growing up in the 1990s. In many ways, terrorism has taken on a similar meaning to that of communism. It invokes fear in the hearts of the millions who cannot shake the horrific images of September 11th or the war that followed. For ten years, the United States has been suspended in a state of paranoia and desperation, and it has reached the point where it is now considered normal for the rights of citizens to be openly violated. The media is full of stories concerning wiretaps, children being forced to endure invasive searches at airports, and even torture. Each day it becomes increasingly obvious that the terrorists have done their job all too well.

While the American people are controlled by fear, terrorism can never be destroyed. No amount of fighting and force in the Middle East will ever have enough of an impact to solve this growing problem. The only way to truly conquer terrorism, then, is to make clear to its followers that their vile acts in the past have not defeated the spirit of the United States. Instead of attacking the rights of its citizens, the American government should be focused on ensuring the protection of those rights. We as a people can never forget what occurred on September 11th, but if we can stand together in unity against the aggressors, terrorism can never truly win.