Yichi "Rocky" Zhang (781)-793-4429

Describe your personal goals, challenges or commitments and how you will draw on what you've learned about Michael Rothberg's legacy to inspire your own.

On September 10th, 2001, an international flight from Beijing landed in the United States. The next day, rather than arriving at a standard first day on the job, my father was greeted with a crowd of his new coworkers staring at televisions, witnessing the tragedy that engulfed the nation.

Mr. Rothberg's untimely end saddens me because my dad would have almost certainly admired him as a potential colleague and/or friend. Originally a math major like Michael, my dad later became a software engineer before deeply involving himself in start-up culture and starting his own companies. All of this instilled me with a lifelong interest in computers as well as an interest in innovation. Since starting Sharon High School's Esports Club, I have grown the club using a blend of creative and technical thinking. For instance, the Esports Club held a Mario Kart tournament this year, donating all the proceeds to the Cancer Research Institute.

By exploring the creative and technical facets of computer science with respect to Esports Club, I feel more confident that I can build a professional career a fraction as successful as Mr. Rothberg's as I attend the University of Maryland's Advanced Cybersecurity Honors College next fall.

While I would not describe myself as a philanthropist, I feel that my position as the President of Sharon's Youth Running Program has allowed me to serve my community in a way that Michael would respect and support. In addition to running varsity track, holding YRP sessions each Sunday in the Spring has not only allowed me to grow as a person and a leader, but it has also given me the opportunity to promote my passion for running while keeping the community a little more active.

Thank you for your consideration.