

Hi Mayor Samwick and the Village Board,

My name is Michael Zucker and I have lived in Scarsdale since 1977. I first met Rippy Philipps while attending Scarsdale High School and watching him play football for the high school team. Even though he was one of the younger players on the team, he always encouraged his teammates and led by example. He was all about inclusion and providing his class mates with a sense of pride and confidence.

Over the years, I attended many youth football games and was very impressed with the way Rippy coached football/taught life lessons. Even though I never played football, I always marveled at the respect and positive feedback that Rippy received over the years from players and families in the community that he coached.

When I was a senior at Scarsdale High School in 1979 and our basketball team made it to the State Finals, Rippy was there to cheer us on at the Westchester County Center, Nassau Community College in Long Island and the Rochester War Memorial. He was always our biggest supporter and fast forward that to 2009-2016 when my 3 daughters played varsity basketball at Scarsdale High School for 7 consecutive years. Rippy was consistently the only adult who did not have a child playing in the games in attendance and cheering on the Raiders.

My nephew Jason Sabel who grew up in Scarsdale and never played football at the youth level, decided he wanted to play football in his senior year. Having never played a down of football ever, Rippy practiced with him over the summer and gave Jason the confidence to be part of the 2012 Raider football team. While attending Franklin & Marshall College, Jason ran track on the school team and played on the Rugby Club team. He has told me many times, that when things became challenging for him in college, he always heard Rippy's encouraging voice in his head.

In summation, I believe that renaming the Crossway field, The Rippy Philipps field would be an honor that Rippy has earned and I would be extremely thankful that all of Rippy's hard work and dedication will become legacy for current and future Scarsdalians.