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Village of Scarsdale Board of Trustees
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To the Mayor's Office of the Village of Scarsdale and the Village Board of Trustees,

I am writing in support of the citizen-led initiative to rename Scarsdale's Crossway Field Complex after resident, coach, and mentor Richard (Rippy) Philipps. As a Scarsdale High School graduate (2013) and participant (2003-2013) in the Scarsdale Football Program, I was lucky to receive Rippy's coaching and mentorship growing up. Rippy has impacted hundreds, if not thousands of Scarsdale residents, and through his efforts did what only the greatest of coaches are able to do, which is bring the community together over a love of sport, resulting in invested parents, community members, and players. For all of this and more, I am in full support of giving him the recognition of renaming the field where his contributions took place in his name. As I'm sure you're receiving many letters, I'll try and keep mine short, and focus on sharing my own experiences with him, which all point to the kind of extraordinary mentor, coach, and citizen he is.

I began my journey with Rippy when I joined the rec football program in 3rd grade. While Rippy was in charge of the 7th & 8th grade level, his presence was always felt (and heard) in the younger programs, as well as at the high school level. This was because he made it his business to keep tabs on players throughout the program, even following them through to the college-level and beyond. When you're a kid, it's hard to realize the impact that your coaches and mentors have on you, but when you look back it becomes much more clear. Over many years under his coaching and mentorship, I was able to transform as an athlete, and more importantly learn values such as discipline, inclusion, and teamwork, as well as develop a love for the community we grew up in. All of these guided me beyond my youth football years, whether it was choosing to become the President of Scarsdale High School's student body or go on to play at the next-level as an offensive lineman at Princeton University. I really do not doubt that both successes can be traced back to my early foundations and learnings on the field with Rippy.

Rippy was so involved with the development of his players that there was one time when he even wrote an email to my father about a breakthrough moment I had in practice during a 4x4 block and tackle drill in 8th grade. As a player who always struggled with speed and agility, Rippy labeled this a "kodak moment," one that could lead to my success in the program in high school. My father ended up framing it in our home, and we often reflect back to it when considering my later successes in the sport. This is just one of the many

examples that points to Rippy's unparalleled dedication to his players.

These types of stories are possible because of Rippy's commitment to bringing his players into his collective family, viewing and investing in them as if they were his own kids. During Saturday morning games at Crossway field as a 7th and 8th grader, Rippy would often say this outright when motivating us to go out and play our best. He would kneel at the center of a pre-game or scrimmage huddle, and with the undivided attention of every young man crowded around him, confidently shout, "I never ended up having any kids, but to me, you're all part of my family," and then proceed to shout, "and I'll tell you what, there's no place I'd rather be!" I can only smile with the knowledge that through this type of caring and inclusive mentorship, Rippy was able to give inspiration, direction and motivation to so many of his players.

Perhaps beyond anything, I will remember Rippy for his unconditional investment in me and hundreds of other players over the years. This was reflected in his dedication to believing in us on the bad as well as the goods days, filling the football program with quality coaches from the community, and ensuring that all players felt included in the program and community, independent of their standing on the team. In writing this letter, I would argue that Rippy's value to the Scarsdale community should be measured by the care, investment, and dedication he has given to thousands of Scarsdale residents over the years, in most cases never asking for a reward or recognition beyond his ability to stay involved and keep contributing. I can only thank him for changing my life for the better, and look forward to seeing the Village's response.

Signed respectfully,

Jacob R. Cannon, also on behalf of David Cannon (SHS 1979) & Nina Ledis Cannon
Scarsdale High School Class of 2013