

Letters of Recommendation
For the proposed
"Brian Eldredge Memorial Skate Park"
Amesbury, Massachusetts 01913



Nor'East Architectural Antiques, Ilc.

16 Exeter Road – South Hampton, NH 03827

603-394-0006 p 603-394-0076 f

November 14, 2018

To whom it may concern,

My name is Donna Eldredge and I am a second generation, lifelong resident of Amesbury. My family is what you'd probably call a "typical Amesbury family". We have owned and operated businesses here, we fundraise here, some of us work for the city (which we still call a town), we shop here, we dine out here, we went to school here, and we raise our children here. I raised my son Brian here, along with his sisters Debbie and Kristen.

I'd like to tell you about my son Brian. Brian was, in my opinion, the best of us. He was honest, loving, hardworking, and most of all, he was kind. He was blessed with the ability to do pretty much anything he set his mind to, from carpentry, electrical work, and masonry, the list goes on and on. He spent the last three years renovating my home and he worked for my business, Nor'East Architectural Antiques, since he was 12 years old.

Today, I'm living every parent's nightmare. My son was healthy until the morning of May 23, 2018, when he woke up with stomach pains and called in sick from work. By the next morning he was worse, so his fiancée Megan Berry took him to Anna Jaques Hospital. Within 30 minutes he was being admitted to the ICU. Pancreatitis; I didn't even know what it was, but we knew it was bad, I slept on a couch in the waiting room for two nights. On the third day we were told he was transferring to Massachusetts General Hospital where he was admitted to the ICU. There, Brian spent 5 nights with Megan and I by his side. Our large family drove in, over and over, to sit with us. We were hopeful. His doctors were hopeful. Pancreatitis is a brutal disease, but Brian was young, strong and had so much going for him. On the morning of Wednesday, May 30th, just one week after Brian was admitted; he had a massive heart attack due to complications from the pancreatitis. They did everything they could to try to save him. They brought a bypass machine to the ICU, they operated, and they put him on 100% life support. Despite all of their efforts, Brian passed away at 7:10 pm, with 20 of us by his side. He was 29 years old.

Soon the hospital staff told us to go home...go home, so we left. I called Norman Jutras of Jutras and Son's Funeral Home, and asked if he would bring Brian home for me. He said he would, the very next morning. Although we had never talked about it, I knew from speaking with his friends that Brian would want to be cremated so that's what we did. I also knew that placing him in a cemetery just didn't feel right, so I didn't.

The next few days are a blur. We wrote an obituary, planned a celebration of life, and family and friends started showing up at my home. Flatbread Pizza delivered 20 pizzas to us. Vermettes sent platters and sandwiches. Jon Mooers and Virginia Page from The Noshery, cooked and delivered every single meal for 4 days straight. Amesbury took care of us during our worst time.

It's been months since Brian died, and I still have bad days, and very bad days. On one very bad day, while I was working at Nor'East, a man, Walter Magerison, came in and asked to speak with me. We'd never met, but he knew Brian. He explained to me that he and some friends were considering embarking on a fundraising effort to renovate the Amesbury Skate Park, and with my permission, he'd like to explore the option of having it renamed "the Brian Eldredge Memorial Skate Park"; I was stunned. For weeks I'd been sad at the idea that, without placing Brian in a cemetery I'd have no official marker with his name on it. Now standing in front of me, a stranger offering to help place Brian's name among the living, not the dead, which is an amazing idea. I told Walter I'd gladly help with the fundraising. Fundraising is a large part of my life. I've been fundraising in Amesbury for many years. I was on the board of the first Amesbury Playground Committee, I served 10 years as the Chair of the Amesbury Relay for Life, I fundraised for our own Paige Fortin after her accident, and I currently do a fair amount of fundraising with the Amesbury Squawks Facebook Page, which I am an administrator.

I'd like to ask for your support in renaming the Amesbury Skate Park after my son Brian.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna Eldredge
48 Powow Street
Amesbury, Ma. 01913
978-821-4084



Amesbury

Thomas G. Hanshaw
Crime Prevention Officer

Police Department

19 School Street · Amesbury, MA 01913
Tel: (978) 388-1217 · Fax: (978) 388-1220
email: thomash@amesburyma.gov

November 1, 2018

To whom it may concern,

As Crime Prevention Officer with the Amesbury Police Department since 1996, I have been fortunate to work on numerous community policing efforts in the City as well as throughout the region. As a lifelong resident of Amesbury, I have also been fortunate to live in a very special community, witnessing countless acts of kindness. Our community is unique in many ways but shines because of the people, many behind the scenes, who work hard to make it special and enhance our quality of life. These people work to address social issues, combat disease, promote community spirit, help those in need and invest in the future for generations to come. Our world is far from perfect but remembering the past, living for today and preparing for tomorrow are essential to every city and town.

I am also proud to be a part of an Amesbury family, whose members have worked to make the city a better place; yesterday, today and for tomorrow. In May, we sadly lost one of our family members as my nephew, Brian Eldredge, passed away suddenly. Brian was a talented, hard-working, young man; with a contagious smile, who was dedicated to the importance of a family. Brian was also one of those people, who worked behind the scenes to help get things done. In 2004, Donna Eldredge, his mother and my sister, became a volunteer with the American Cancer Society, working on The Relay For Life of Amesbury effort. Brian worked each year on the Relay, which helped raise over \$1 million for cancer research, prevention and patient services.

I was very happy to learn of the proposal to have Brian's name recognized as part of the effort to revitalize the Amesbury Skate Park on Friend St. One of Brian's passions was skateboarding from a very early age and he certainly was dedicated to the welfare of young people. Providing a safe venue for young people to gather is so important today and I am sure Brian would have been a strong proponent of any community effort to improve the Skate Park. Our family truly appreciates this consideration and will be happy to help make the Skate Park a better place for the young people of today and tomorrow

Sincerely,

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Kristen Eldredge and I live at 48 Powow Street here in Amesbury, and I have had the pleasure of working for the City for the last year with the Community and Economic Development Department. I am writing this letter in support of the request to rename the current skate park to *The Brian Eldredge Memorial Skate Park* after my brother who just recently passed away. For those who had the pleasure of knowing him, they would not argue his compassion for others, how hard he worked at everything he did, and how genuinely kind he was to those who were kind to him. The stack of letters that this one falls in will speak to all of those qualities and then some I am sure. Over the many years of being with Brian I came to observe something that helps me cope with his loss and remind myself to keep moving forward without him. If you asked Brian a question, or gave him an idea however big or small, it was like watching inspiration strike a man for the first time in a long time. One idea would stem into hundreds of possibilities, and different roads that would end in different outcomes and sometimes you would find yourself saying "*okay okay I get it! I am sorry I asked!!*" He gave me the sense that possibilities were in fact endless.

If he could talk to me now, I know a few things for sure. He would not want this skate park to be named after him because he wouldn't believe he deserved the honor (even though he is the most deserving). Secondly he would not want anyone to overlook the people behind this request. I don't even mean the applicants or my siblings and mother who want this so bad. I am talking about the men and women who decided upgrades needed to be made at the skate park, and they believed that these improvements would help a growing community looking to enjoy harmless fun and have a safe beautiful spot to enjoy their time. The Flatbread Company who listened and gave those people an outlet to start fundraising, and then those who came to my family to see if we would want this to be named after Brian. Those men and women put the work behind an idea, and Brian would agree that they deserve support and the true recognition because they have already come so far. If you were to approve this request then I think it would be a big win for those individuals in your community to know that they have been heard, and that action is worth fighting for when you are passionate about an idea that probably started out very small. I think we all need to take a moment every once and a while to remind ourselves of this, and I believe that Brian lived this way.

When Brian passed we decided to have him cremated, not knowing anything about the skate park at the time we all agreed that a tombstone wouldn't be where we felt him the most and if there was ever a sign that Brian is still with us, the skate park was heard loud and clear. It feels right to help this cause; it feels like the perfect place to remember my compassionate, hard working, and kind brother.

Sincerely,
Brian's Little Sister

To Whom It May Concern:

On May 30th of this year, the world lost a son of Amesbury. Brian Eldredge grew up on the concrete ramps, handrails, and half pipes of the Amesbury Skatepark. I struggle to say that it was his second home only because it may have been his first.

My fondest memory of Brian is when he was three years old and he received his first bicycle. The bike was tiny, as you would expect for a three-year-old, and it had two little training wheels. He hopped right on that thing and flew around the street. We lived on Po Hill at the time and I could see him from the window, a smile from ear to ear, wind whipping through his hair as he tooted around the small street where we lived.

I lost sight of him briefly when he went around back. When I saw him again a short time later, I noticed his bike no longer had training wheels. Apparently, he had found a set of wrenches and taken them off himself without permission. It's funny, I never saw him fall, even without the training wheels. Can you imagine doing that at only three years old?

That was the kind of kid Brian was, a no-nonsense, no complaining, just do what had to be done kind of kid. Those qualities never left him. You could tell even from that age that it would not be long before he found skateboarding and snowboarding. He just had that kind of energy and skill.

Skateboarding for Brian was about creativity and empowerment. Skateboarders, even when I was young, were given a bad reputation. Not Brian though. To know him was to love him, he was just that kind of person. He had kind words for everyone, which is what I miss most about him.

Skateboarding for some is about competitiveness and pushing themselves. But, for Brian, I never saw that. I don't think he ever wanted to be better than anyone. He just wanted to make them better. He was just so damn authentic. What you saw on the surface was just who he was; I wish you could have known him. If you had, there would be no reason to write this letter because you would be asking us to put his name on the skatepark, rather than the reverse.

I grew up in Amesbury. I spent the first 30 years of my life there. My family owned businesses there. I had my first kiss there. I fell in love for the first time there, had my first heartbreak there. My family is all from there. But, when I think of Amesbury, I think of Brian. When I think of the skatepark, all I see is Brian. There is no name more deserving for the skatepark than his.

Brian was attached to his skateboard for as long as I can remember. But it sits in the corner now, gathering dust, a faint memory of a better time with an honest, kind, and selfless soul. His skateboard seems lost now without him. It's empty. But you have the power to give it a home forever, a meaning and a purpose. It can stand as an example of what skating in Amesbury should be about: creativity, authenticity, kindness, and empowerment.

Brian was the embodiment of what it means to be a skater from Amesbury. Please consider renaming the skatepark after him.

Thank you for listening. Thank you for your consideration.

Forever from Amesbury,

James LaValley

Dear Committee,

Thank you in advance for your time in reading my letter, it is in regards to a matter that is near and dear to my heart. This is a letter of recommendation, supporting the rededicating of the Amesbury Skate Park in the name of Brian Eldredge.

My name is Debra Robinson and I was born and raised here in Amesbury. My family has deep roots in town, having been settled here for decades. We've owned property here, given our service to the community, supported fundraisers benefiting business, families, and causes of Amesbury, patroned it's many businesses, walked its sidewalks, driven its roads, and raised our children here.

Brian Eldredge was my brother, we recently lost him to a vicious disease that took him too fast, and too young, and from a family that loved him very much. I want to write to you about the person he was because I feel confident that the person he was exemplifies the qualities that this committee would be looking for. I spent much of my time depositing and collecting Brian and his friends to and from this skate park in our youth. This place was very truly the only place in town where skateboarders were welcomed to roam free. It was always filled to the brim with children of all ages and ability levels. It was a safe place to learn, take a few spills, show off new moves and be all that they wanted to be; just kids. Every time I dropped him off, he was met with cheers, high-fives, and eager faces from the friends that knew and loved him.

As a person, Brian was the very best of all worlds. He was a hard worker, family oriented, had talent that extended to anything he touched, and he was relentless in the pursuit of all that was great. A perfectionist to the core, he wanted everything to be "just right", and pushed himself (and by proxy others) to be their best. He had high expectations of himself, and would give of his time and talents tirelessly, and endlessly. He filled his days and nights working on anything and everything, but knew how to play just as hard as he worked.

Brian started working at our family business as a teen. I'm not sure he anticipated how much that place would shape who he was. He was naturally hard working and he thrived in an environment where the work was plentiful and the teachers loved to help him grow, and were very invested in him. He spent years plowing the streets of Amesbury, drifting down and around neighborhoods of people he knew, and I know he plowed out more than a few struggling folks he didn't. He managed an amazing number of home projects, I'm sure less than a quarter of them were in his own home.

Brian left behind a niece and two nephews that he was dedicated to. I know he was looking forward to doing everything with the kids because he was the best uncle ever - building model rockets, snowboarding, building, and of course - skateboarding!

I appreciate the time you took to read this letter. If I could leave you with one small thing it would be that Brian was selfless and kind. He was a quiet giver, but he gave everything he had.

Very Sincerely,

Debra Robinson
(978) 430-6260

November 16 2018

To whom this may concern

I am writing this letter to show my support in changing the Amesbury Skatepark to the Brian Eldredge Memorial Skatepark. Brian was not only my step brother but a son, fiance, friend, uncle and a man who put everyone else before himself.

My earliest memories of Brian go back to our years spent together at the Amesbury Middle School. Brian's kindness and helpful qualities were just a few of his many traits that made it easy for us to be friends. As years passed our friendship continued to grow and sooner than we realized our friendship would turn into family.

Some time after Brian and I graduated high school, my father and his mother crossed paths and began to date. Dating turned into marriage and the rest is history. Our families easily blended together, forming an instantaneous bond of love and support. I was lucky to gain another two sisters and a brother. Although Brian was not the oldest, he took on the role of "big brother," he was supportive, helpful and always looked out for our best interests.

As the years have passed I have watched Brian selflessly help anyone in need. He was always the first one to offer to build anything anyone needed. He loved working with his hands. For my wedding I asked him to make my guest book out of wood and without hesitation he took on the job! Everyone loved it and all he would say was "it was no big deal." That's the kind of guy Brian was.

I do not know alot about skateboarding, but when I found out about this idea Brian's name is all I thought about. He loved the skatepark! Sometimes a group of us would go to the skatepark after school, I remember all the guys laughing and enjoying themselves.

When I think of Brian's time and the memories we spent together, I think of a person who would want a place for people to enjoy. A place where they can enjoy what they are passionate about.

The reality of losing Brian will never feel real to my family however being able to drive pass the skatepark in Brian's name would always remind our family of Brian. Although our hearts weigh heavy we would feel proud that Brian would continue to impact others in a positive way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerri O'Loughlin



Joshua Berry
21 Main Street
Plaistow, NH 03865

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Joshua Berry, I am a former long-time resident, student, and athlete of Amesbury. I am writing to you because I want to support the proposal for naming the Amesbury Skate Park after Brian Eldridge, a close and dear friend/family member of mine.

Anyone who knew Brian, knew of his incredible love and interest in skateboarding. Brian would even tote along his skateboard on some of the vacations we took just in case he might have a chance to ride in a new area. He loved the sport, the commitment, and the sometimes-grueling determination it took to nail certain tricks, it challenged him and drove him to keep trying. He brought those virtues into his everyday life.

Brian was devoted and determined to provide for his family, friends, and his community and would do so with the tenacity that he approached everything with. He was incredibly generous and would always help anyone with a construction project that was slightly over their head, even if that meant sacrificing the only spare time, he had that day.



Brian loved to teach, help, and support the people around him and did so with a determined, driven and generous manner. Every project, activity, and hobby he approached got his full attention and commitment. I cannot think of anything more fitting than naming the park after someone who provided so much for so many and someone who loved skating as much as he.

Thank you,
Joshua Berry

Nor'East Architectural Antiques, Ilc.

16 Exeter Road – South Hampton, NH 03827

603-394-0006 p 603-394-0076 f

November 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to share my support in naming the Amesbury Skate Park after Brian Eldredge.

I had the privilege of knowing Brian since he was 10 years old when his mother and I formed a business together. By age 12 he was working for us after school and on weekends, doing odd jobs around our shop. That's when I realized he had something special. Any task you gave him, he accomplished, even if he'd never done it before. That's something you rarely see in a boy of 12.

As the years went by I watched him grow into a man whom I relied on for many things. Whenever I was in need, Brian was always there. And not just for me, but for everyone in his circle, and strangers as well. I remember once particular instance when Brian visited his local country store and realized that one of the regular patrons was a homeless man. Brian did the typical things all people do, he bought the man food and a small tent, but he went beyond that. He started visiting him daily and having in-depth conversations with the man, so he wouldn't feel so alone. A few years later the man passed away and Brian was devastated and thought maybe he hadn't done enough, even though he did more than most. He was truly a very caring individual.

In all the years I knew Brian, one thing was consistent. His love of skateboarding. Even as an adult he always had his board in his truck. I used to ask him when he would outgrow it and he would just smile and shake his head. I doubt he ever would have.

The world needs more kind souls, especially in these times. Brian was one of those. He was like a son to me and I miss him every day.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Isgur



Merrimac Valley ♥ Animal Hospital

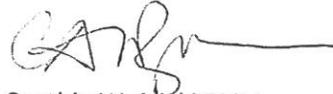
November 2, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I met Brian Eldredge almost exactly ten years ago when he brought his puppy Bruno to Merrimac Valley Animal Hospital. Over the years, I saw Brian with Bruno and later another dog Georgia many times. He was a dedicated and responsible pet owner and very pleasant young man to talk to. He also very patiently helped me find just the right lumber for a project at his job at Nor'East Architectural Salvage.

Since Brian was such an avid skateboarder and decent young man I think it would be very appropriate for the skate park to bear his name. I encourage and support this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Wojcicki DVM

CONSTANTINE A. VALHOULI

259 SOUTH MAIN STREET
BRADFORD, MASS. 01835
TEL. 917 447 8800

November 1, 2018

City of Amesbury
Amesbury, Mass. 01913

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the proposal to rename the skate park in honor of Brian Eldredge.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Brian – along with his mother Donna, and their extended family – through my long association with Nor’east Architectural.

Brian was defined, as very few people are, by his kindness and compassion. His work at Nor’east brought him into the lives of many people across New England and beyond, and his patience and grace always brightened the days of everyone he met. It was not until after his untimely passing that many of us learned about the extent of his generosity and kindness towards those who needed a helping kind or a thoughtful word.

His conduct was a credit to his family and to Amesbury. It is in this spirit that I support renaming of the skate park in his memory – in the hope that Brian’s example can inspire others to act with similar kindness and generosity.

Very truly yours,

Constantine A. Valhouli

11/02/18

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Christopher Plante, alumni of Amesbury High School and longtime close friend of Brian Eldredge. Brian who left us far too soon, stands out in my mind as the most caring, intelligent and capable person I have ever met. In fact I really can't stop there, he was inclusive and always made you feel like you were welcome and in the right place. When trying something new that he was already good at (he was good at pretty much everything) he would always be super encouraging and nonjudgmental, which alone seems like a perfect reason to name a skate park after him. I grew up skating and have spent many hours in that park, Brian embodied exactly how you would want young kids who are starting out to feel; like they are welcomed, encouraged and not judged. I honestly cannot think of a better person to name a skate park after. We miss Brian every day and this would be a great way to memorialize a truly amazing human being.

Thanks for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Christopher Plante

118 Pleasant Valley Road
Amesbury, Ma. 01913

To whom it may concern,

My name is Marguerite (Penny) Zagrani, I have been a resident of Amesbury, Mass for over 45 years, my husband was born here. We have been friends with Donna Eldredge and her family for many years.

This letter I hope will be a testimony to her son Brian who passed away this year, to what type of person he grew up to be.

Brian lived his life helping other people, he was kind, loving, who loved sports especially skateboarding.

He was always there to help anyone in need, he had helped me on many occasions, always with a big smile and the largest hug you could every want or need.

Brian loved children, he was always building or fixing things, always enjoyed playing with his nieces and nephews they were one of the joys of his life. He was there always for his sisters and a great brother a dedicated helping loving son. Always starting projects that would help his family.

He loved his grandparents, no matter what he was doing or how tired he was they could depend on him.

He was a hard worker and touched all his co-workers with his laughter and generosity. We miss Brian very much his mom had set up a random acts of kindness page in his name when you look at this page you will see how people who cared deeply for Brian are passing on more acts of kindness.

Marguerite Zagrani

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Lauren Grindrod and I am the Regional Manager of Flatbread Company. I started my Flatbread career at the location in down town Amesbury, MA as a host in 2006. I am from South Hampton, NH, however, went to high school in Amesbury. I became the Assistant Manager in Amesbury, then the Managing Partner, and now I am a Regional Manager. I am in charge of many locations and help with training, leadership development, and store openings. I am still in charge of the Amesbury location because it is so near and dear to my heart.

I am writing this letter to express my support in changing the name of the Skate Park in Amesbury to honor Brian Eldredge. I have known Brian and his family for over 15 years. He was such a kind, talented, and caring young man. It was a tragedy to lose not only his personality but also how much he cared for strangers and people of the community. His kindness and selflessness inspired everyone around him to treat others how you want to be treated as well as practicing in random acts of kindness. This is something that sits with me always. I started working for Flatbread in 2006 and was inspired by how much they do for the community and people that work for them. They really walk the walk and talk the talk. I believe that Brian's values were very much inline with Flatbread when it came to helping others. One of the requirements as a manager at Flatbread is to complete 7 Acts of Kindness each week. I remember when I was managing that location Brian would reach out to me with different ideas to help different friends and family in the community. He really had such a big heart and always was thinking of others.

Not only was he an extraordinary individual but his love for skateboarding and the skate park in Amesbury was always so very important to him. He was skateboarding at such a young age and was always willing to teach the younger kids a thing or two. When he was younger even the older kids would speak to how polite and nice he was.

I am strongly in support of the name change and hope that this letter expresses how important it is to not only me but so many people in this community. It would be a timeless way to honor his death for his friends, family members, and people of the community.

Thank you for reading,

Lauren Grindrod

Regional Manager, Flatbread Company

November 5, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support for the naming of the Amesbury Skate Park in honor of Brian Eldredge.

Brian was a bright, warm young man who was beloved by all that knew him. He was a neighbor of mine for many years, and was someone who always stopped to offer help, to say hello, and to ask how everyone was doing. He was a strong support to his family, and always willing to lend a hand. He was very active in the Amesbury community and the loss of him is felt by all.

Naming the park for Brian would be way for us to keep Brian's memory ever present for Amesbury and his family. Please consider this heartfelt request.

Sincerely,



Peter Litwin, Psy.D.
12 Market Square
Amesbury MA

November 5, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support for the naming of the Amesbury Skate Park in honor of Brian Eldredge.

Brian Eldredge was known as a personable, generous young man who was beloved by all. He was someone who continually reached out to help those in our community, who was a "rock" for the entire Eldredge family, and who always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. He was a strong supporter for the Relay for Life, an event which is close to the heart of both the Eldredge family and the town of Amesbury. He was very active in the Amesbury community and the loss of him is felt by all.

Naming the park for Brian would keep Brian's memory alive for both our town and for his family. Please consider this request.

Sincerely,


Patrice O'Brien
45 Powow St.
Amesbury MA

November 5, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the possibility of renaming the Amesbury Skate Park in Brian Eldredge's name. I was lucky enough to meet Brian on many occasions, yet unlucky in not knowing him longer. Brian was one of the good ones that was taken from this earth far too soon.

The first-time meeting Brian he was dropping off something here at our house that I was gifted from his mother. He soon turned into our "runner" constantly stopping by, picking up, delivering and vice versa. I learned quickly he was a devoted family guy, a hard-working employee and extremely talented. One day he forgot he had something in his vehicle that was to be dropped off here. There was no time restraint, it wasn't a big deal. He had left work and headed a few towns away to fulfill another obligation. The minute he remembered, he left his friend's house and drove all the way back to deliver my goods. After moving furniture all day, he didn't think twice about dropping off a heavy cupboard, picking up box loads of goods prior to work and he insisted on polishing up some hooks for our front hallway.

I also became closer to Brian when he was working at his family's new venture, Five Daughters. While we gabbed and decorated, he was busy constructing counters and other necessary repairs and renovations. Always smiling, always working – always happy.

I know through stories that Brian grew up at the Amesbury Skate Park and it was an important part of his life. The Skate Park is a great place for our youth to get out, step away from their phones and actually interact with others with similar likes. I can think of nobody more deserving than Brian.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Lauren Syvertson Wise

November 7, 2018

Dear Reader,

Just over 6 months ago, our Amesbury friend, neighbor, and local businessperson Donna Eldredge lost her son to sudden illness. The sense of shock and profound loss was felt across her extensive local family members and friends. A movement began to perform random acts of kindness in his memory, and people across our community responded.

But acts of kindness don't always have to be random. Amesbury's long deteriorating skate park has been badly in need of repair for some time now and I hope that you, our community members, my fellow business owners and others will join me in supporting the effort to raise funds, renovate, and rename the park "The Brian Eldredge Memorial Skate Park" in Brian's honor.

Brian would have loved to know that he was responsible for bringing something fun back to our community, and it's an act of "kindness" long overdue for our kids, and for our park.

Thanks for your consideration, and to the dedicated efforts of everyone who's life Brian touched in some way.

Sincerely,



Frank Czar

10 Sanborn Ter
Amesbury, MA 01913
iamtheczar@gmail.com

99 Elm Street
Amesbury, MA 01913
November 10, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

As an Amesbury resident and Amesbury business owner, I am writing in favor of the initiative to rename Amesbury's skate park "The Brian Eldredge Memorial Skate Park. It would be an honor to his great family and serve as a worthy memorial for a young man known for his kindness, not only in his lifetime, but one who leaves a legacy of kindness that inspires others into the future.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of all of those whose lives have been touched by his.

Sincerely yours,

Louise Stilphen
Founder and Headmaster
Sparhawk School

November 11, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the possibility of renaming the Amesbury Skate Park in Brian Eldredge's name. Brian was my cousin, and I had the pleasure of spending a great deal of time with him, not just during family celebrations. Brian was a mentor to me in many aspects of my life, which is why his passing was particularly impactful on me.

Brian was three years older than I, so he was like an older brother to me. Though I have an older brother of two years, Brian and Jeff were polar opposites. Where Jeff was passionate about academics and science, Brian was passionate about using his hands, and those in need. Brian was able to teach me things that I simply did not naturally comprehend, and he was truly a wonder to behold when he was in his element. At the age of 10, I bought my first skateboard, because I was envious of Brian's talent, and wanted to give it a try. Needless to say, I had neither the coordination nor balance in order to hold a candle to his ability. Without being prompted, Brian offered to come over to my parents' house on numerous occasions in order to help build my confidence with my new skateboard.

A handful of years later, when I was at home from college during the summers, I took a job with my aunt at her Architectural Salvage business. Again, my skills were very lacking in the realm of handiwork, and I was once again facing a massive lack of confidence. Who was there to step in, but the handiest person I have ever known in my life. Brian took me under his wing, showing me the ins and outs of the business, and letting me help out on a number of projects he was working on. He also helped me to build a workout plan, so that I would be better prepared to help out around the shop, which has propelled me into a love for fitness and weightlifting.

That was just the type of person that Brian was, a caring, generous individual whose kindness knew no bounds. He was there to help me to overcome many times in my life where I desperately needed a boost in confidence, and it is truly heartbreaking that we lost him so soon. However, his loss will not be in vain, as I believe this is a particularly good opportunity to turn his story into something long-lasting. If the town were to consider renaming the skate park in his honor, it would continue Brian's legacy in the most wonderful way. Every time someone attends the park, and lands a new trick, or makes a friend to help them through a hard time, it will be under Brian's name, and his legacy of stepping in and providing that much needed boost of confidence will continue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Stephen Hanshaw



November 10th, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jeffrey Hanshaw and I am writing to you regarding the possibility of renaming the Amesbury Skate Park in honor of my cousin, Brian Eldredge. I want to sincerely thank you for taking the time to read this letter and all of the letters submitted by Brian's friends and family. I hope that we can share with you how much Brian meant to us and why we feel that renaming the skate park in his honor would benefit the community.



Brian was the epitome of a true family man. His family meant everything to him, which was evident in his everyday life. Whether he was running errands in support of his mother's business, working on renovations in the house he shared with his fiancé, or playing with his young nieces and nephews, it was clear that Brian devoted his time to the people he cared about most. He was always there for holiday gatherings, birthday parties, and any other times our whole family came together. In the months since his passing, I have personally tried to follow the example he set by reaching out to help others, prioritizing my friends and family, and doing good wherever possible. These are goals that everyone should strive toward, and I know that spreading the story of Brian's life will help inspire others in the same way that it has inspired me.

As the Amesbury Skate Park was one of Brian's favorite places, rededicating it in his honor stands out as being an excellent way to share the lessons he taught us all throughout his life. When people hear Brian's name, I hope they think of a man who was kind, talented, and always willing to devote his time to help others. When the children and young adults who frequent the skate park see Brian's name, I hope they are reminded of a man who truly understood what was important in life, and that they strive to follow his example. For this reason, I think that dedicating the skate park to Brian's memory could greatly benefit the community, and I hope you will consider taking this opportunity to honor the life of a truly good man.



Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hanshaw

November 12,2018

To whom it may concern;

I write this letter to express my support for the efforts to renovate and name the skatepark after Brian Eldredge.

Brian was a kind, genuine, humble ,hardworking man who was always there to help anyone in any way he could . He was the heart of his family and loved by all who knew him. Needless to say his family and friends have suffered a devastating loss but they've turned their pain into something just as powerful. They keep his memory alive everyday with generous acts of kindness scattered all over the community.

I personally have been the recipient of such kindness from Brian himself before he passed and his entire family since. It has made such an impact on my life. This family makes it their mission to spread kindness, charity and care quietly, selflessly every day. These contributions to others make the world and our town a better place. Amesbury is a tight community, a large extended family really ,and Brian and his family are everything that makes Amesbury a great place to call home. I can think of no better way to honor an Amesbury native who's life and example have left behind such a positive ripple. Please consider naming this place where he spent so much of his time in his memory .

Sincerely,

Virginia Page

November 11, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Each day I have the opportunity to drive by the Amesbury Skate Park on Friend Street. I remember back when rumors were around town that a skate park was going to be built where the tennis courts once stood. There was a fair amount of concern at this time that the skate park may bring negative behavior to the area. Years later as I drive by it always amazes me how many kids of all ages use this skate park. They gather on skate boards, bikes and sometimes rollerblades. They ride, jump, move forward and backward, balance, twist and turn as they move about the park. Maybe there have been a few issues here, but for the most part what I see as I drive by each day are kids coming together to share a space that keeps them busy, keeps them moving, and makes them happy. It is a common place for many kids. I think for some kids it's a place where they can be themselves and develop confidence in their sport and in their relationship with peers.

I understand the skate park is to be renovated. This is a wonderful thing for our youth. I think the skate park keeps many of our youth that aren't interested in or capable of organized team sports busy and active. It provides them a place to work on a skill at their own pace. I also understand there is consideration to name the park after Brian Eldredge. What I know about Brian is he was a kind soul. Brian would do anything and everything he could for a friend or even a stranger. Brian worked hard and he helped when others needed help to complete a job. Brian was a typical young boy growing up in Amesbury and the skate park was a big part of his life. I have been told he spent many days there and the skate park was a special place to Brian. Brian was taken from this life way too early. Brian's mom Donna has chosen to celebrate Brian's life by encouraging others to do random acts of kindness in Brian's memory. Brian's kind soul lives on through these simple but yet kind acts that strangers do for each other. It would be wonderful to name the newly renovated skate park after an Amesbury youth who not only loved the park and spent many hours there, but also possessed the traits we hope our youth display toward others. As an educator I see our children need to look up to others who display these qualities. Naming the skate park after Brian Eldredge along with incorporating a message that a random act of kindness is a powerful act could be a positive message for our youth who visit the skate park. I hope you seriously consider naming the skate park after Brian Eldredge, a typical Amesbury youth who saw the value in being kind.

Sincerely,



Patricia Bradley Theriault

Shannon LaValley

1 Ronnie Lane
Kingston, NH 03848
508-451-2356
Boken09@yahoo.com

November 12th, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I met Brian 18 years ago when I was lucky enough to marry into the LaValley family of Amesbury and gain Brian Eldredge as a cousin, Brian was about 12 at that time. Through the years I saw Brian grow from a pre-teen skateboarding and hanging out with friends into a grown hard-working man who has always been kind, hard-working and generous.

Brian could always be seen helping his mother Donna Eldredge or a family member either at the family business or around the house. Brian was a talented, hard-working individual whose death truly is devastating.

I have two sons Jack and Sam LaValley who Brian would always try to teach and include in activities with his friends when they were around. They both were lucky enough to have ten and eight years respectfully knowing him. My eight year old proudly baked pizza in Brian's pizza oven at a recent remembrance gathering for Brian. The pizza oven he built for his mother Donna.

Going into this holiday season without Brian physically with his family and friends who love and miss him so much will be very difficult. I know he will always be with us, with that being said I cannot think of a better more fitting way of honoring Brians memory then rebranding the Amesbury Skate Park as the Brian Eldredge Skate Park.

Sincerely,

Shannon LaValley

November 12, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my sincere support for changing the name of the Amesbury Skate Park to the Brian Eldredge Memorial Skate Park. This seems a most fitting honor for this wonderful young Amesbury man who left this life way too soon.

I knew Brian since the day he was born. My husband Norman and I lived right next door to the Eldredge family, on the corner of Powow and Ellison Street. We spent 15 years in that home watching our own four children come into the world. At that same time the three Eldredge children arrived – Debbie, Brian, and Kristen. Our yards abutted one another and for years we raised our children together. We spent endless hours pushing all of them on the swing set, watched them digging in the sandbox, pushing Tonka trucks, peddling tricycles, conquering two-wheelers, and mastering the art of skate boarding. Not to mention countless days spent sledding, shoveling, and building snowmen and snow forts. Our children attended every birthday party for one another, went trick or treating in the neighborhood together, and walked down Rowell Street together to the Amesbury Elementary School, where I still teach first grade.

Brian was exactly the same age as our son Alex. I have boxes of photographs containing photos of Brian and Alex and the rest of the children as they grew and changed throughout the years. It is impossible for me to believe that that beautiful little blond-headed child with the sweetest smile is not here on this earth any more. He was absolutely loved and adored by all of us, and most especially by his loving family.

As a mother, I cannot begin to imagine the heartache Brian's mother now has to cope with each and every day. It seems like this one small effort to honor Brian by changing the name of the skate park is a most appropriate tribute to remember his life. The skate park represents the manner in which Brian lived – it is a place where friends, laughing and enjoying being outdoors involved in an activity that brings pleasure and fitness, can surround you. In doing so, Brian's name will live on in the hearts and minds of all those who knew him. And in addition, his name will be introduced to new generations of children who did not have the pleasure of being acquainted with Brian, but simply share the bond of skate boarding and enjoying time at our beautiful Town Park.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Liz Morris
69 South Hampton Road
Amesbury, MA 01913
morrisfamily69@gmail.com

November 13, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to you today to ask that you consider renaming the Amesbury Skateboard Park in honor of Brian Eldredge. Brian and the Eldredge family have lived in Amesbury for many years. Brian and his family have spent many hours supporting the Amesbury community.

Brian and his siblings attended the Amesbury school system, of which Brian is a graduate of Amesbury High School. As a young boy and teenager Brian spent many hours skateboarding in the Amesbury Skateboard Park. The Skateboard Park was one of his favorite places to spend time.

On May 30, 2018 Brian lost his life to a sudden illness taking him from his family and friends to soon. Brian was an amazing son, brother, uncle, and friend to all of the people in his life, including his fiancé Megan.

I believe that renaming the Amesbury Skateboard Park in his honor would be a wonderful way to remember the incredible young man that he was.

So in closing I ask that you consider renaming the Park in honor of Brian, and for all of the people in his life that loved him so very much.

Sincerely,

Donna Piechocki
5 Rowell Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

November 12, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Catherine Berry, I live at 66 Middle Road, Amesbury. I would like to recommend that you name the new skate park after Brian Eldredge.

Brian was engaged to my daughter, Megan Berry. They had been together for over 10 years. They owned a home together and had two dogs that they shared and loved like children. I mention this because that is part of who Brian was to me. Even though he was never officially married to my daughter, it was like they were. He was a son to me already.

The first time I met Brian, when he first started dating my daughter, he had his skate board in hand. He never went anywhere without it. When I would ask Megan where Brian was or what he was doing when they first began dating, she would usually say skate boarding at the park. As I got to know Brian and he spent more time at my home, I realized his love of skate boarding and how much he enjoyed it. Brian's love of the sport was evident even when he was unable to skate board as much as he liked as an adult. You would always see him wearing his favorite brand of sneakers and hat. His board truly was a part of him.

I think it would be an honor to him, his family, my daughter, and his memory to name the park after him. He was someone that put others first and cared not only about the Skateboard Park, but Amesbury itself.

Catherine Berry
66 Middle Rd.
Amesbury, MA
(978)314-2850
megajosh@comcast.net

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in hopes of helping make the decision to name the skate park in Amesbury after Brian Eldredge.

I did not know Brian personally, but I know his mother. After Brian's passing Donna immediately opened up to everyone about her sorrow but also about what a great man Brian was. Instead of looking for sympathy she asked that we all just acted in a kind manner and thought of him. She created a Facebook page in his name so friends (and strangers, it's a public page) could post their acts of kindness. It really made people make more of an effort.

My reason for thinking that the town could benefit from naming the skate park after him is that every time I hear Brian's name I don't think of sadness. I don't think of the way he died. I don't think of his family's sorrow or his mother's broken heart. I don't think of his age, his job, his upcoming wedding, or his fiancé. I DO however think of kindness. It reminds me of the things people did in his name. It makes me more aware of how I can be better. I cannot be the only person who hears the name Brian Eldredge and thinks of that legacy his mother created for him, in remembrance of his big heart.

I do hope you consider naming our skate park after Brian. For a man I did not know, his name already has had an impact on my life and I'm guessing it does the same for many others.

Warmest Regards,

Jennifer Williamson
Jenny's Wedding Cakes
Amesbury MA .

To whom it may concern,

When I first met Brian, I was just one of his sister's best friends. A few years later our parents met and eventually married. I instantly gained the big family I never dreamed I would have.

Brian was my big brother, but more than that he was my friend and idol. He taught me the true meaning of selflessness in his every day actions. Helping others was just a part of who he was. It always came natural, without a second thought, from loved ones to strangers alike.

Through the years our family has been involved with the Amesbury community, whether it be with larger, more known causes such as the Relay for Life or smaller, local charities. The moment I became a part of the Eldredge clan I quickly learned how donating your time can impact the lives of so many.

When my step mom was presented with the details for upgrading the Amesbury skate park I couldn't have been more thrilled, and plan to be involved as much as possible. My brother passed away a few months ago unexpectedly, leaving behind an immeasurable hole in our family. I cannot think of anything more fitting than having Amesbury's Skate Park dedicated in his name. Skating was in Brian's blood, one of his passions from long before I was a part of his life.

Providing a safe place for kids to learn and discover new interests shouldn't be underestimated. The wisdom gained from hard work and practice in the modern era should be encouraged and supported. Upgrading the skate park is a perfect way to accommodate that. Amesbury Flat Bread Company has begun to realize this goal and it is truly inspiring to see the first steps being made. If the skate park were revitalized it will have a very personal meaning to my family and I. Seeing the Skate Park restored would have brought great joy to Brian, he loved seeing hard work and dedication pay off. This project could help provide a safe place to nurture budding interests in the various sports the park facilitates.

Thank you,
Melissa Stelling