
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fitchburg woman found story of man with MD inspirational

To the editor:

I would like to express my gratitude to the Sentinel & Enterprise for the Jan. 8 front-page article about Andrew Maxfield. Thank you for telling us about such a courageous and inspirational person. He was truly a hero.

I say these words as the mother of a son with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. My son, Jim, is 15 years old and is the bravest person I have ever known. This is a heartbreaking disease for those who have it and for their family and friends.

I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to Andrew's family and friends. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and memories of Andrew with us at this difficult time. What a wonderful and inspirational person he was!

It was a tremendous accomplishment to live to the age of 40 with this disease. It is a tribute to his strength and it is apparent that his family and friends were always there for him as he was for them. The support and caring of family and friends is so important in dealing with this disease.

Awareness is also very important, which leads orga-

nizations such as Muscular Dystrophy Association to raise money for research. Andrew obviously gave of himself to raise funds, and as a parent I am so very grateful. There is no cure for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, so research is vital.

As Andrew's brother Michael said, it was as if he had one foot in Heaven. Now Andrew has both feet in Heaven and this world has lost a hero.

I did not know Andrew, but I wish that I had. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Thank you again for telling us about Andrew.

**Gretchen Letteney
Fitchburg**