

Officer Vincent R. Celebrezze

Was a member of the Richfield Police Department, but more importantly he was my big brother.

When it comes to big brothers I don't believe anyone tops mine.

With 8 years between us he taught me how to repair and maintain gasoline engines, shoot a 22 caliber rifle with some accuracy and more importantly how to figure things out.

Aside from serving as a Richfield Police Officer he owned and operated a small construction company he founded with my father called Celebrezze & Son. They were both excellent finish carpenters. I joke about the fact that I was not the "son" in that company, because I am a real proponent of the use of caulking, a product Dad and Vince frowned upon.

I lost my brother on 11-7-1988 to cancer. He was 48 years old. He is buried in the West Richfield Cemetery on Broadview Road overlooking our farm. It funny when he died I asked the Richfield Chief of Police to keep an eye my parent's house during his funeral proceedings. Based upon the thoroughness and love of his brother officers I assure that house was safe, and it definitely would have been the wrong place for any bad guys that day.

It has been 50 years since I graduated from this high school. Over that ½ century I managed to earn 5 academic degrees and have worked as a teacher, professor high school principal, superintendent and an attorney which is what I do today with the Medina law firm of Marco& Marco.

I can assure you graduating seniors that your Revere High School education will provide you a rock solid foundation like it did for me in anything you choose to do. But like my brother, you will need to work hard to achieve your dreams.

The recipient of this year's Office Vincent R. Celebrezze Memorial Scholarship goes to **Zane VanFossen**.