

Thank You Tommy

If you ask any of its residents, they would say Fountain Hill is not just a small town in the Lehigh Valley nestled between Salisbury and Bethlehem. People would say it is a tightly knit community where families can come to raise their children in a balanced part of a world far away from the every day chaos we see on the news. People would also say it is a place where everyone has mutual feelings of friendship towards each other and display them openly. Most of these people have grown up in Fountain Hill and have also watched their own children grow and flourish while playing at the park, playing baseball, or just spending time with their friends. However, you do not have to have developed your roots in this town to share a mutual love of the same person as those who have. People in this town love to see him walk around what seems like endlessly between Wawa, town hall, his house, the baseball fields, and just about everywhere else in Fountain Hill. If you would ask someone from Fountain Hill what it would be like without this person I am sure you would get an empty response. Not because they are rude but because for as long as they can remember, this person was Fountain Hill. Forever wearing his favorite FH baseball cap, he represents the part of the world where you can look back and realize that, yes, it can be beautiful and we need not be caught up in all that is wrong. Of course, this person is Tommy Labuda. Even though most of us cannot understand him, we try for the sake of seeing a toothy smile crack his innocent face. We all have joined in the fun of making fart noises while talking to Tommy or asking him, "Did you go wee-wee in woods Tommy?" He always replies with laughter and a smile and deep down we all wish we could be as genial as he is all the time. We also love Tommy for the simple fact that he always seems to be volunteering himself for baseball. Be it for the scoreboard, the cash hat, or just eating all the snack stand food he is always giving a little bit of himself for us. Now, on behalf of the seniors that graduated and everyone else that ever lived in Fountain Hill long enough for Tommy to have touched our lives, thank you. Thank you for perennially being there for us, to not only help volunteer but to take us away from reality and to show us what it is like to be a kid. Sometimes, in this world, that is all you need. Maybe Tommy might not have the smartest brain but he definitely has the biggest heart, and Fountain Hill will always keep an especially preserved spot for its favorite Honorary Mayor. So again, many thanks to you Tommy Labuda, and may you live many more years and more importantly eternally inside all of our hearts as a beacon of not only Fountain Hill, but to purity, humility, and innocence.

Sincerely,

Fountain Hill, PA