



Wyomissing Area Education Foundation



Samuel Robert Kozloff 1969-2000

Sam Kozloff spent the first 18 years of his life living in Wyomissing and attending public schools in this district. From this stable and consistent background he branched out to become a world traveler and public servant using and augmenting the skills and information he had obtained here.

During his school years Sam studied French and Latin and excelled in these courses, as well as in Social Studies. His major extracurricular activity was band. He played the alto saxophone and clarinet. His musical ability gave him several opportunities to visit communities elsewhere in Pennsylvania as a member of District and Region Bands. He also travelled to France and Hawaii with the All American Youth Orchestra and Band program. The yearning to travel was further stimulated and satisfied by family trips and the opportunity to participate in the YMCA Camp Conrad Weiser Voyager programs in Europe and Canada.

After graduating from Wyomissing Area High School in 1987, Sam attended the University of Pennsylvania, receiving a BA with a concentration in 20th century European history. He continued his musical interests as a member of the Penn Band and added Russian to his list of foreign language accomplishments. Sam spent the spring semester of his junior year in Paris and traveled throughout Europe including a visit to Berlin soon after the unification of that city. He brought back pieces of the Berlin wall for friends and family members. By his senior year Sam had selected a career goal: to become a member of the Foreign Service.

After college Sam moved to Washington DC and worked for two years as a legal assistant at a law firm. He then entered the International Studies program at the University of Pittsburgh and received his masters degree in 1995. He worked for the State Department during the summer between his two years at Pitt.

Sam was accepted into the Presidential internship program and returned to Washington to work at the Department of Commerce. He served in the International Trade Administration for four years assigned to offices serving Latin America and Europe. These were years of travel, to the Caribbean, Central and South America, Japan, India, Canada, Azerbaijan, the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Norway. Often he returned on business or pleasure to his beloved France.

Within the Commerce Department is the little-known Commercial Service which is a counterpart to the State Department's Foreign Service. In early 1999, Sam passed the Commercial Service exam and a French proficiency test and received a dream assignment for his first post: the U.S. mission to the European Union. In addition to his duties at the mission, Sam was also designated as the U.S. representative to the coordinating council of the Stability Pact for Eastern Europe, an international effort to use economic assistance and incentives to bring peace to that region.

In the seven weeks of Sam's appointment in Brussels he made numerous friends among his colleagues, traveled to Rome and Macedonia, and finally journeyed once again to Berlin where he died suddenly of natural causes. His friends and colleagues from around the world joined scores of family members and neighbors from Berks County in remembering a gentle, compassionate person with a wonderful smile and sense of humor who loved and served his country and his fellow man.

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