

Sept. Ferran

September 27, 2022

Greetings, Principal Mattos, and Esteemed Members of the Hanover School Board:

What follows is a proposal for a well-deserved, modest memorial, for one of Hanover High School's most accomplished graduates, Holly Madden, who, tragically, lost her battle to brain cancer on September 14, 2022. The memorial is proposed, and will be paid for, by Holly's many admiring team mates and classmates from the 1980's.

Holly was unique in the storied history of Hanover High School Graduates. Her superlative accomplishments across a wide spectrum of activities at Hanover High School, have served as an inspiration and motivation to hundreds of young women who came after her. More importantly, the paramount features of her reputation were modesty, kindness, and a persistent gentle smile.

She was the valedictorian of the class of 1984 and a very reluctant Homecoming Queen. Her Track and Field records at the half mile, mile, and two mile stood for 35 years until they were broken in 2016. She was a three-time South Shore League Champion in Cross Country, and one of the best cross countries runners in Eastern Massachusetts during her entire four years at Hanover. She played flute in the marching band, and was prodigious on piano. In an era when Hanover was a pipeline for the Berklee College of Music, Holly stood out at every school concert for jazz and classical performance. The audience would literally hush in advance of her piano solos. In all of this: she was ever humble.

Recruited by every Ivy League school, Holly chose Harvard University, where she ran varsity cross country, and graduated with honors in 1988. Her legacy after college was equally inspiring. She attended Boston University, where she earned a Master of Arts in Film Making, Finished 4th in the New York City Marathon for the 40+ Masters category (at the age of 50!), and ran her own successful advertising consulting business for 20 years. She could do it all. And she always, until the very end, espoused the virtues of education, and talked fondly of being a proud Hanoverian.

The proposal is for a Dogwood Tree, near or in sight of the track, with a small plaque reading:

Our Humble Champion

This tree is planted in memory of Holly Madden, 1966-2022

Holly Madden, Class of 1984, was a beloved Cross Country Champion, Track Record Holder, Valedictorian, Homecoming Queen, Gifted Musician, and lover of nature. Her humility, shy smile, kindness to all, and love of Hanover are remembered and memorialized by her team mates with this Dogwood Tree.

Thank you for your valuable time,

Cordially,

Don Reardon
Class of 1984
(503) 348-2523