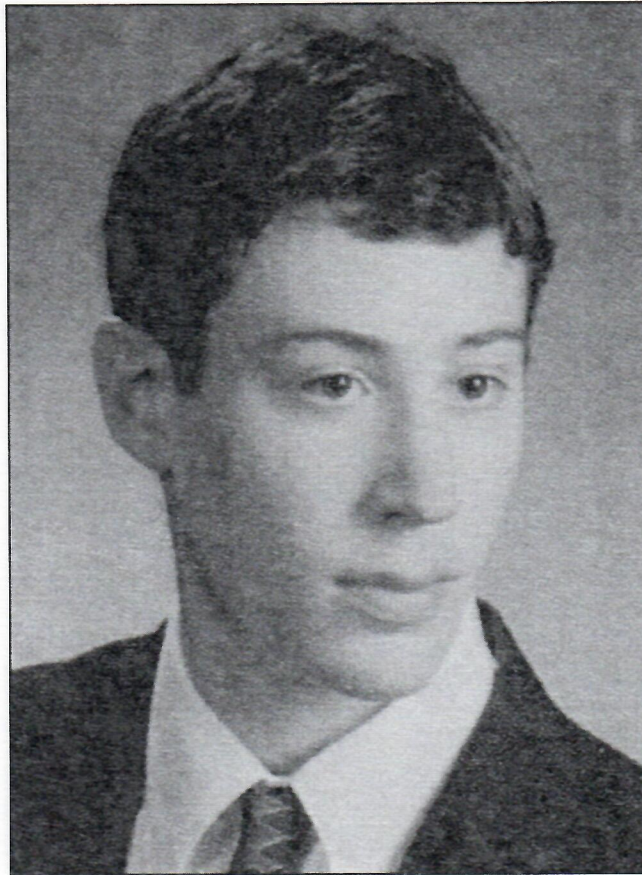


Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame



In Memoriam
Matthew G. Kantor
Navy SEAL, 'Noble Warrior'
Class of 2008

When Matthew (Matt) Kantor graduated with the Class of 2008, he was remembered as having been on the fencing team-good enough to have been ranked 21st in the country, and as a devotee of "kendo", Japanese sword fighting. He was also a distinguished member of the Cross Country and Track/Field Teams. By the time graduation rolled around, he was offered a full scholarship at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He was a student there for a short time when he notified his parents that he had signed up to become a United States Navy SEAL, pursuing a dream of his own.

Being accepted for this rigorous outfit was a single honor for one so young. Matt subsequently graduated from Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois, in May, 2009. He then completed Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL School in May of 2010. He served in an East Coast-based Special Warfare Unit from May, 2010 to November, 2012. He lost his life at the age of 22 in Zabul Province, some 150 miles south of Kabul, capital of Afghanistan. His teammates said of him: "Without fear or hesitation, Matt moved to protect his teammates. He was the first line of defense for his team and his actions were directly responsible for saving the lives of his element and protecting the main body of the patrol." Matt was true to his form in his last moments, a gallant and noble warrior who put his team above himself.

Flags were flown at half-staff statewide on the day of Matt's funeral, November 9, 2012, and dignitaries, including the Lieutenant Governor as a representative of the Governor, State Senator, Assemblywoman, and many other officials came to praise and thank this humble, yet strong young man, a true Warrior.