

Captain Paul J. (Pj) Roberge

Bellport High School Class Of 1977



Captain PJ Roberge earned six varsity letters in cross country, wrestling and tennis while attending Bellport High School. He was the recipient of the distinguished Bausch and Lomb Award for being an outstanding science student. Captain Roberge served as an altar boy before going to the University of Notre Dame on an ROTC scholarship. Captain Roberge earned a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He was commissioned as Second Lt in the US Air Force and in 1986 was selected to attend Squadron Officer School. In 1987 Capt. Roberge was instantly killed in a routine training exercise as a result of a collision between his plane and another aircraft. An Air Force ROTC scholarship was instituted at the University of Notre Dame in Captain Roberge's name as well as a scholarship at Bellport High School. An American flag hangs in the Boys' Gym at Bellport High School in Captain Roberge's memory. That flag was presented by local congressmen and that flag had previously flown at both the White House and Vance Air Force Base.

Captain Roberge was a model officer. His career was culminated in 1986 when Captain Roberge was selected as the VANCE AFB Instructor Pilot of the Year. He attended Squadron Officers School at Maxwell Field in Montgomery Alabama. Captain Roberge was chosen as an outstanding officer out of 799 candidates in September 1986. His accident was untimely but he served his country honorably and with distinction. He touched the lives of numerous people in the short time he served our country. Because of individuals like Captain Paul J. Roberge we continue to remain a strong and free nation.

Captain Roberge comes from a military family with both his grandfathers, father, brother in-law and cousins serving our country.

In 1988 Bellport Village dedicated Ho-Hum Beach on Fire Island in memory of Captain PJ Roberge at a dedication on Bellport Lane. A "fly by" ceremony where only one plane flies with the absence of two planes denoting a lost airman was performed by the US Air Force.