

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee, and to all School Administrators present, I thank you for allowing me to come before you tonight.

My name is Roy Roberts and I am the brother of Billy Roberts who passed away on June 18th of this year. Billy was the Play by Play announcer, in the press box, for the Pace Patriot Varsity Football team for the past 29 years, never missing a single home game unless for an emergency of so kind.

He was disabled, losing his leg in 1973 in a train accident, but with his stamina and determination not to give up, he started coaching little league baseball and football shortly after he healed and was fitted with a prosthesis. He coached many youth playing little league baseball and football and watched them grow up into varsity players at Pace High School. While he was coaching them in little league he was inspiring in them the importance of team work, hard work and sportsmanship of the games. Mr. Joey Harrell was one of those youth he coached. He and many others can attribute to Billy's integrity, dedication, coaching qualities and abilities. He called many play by play games in High School Football at Pace seeing many of the youth all grown up that he coached earlier in their lives.

After several years of wearing his prosthesis, he began to have lots of physical problems with it and couldn't wear it. He then started using crutches totally, using his wheelchair as needed. I've seen him go up and down the long flight of stairs on his crutches on his way to and from the press box so many times. I am so thankful for the school administrators who finally had an elevator installed when the Press Box facility was renovated. That was so much appreciated and made it much safer for Billy to get to and from the press box.

He was really dedicated in his coaching little league players while his own kids were growing up and once they went off to college he quit coaching little league. He touched so many youth lives with his gentleness and love for them.

Around 1987 he began calling the Play by Play football home games of the Pace Patriots. He was so dedicated and faithful, (just like OLD FAITHFUL in Yellowstone) never missing and always on time. He would arrive at the stadium at least 2-3 hours ahead of kick off time to prepare for the upcoming game. Billy would go over both team rosters and familiarize himself with the names of players of both teams and practice reading all the various necessary school related announcements scheduled for the night.

His faithfulness and dedication coaching little league players for 10-15 years and for volunteering a total of 29 years every Friday night home football game of the Pace Patriots, without any compensation, and would be doing it again this year if he was alive, is by far beyond reproach. He was recognized during a home game last year and presented a plaque for his lengthy dedicated service. His family and school officials felt that 2016 might be his last year of calling play by play football games because of his declining health, so they felt like they should recognize him and present him with a plaque. Many people think we should take his recognition a lot further. I hope it is possible to rename the stadium, preferably, or the Press Box in his honor?

These ideas touched him and his family and many members of the community. As a matter of fact, the night before he passed laying there helpless, he could not talk or move because of breathing apparatus, feeding tubes monitors and etc, it was mentioned to him of this idea and you should have seen the GLEEM of surprise and proud ness in his eyes. He passed away the following morning.

I thank you for allowing me to come before you today to formally request that you consider renaming the Present Pace Patriot Football Stadium to "The Billy Roberts Football Stadium " or to rename the present Press Box to "The Billy Roberts Press Box" to honor him for his years of dedication coaching youth and for his 29 total years of play by play calling at all Pace Patriot Football games and for a job well done.

His family would be so honored and proud.

Thank You!!!

Roy G. Roberts

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Rng64roberts@aol.com

850-266-3535