



Anna Maria College
Molly Bish Center

Today we observe a solemn remembrance at Anna Maria College and the Molly Bish Center. August 2, 2012 would be Molly's 29th birthday. Serving as a life guard at Comins Pond in Warren MA, Molly, age 16, was killed in the line of duty. Her commitment and passion to protecting and helping others is inspirational. Her compassion and empathy was clearly evident very early in her life. I have attached a letter Molly wrote at the early age of 10 years old to Holly Piirainen, another 10 year old girl. Holly had just been abducted when Molly wrote this letter hoping for her safe return and the opportunity for them to become friends. Six years later, Molly too was abducted. Today also marks the day Molly's remains were buried in 2003.

Out of Molly's tragic abduction, John and Magi Bish collaborated with Anna Maria College to create a Center in their daughter's name designed to deliver a diverse and comprehensive portfolio of conferences, seminars, collaborations, and policies in an effort to protect others from this unthinkable event. Anna Maria College's collective resources strive to educate and engage state and federal agencies, law enforcement, educational institutions, business community, and civic organizations at all levels to achieve this goal.

The heartache and sorrow of the Bish family has led to a robust and effective community resource at AMC. The College administration, faculty, staff, and students pause today to remember Molly Ann Bish and her family and recommitment our passionate focus to continue to deliver the highest level of programming for the protection of vulnerable populations. Please help continue Molly's legacy and the Center's mission by helping "guard a life."

Happy Birthday Molly!

Jay Gardiner
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