

## Remembering a 'guardian angel'

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To understand Officer Chris Jones' commitment to serve, one had to look no farther than busy Trenton Road in Middletown on most school mornings. That's where you would often find Officer Jones, stationed at some point in front of Herbert Hoover Elementary School. Over the last several years, I recall seeing him stop on many occasions to make sure the 15-mph warning light was working. On other days, he would sit in his patrol car along Trenton Road in front of the school to serve as a visible deterrent to those who weren't paying attention to the flashing signals.

As a parent of one of the school kids, I found his presence an immense comfort. And now, it is with immense pain and grief that I write about this fine man who was quite the guardian angel for hundreds of school kids, day in and day out.

I've known Officer Jones for almost seven years, since his son and my son were kindergarten classmates.

I don't recall the exact moment we had our first conversation, but I know it was then that we quickly started comparing notes to find that we are both Bensalem alums, he almost a decade younger than I. We both left home after graduation — he to serve in the U.S. Navy, me to pursue a career in journalism. Coincidentally, we both returned to Bucks County about the same time to raise our kids near our hometown. Officer Jones quickly immersed himself in his community. Whether he was making sure people paid attention to the school zone warnings or he was dropping by to have lunch with his kids, he was a calm, reassuring presence.

His wife, Suzanne, served for a few years as president of the school's PTO, and Officer Jones took part in whatever activities he could.

I especially remember movie nights, specifically after the show, when most everyone was rolling up sleeping bags and heading home. Officer Jones was one of the joyful volunteers who pushed brooms back and forth along the floor of the school "cafetorium" to clean up after everyone.

He didn't complain. He was just happy to serve.

And now his earthly life has ended way too soon, called home by God for his next assignment. No doubt it's something to do with being a guardian angel. After all, he's had a lot of practice with that kind of work already.

Please pray that God will surround Suzanne, Christopher, Julianne, Brendan and Officer Jones' extended family with the guardian angels they need to comfort them through this unbearable loss.

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