

Dear members of the Never Lose Hope community,

This year we are honoring a remarkable individual, our first honoree of the year, Lisa Pollari. Born Lisa Caruana in Brooklyn, New York, on November 25, 1971, Lisa's journey through life was characterized by unwavering dedication to education and service.

Lisa's educational path led her to Tottenville High School, where she graduated before earning both a bachelor's and master's degree from the College of Staten Island. Her commitment to education extended beyond the classroom, as she tirelessly worked for over two decades at Port Richmond High School, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of thousands of students and staff.

A devoted wife to Francesco (Angelo) Pollari and a loving mother to AJ and Dominick, Lisa's impact went far beyond her immediate family. Her leadership at Port Richmond was defined by a singular focus—what was best for the kids. As an assistant principal of social studies and the supervisor of the Junior ROTC program, Lisa exemplified values of service, citizenship, and compassion.

In April 2019, Lisa was diagnosed with stage four uterine leiomyosarcoma, a rare and aggressive form of cancer. Despite undergoing intense chemotherapy, a hysterectomy, lung resections, and a craniotomy, Lisa continued to teach and inspire until her peaceful passing on May 19, 2021.

Her commitment to service extended to charitable causes, including autism awareness, Cooley's Anemia Foundation, and cancer research. In recognition of Lisa's profound impact, Port Richmond High School continues to honor her memory through the Lisa Pollari Memorial Scholarship Award, awarded to students who, like Lisa, contribute to their school and local community through acts of community service.

As we celebrate Lisa Pollari as Never Lose Hope's first-ever honoree of the year, let us remember her as a beacon of strength, resilience, and selflessness. Through her life's work, Lisa embodied the spirit of hope and service that defines the mission of Never Lose Hope. May we draw inspiration from her legacy and continue to make a positive impact in the lives of those facing chronic illnesses.

Thank you, and let us carry Lisa's legacy forward with unwavering hope and determination.