



The Jeff Leonia Reel and Steel Classic was started in earnest in 2021 to remember Jeff, who was lost at the tender age of 24 in an automobile accident in Islamorada. What began as a small virtual tournament in 2020 has grown from 64 participants in 2021 to its highest participation of 94 in 2023. The tournament is held on May 1st, which is Opening Day of season for grouper and hogfish – and was one of Jeff’s favorite days of the year!

To know Jeff was to love him. He had an infectious smile and engaging personality. The word “stranger” was not in his vocabulary. He was always willing to lend a hand to anyone and would be thrilled to know we are carrying on his legacy by giving back to the community.

We are a 501c3 and have no paid staff. The proceeds from his tournament have been used to sponsor an Eco Sea camps for kids, Save Alligator Lighthouse and Mission Fishing events. We are exploring other community based options, including Keys Kids Swim, which is a free water safety and swim lesson program for kindergarten students.

Jeff’s contagious energy and enthusiasm for life and living every day to the fullest will be honored by all who join us at this yearly event to share his love of diving and fishing.

Thank you for your interest in sponsoring our event.

