## Teens remembered

**Dimensions of living** 

## at DS Shanahan's

Motorcycle run, concert this Sunday to benefit memorial scholarship fund By URSULA MOORE

## . It has been less than a year since The Motorcycle Run is expected to the deaths of Daniel Distefano, 17, of attract a huge crowd. "They are going

Nesconset and Michael Western, 17, of Although the pain of their loss will live on forever, Daniel and Michael's A memorial scholarship fundraiser is planned for Sunday, July 20 at DS Hundreds of supporters expected to attend this fundraiser. which includes a Motorcycle Run. The proceeds from the scholarship fund will be used to help Smithtown

taking college-level courses while still attending high school "These were good kids. This memorial fundraiser will help to keep their lives going somewhat," said Ray Marchand, coordinator of the fundraiser and longtime family friend of the Westerns There will be free food and music by The Stripped Down Band and the

Curbdogs. "The boys loved this kind of music," said Mr. Marchand These teenage boys were a huge part of their communities, and their deaths left a lasting impact on everyone they knew. "This is very emotional for me. I have known Michael since he was born. His father and I worked together at the Town of Smithtown," said Ray

"The response is overwhelming." said Lisa Platti-Florentine, a fellow fundraiser coordinator. "Everyone is very positive and wants to

contribute."

said. "There will be firefighters, police officers and bikers riding. We are expecting a large turnout." This fundraiser has brought out the humanitarian in everyone with the support being overwhelmingly uplifting. "So. far, I have gotten donations from Allstate and UPS, to name a few," said Ms. Platti-Florentine. Businesses have promised everything high school seniors offset the cost of from free golf lessons to free printing services, "Landing Country Club donated, which we really appreciated.

Also, the memorial t-shirts being

printed are paid for. The response is

to start at Oak Beach Inn and ride down the Parkway. The run will end

at DS Shanahans," Mr. Marchand

great," said Mr. Marchand So far, a total of \$25,000 has been raised. Friends and families are closely working together to honor these two teenagers that died in a headon collision on Jericho Turnpike in Smithtown, Recently, the tremendous loss of Michael and Daniel's death resurfaced at their graduation. What should have been a day filled smiles, congratulations and thunderous applause ended up being another reminder of the two young lives that were taken too soon. "At graduation, it was very difficult

to see all the kids graduate. Michael

and Daniel should have been there,"

Mr. Marchand said. "Their parents

had to accept their diplomas. It just

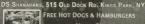
didn't seem right, graduation was a

SCHOLARSHIA RAISER MICHAEL WESTERN & DANIEL DISTERANO

MILYEIC



Charge Sunday July 20, 2008







MOTORCYCLE RUN STARTING AT OAK BEACH PARK, FORMALLY "OAK REACH II

All are encouraged to share a few is \$15, which includes a free memorial kind words during this memorial t-shirt. The Run begins at 1 n.m., Parents and friends are welcomed to starting at Oak Beach Park on Ocean

speak only if they feel comfortable."

Parkway, formally the Oak Beach Inn. Mr. Marchand said. "It is still a very For more information, call (631) 544-6909. To make a donation to the For those who would like to attend Michael Western Daniel Distefano the memorial scholarship fundraiser, Memorial Fund, make a check payable there is a \$5 cover charge for DS to Michael Western Daniel Distefano Shanahans, 515 Old Dock Road, Kings Fund and mail to: 155 Fifth Avenue. Kings Park, NY 11754.