

Letter of Recommendation  
James A. Muller

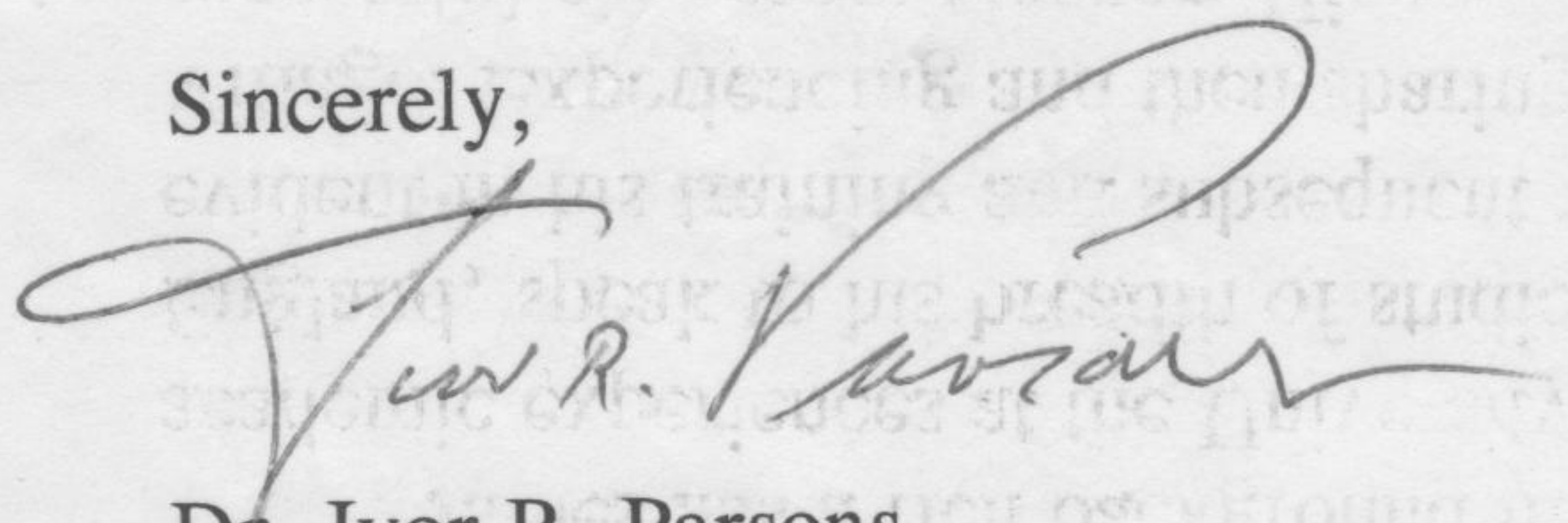
James Muller came to Syosset High School as any other student-teacher might and yet unlike most student-teachers became an integral part of my staff providing invaluable instruction in American History to several classes ranging from U.S. History and Government 11 to Advanced Placement U.S. History. Syosset High School is no ordinary secondary school of instruction—it is a nationally ranked school with a comprehensive academic, all regents program that provides the highest scholarship to its students. This was the environment in which James entered. We had high expectations of him and he far surpassed any expectation we had with regard to excellence of instruction. His students clearly enjoyed and appreciated his planning, his wit, his enthusiasm, and of course his concern for their education. He ranks first among all the student teachers I have observed and mentored in a career of 33 years.

It isn't often that a student teacher initiates ideas for instruction at the level he did and on a daily basis. I have personally had five student teachers in the past 10 years. As the former chairman at Great Neck South High School Social Studies Department, as the former district director of social studies at Locust Valley Schools, and now as coordinator of social studies for Syosset Schools, I have a base line on which to judge James' work. It was excellent. I would hire this gentleman if I had an opening now; naturally my hope is that will happen sooner or later. I certainly hope it is a possibility in the not too distant future.

James has a rich background in academia as he does in life's experiences. Certainly his academic experiences at the University of Sienna, Italy, and the London Imperial College, England, speak to his breadth of studies. This interest in his own preparation is also very evident in his training and subsequent work as a museum guide at the Bethpage Restoration Village. Experiencing and then sharing living history is a wonderful component of any successful classroom teacher. His work experiences are as varied and interesting, as they are useful in the classroom. These experiences ranged from training staff members for JetBlue Airways, to interning as an investigative reporter for Long Island News Tonight, to working in European television industries. Indeed a rich background of the world of work which can be an absolutely wonderful background to provide guidance and insight for our seniors taking such courses as economics and US Government and Politics.

In closing, James Muller provides the promise of excellence and has exhibited, through his work with our students at Syosset High School, an individual who works hard, shares much, and cares genuinely for the success of his students. Any class, who begins the first day of school with Mr. Muller, begins an adventure of learning they will always remember. James Muller has my highest regards and appreciation for his time here at Syosset and it is my hope our paths will cross again soon.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ivor R. Parsons  
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