

DR. TOM MORRIS

Founder, Grieving Teens

Palm Desert, California

760-831-1462 | thegrievingteens.com

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To Whom It May Concern,

John O'Hara Evered requested my letter of reference.

I have known John since 2018. This is the brief story of how I met John, and the circumstances of our continued friendship have been anything but casual or surface-level. Since 1997, I have worked with students at Palm Desert High School and three other District High Schools through a grief support group program that I started: <https://thegrievingteens.com>. One of the main losses for young men is the absence of a father in their lives. It is usually revealed through problems interacting with others at school and/or a deep emotional loss and feelings of rejection. John was motivated by this hurt, which resulted in a clear openness to mentoring and guidance from older people! John still seeks a work environment he can be committed to while remaining open to input from mentors, without becoming emotionally needy.

John is the kind of young man who builds good relationships with people his age and those older and more experienced! *John had a goal of going to LSU, and he doggedly pursued it. The unique thing about John is that he worked for years to make it happen!* Most only talk and never really have a sustainable real goal and direction! **In 25 years, this is the first letter of this sort I have written!** John can connect with people and develop a real mutual respect. He has learned from failure and difficulty and even manipulation from a few toxic people, who seem to come out of the woodwork when someone is in need! One "family" who sought to help him for their own reasons became toxic to John; he was able to shed them like dead skin, and John came up with his own resourceful plan. John began buying old cars, fixing them, and reselling them to finance much of his life over the last few years! John can build a team to pursue the goal in realtime, not just on paper. John projects a humble confidence and has a genuine concern for those around him!

In my experience, it has never been all about him! I deeply respect and care for John! I know he will be a great teammate in any joint effort! I fully endorse and recommend John O'Hara Evered for any sports-related team effort! He will grow and adapt to the need at hand. He needs minimal direction once he understands the mission at hand! If you have any questions or further requests, please contact me at 760-831-1462.

