

May 26, 2007

To Whom it May Concern,

It is our privilege to write this letter of recommendation for Mr Joe Arias for his nomination of the prestigious USPTA's Industry Excellence Award.

Our family was first introduced to Mr Arias in 2005 through our oldest son's (Justin) school tennis coach. The coach had encouraged us to meet Mr Arias as, in her words, "he would be a great asset for our son's tennis game". We have found that not only to be true but to be an understatement by a long shot.

First, Joe is an overall very pleasant man with interpersonal skills that far exceed many others. He engages his audience and his love for the game is quite contagious. His encouragement to our son coupled with his coaching skills have improved Justin's game in ways that we would not have imagined.

Secondly, he has also provided numerous opportunities for Justin including competitive play year-round, the opportunity to participate in the USTA's US Open ticket sales opening day in New York City where Justin had the privilege of meeting Taylor Dent, Mary Jo Fernandez and Tracy Austin. Justin also enjoys participating in a tennis program with Joe where he helps instruct a large group of young children and encourages them in the love of the game.

Thirdly, Joe was invaluable to Justin and his team mates this year when Justin's school district (Three Village Central School District) condemned all of the tennis courts just before the start of the tennis season. Justin's first thought was to let Joe know and sure enough Joe quickly came through with an intramural program that was offered to over 60 disappointed high school players. The program has been a wonderful opportunity for the boys in the area to get together and play tennis regularly.

There are very few people in life that stand out in such a way that leaves a lasting positive impression on all who come in their path. Joe Arias is one of those people. He has encouraged our son to take his love of tennis and make the most of it. We have no doubt that Justin will continue to play throughout life and will take the lessons learned through the game and apply them in other life situations. He has grown as a tennis player and as an individual through Mr Arias.

Your organization would be represented in an excellent way if Mr Joe Arias is given this award. We recommend him wholeheartedly.

Sincerely Yours,

Bob and April Plank