

My Turn

By Dennis Franks
October 12, 2012

A letter dated Oct. 9 and addressed to Gary Robinson from Rev. Donald W. Rossman of Chillicothe spoke volumes:



“Recently, I have been in Pennsylvania visiting my sister. Today, I had an opportunity to visit Crouse Chapel Cemetery and was delighted to see you and your students had cared for my wife’s grave. It was apparent some ‘working’ of the soil has taken place. From the covering of straw, I believe you also have planted some grass seed.

“It was so good to know her grave has received the care I am no longer (able) to provide. Thank you for all you have done.

“May God bless you for your service.”



Caring Gesture - Gary Speelman and students in his Landscaping & Horticulture Technologies II program leveled and clean up the area around the Rossman headstone at Crouse Chapel Cemetery. The students also planted grass at the site.

Rev. Rossman’s letter reminded me that it is the little things that count. In our mass-communications, social-media, super-hyped world, it is small gestures like this that make all the difference in uplifting the lives of others.

Often, we merely view the work done by our students as educational opportunities. They are, but they are also something greater.

Ultimately, we are in the people business, and the things we teach and projects our students undertake affect the lives of real people. It tells me that the reasons Career Tech education was created in the first place are stronger than ever, and that the knowledge and skills we teach will always have value in our society.

Something else we hope our students learn along the way is compassion for others. This is something we, along with a host of others help shape. The lessons we teach, the projects we undertake

and the acceptable behavior we model should help them apply that trait in real-world situations.

Keep up the good work. People notice.

