

2011 ROCHESTER BOXING HALL OF FAME

JERRY FLYNN COURAGE AWARD

RAY CIANCAGLINI

By Dave Herbst

It is with much pleasure that the Rochester Boxing Hall of Fame introduces you to our Jerry Flynn Courage Award winner Ray Ciancaglini. Ray is a man of great stature and character. He embodies the mission statement of the Rochester Boxing Hall of Fame, "Giving Back". As a promising middleweight of the 1960's, he quickly earned the respect of his stablemates and opponents, who included: Willie Briggs, Johnny Harp, Wonder Lee Scott, Don (Ali) Rucker, and Rocky Cudney. A tireless worker, Ray was known for his pressing style. He idolized and mimicked his hero, Middleweight and Welterweight Champion, Carmen Basilio.

Born April 10, 1951 in Geneva, NY, Ray began his boxing career under the tutelage of Billy Joe Carter and Ralph Fratto. Later he joined a stable of boxers guided by Chuck Jennings of Elmira, NY. Jennings was a legendary trainer and former sparring partner of Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis. Ray's popularity as a trainer's dream grew. He later took up residence with Monsignor Franklin Kelleher, founder of the Buffalo Boys Town. Ray trained at the famed Singers Gym in downtown Buffalo, but lived at Boys Town. He often acted as mentor to the troubled youth at the facility. His reputation as a highly regarded middleweight grew with each bout and his generosity to others did as well. In 1970, at the prestigious Niagara District (NY/

Canada) Golden Gloves Tournament, Ray was awarded the Heart Award. This honor is awarded to the boxer who demonstrates the most resiliency, tenacity and determination. Ray's career spanned from 1966 to 1972. He also had the privilege of training with the renowned trainer Al Gavin at the Gramercy Gym in Manhattan.



Having never been knocked down, Ray continues to this day to keep punching. Ray is the founder of The Second Impact, an educational concussion awareness program aimed at teaching student athletes the repercussions of not addressing concussions properly. New York State Senator Mike Nozzolio, worked with Ray on The Concussion Awareness

Act, which was recently passed into law.

Although Ray has, and continues to suffer from the effects of multiple concussions, he is determined to educate others so that they do not suffer his fate. Despite Parkinson's Syndrome tremors and dementia, Ray, with his tremendous courage, does presentations and seminars at high schools, colleges and on the radio, all free of charge. He is also the strength and conditioning coach of the NYCBL Geneva Red Wings.

Because of complications from progressive dementia, Ray prematurely retired from Kodak in 1994. He and his beautiful wife of 31 years, Patti, live in the quiet rural setting of Varick, NY. Patti is currently employed by the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Canandaigua. They have two fine children. Daughter, Anessa, is a teacher consultant with Children's Literacy Initiative and lives with her husband Ed Davie, a state Trooper in Medford, New Jersey. Son, Ray Jr. was an accomplished Geneva Red Wing (2004-06) and now works for the Department of the Interior in Denver, Colorado.

Ray says he is humbled and honored to receive this award. However because of his courage in and out of the ring, the Rochester Boxing Hall of Fame is honored and humbled to present him with this prestigious award.