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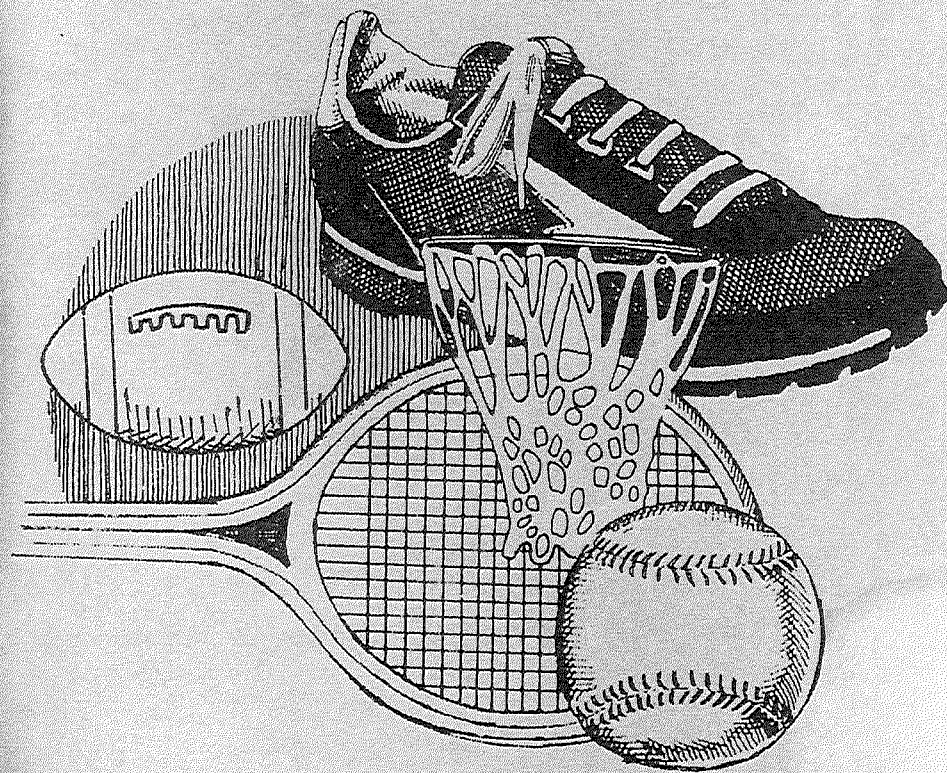
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A Message from the Chairman

Good Friends,

The Ridgefield Old Timer's Association welcomes you to our Seventh Annual Awards Banquet. We join together this evening to honor five outstanding athletes from Ridgefield's past. Our Civic and Special Awards winners are recognized for their many contributions to our community. This gathering also gives us the opportunity to honor posthumously three men who made their mark in Ridgefield Sport's History. Finally we remember former honorees who are no longer with us.

For the second year in a row we are pleased to be able to provide two \$1,000 scholarships to Ridgefield High graduates. Our hearty congratulations to our 1998 recipients Christina Mackey and James Tarsi Jr.

Again, I am honored to have served as chairman of this wonderful organization. For many of us this event has become an annual ritual. A time to celebrate our common heritage, to recall an event, to remember friends. Our Honorees are the bridge to those memories. They symbolize the common bond we celebrate tonight.

Many thanks to all of the members of the Ridgefield Old Timer's Association whose efforts make our banquet so enjoyable. A very special thanks to our supporters from Ridgefield and the surrounding area whose contributions make it possible for this organization to provide our annual scholarships. Please think of them when you are in need of goods or services.

Finally thanks to each of you for participating in this special evening.

Congratulations to all our honorees.

Respectfully,
John D. Pierandri, Chairman



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GINO BALDASERINI



Playing shortstop at the old Ridgefield High School field was never a bed of roses, but there are those old-timers who say Gino "Jinx" Baldaserini was one of the best to play on it.

For two years, Jinx played great ball with Kip Holleran's high school team, but as was the case with many young men during the Depression, school had to play second fiddle to

helping the family income. He later became a standout shortstop with Leo Pambianchi's Ridgefield Motors nine.

While highly regarded for his glove, Jinx developed into a good batter. After he hit two homers in one game and one in another, Leo moved him up to bat third in the order. His play with the Motors was a prelude to a very successful role with the Army's Chanor Base Section baseball team in France in World War II. He played shortstop with the team that won the section championship. They never got to play for the Region Championship in England since his unit received orders to return home.

Before playing baseball, however, Jinx was part of the Army's Red Ball Express Transportation unit that landed at Utah Beach and made its way through France, Belgium and Germany. Prior to their landing, his unit spent 21 days on the 13-mile English Channel waiting for the waters to subside and the beach to be cleared so they could land the heavy equipment needed to support the invasion forces. He and lifelong friend Gino Tarsi entered the Army together and remained part of the same unit until discharge.

While baseball was his first love, Jinx did play some with the Ridgefield Merchants softball team and "very little" basketball with a couple of good buddies like Harry Bennett and John Lavatori.

To most Ridgefielders, "Jinx" is known for his association with golf. His fondest recollection of golf was winning the Ridgefield Open in a field of 125 golfers, and being able at one time to sport a seven handicap. He spent more than 40 years as a clubmaker with the Pedersen Golf Club Company and its successors. All-time great Tommy Bolt often said that "Gino was the best damned club maker there ever was."

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DR. PHILIP L. MARTIN

One of those to be honored at the Old Timers Banquet in October will be Dr. Philip L. Martin. Phil, another true native of Ridgefield, was born at the home of his parents, Francis and Doris, on Mountain View Ave. January 25, 1920. He attended Titicus School and was President of his graduating class of 1938 at Ridgefield High. He lettered in baseball while pitching and playing outfield

under coach Kip Holleran on the 1937 & 1938 teams.

While attending Penn State College of Optometry, he played baseball for his fraternity and the college team. Opposing teams included the Pennsylvania Military College and Villanova. Upon graduating P.C.O. with his Doctorate in Optometry, he was drafted into the Army in 1943, where he served as an optometrist until his discharge following WWII. While in the Army he played some baseball and softball.

After passing the Connecticut Boards, he opened an office in Ridgefield, where he practiced for thirty-five years. He retired in 1982 and now lives in Brooklyn, Ct.

Phil married June Pascoe, his high school sweetheart, in March 1943. They have four children, Richard, Barbara, Stephen, and Patricia. They have seven grandchildren, and celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in March of 1998.

During the 60's & 70's, he served as President of the Rotary Club, the Ramapoo Rifle & Revolver Club, was a Lay Leader of the Methodist Church, served on Troop 80 Scout Committee. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of YMCA Camp Mohawk in Litchfield, Ct., taught canoeing for the Ridgefield Boy's Club under Ralph Crouchley, and helped coach Little League and Babe Ruth League baseball teams in Ridgefield.

Phil was one of a small group who were instrumental in bringing Ice Hockey and the Skating Rink to Ridgefield. When the Rink Opened, he became Program Chairman and organized hockey teams for men and boys and also a figure-skating program. He played on the Seniors Men team for several years and also sponsored a bantam hockey team "Martin's Mauler's", coached by Carl Scala.



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ANDY MONTANARI

He was "quick and shifty" with the RHS football team in 1948 and '49, and he was among the quickest on the racetrack at the Danbury Fair Racearena for many years, and he will be honored by the Ridgefield Old Timers in October. He is former football star and stock car racer, Andy Montanari, Sr.

Andy was a running back with Bill Allen's Ridgefield High School six-man football team that included quarterback Fabio "Fibber" Biagiotti, John Sturges, Renzo Falcinelli, Glenn Anderson, Carlton Shepard and Joe Morganti. The '49 team was unbeaten until losing its last game to Bedford Hills, finishing 6 and 1. Andy was voted "Athlete of the Year" that year.

Andy also was a member of the baseball and basketball teams at RHS, modestly stating he was "not great in either one." He also played outfield with a very successful American Legion team involving Ridgefield-Danbury area players, and played outfield and caught "in a pinch" with a Georgetown team. His playing years were followed by several years of coaching both Pop Warner football and Little League baseball.

Andy developed his love of stock car racing while in high school, a love that remains to this day. He started as a member of the pit crew of a stock car owned by Archie Parent and driven by Billy Darragh. Not long after, Aldo Bacchiochi, who was regarded as a genius at prepping stock cars, and Andy, joined forces. Andy got 40 percent, and 60 percent went to the owner. The first feature he won paid about \$300. Andy and Aldo teamed up for about three years on the dirt track at the Racearena, Later, for about two years, Andy teamed with brother-in-law Ernie Marshall in identically prepared cars as the Marshall Oil racing team. Not only did they annually have the best looking cars at the track, but they were among the point leaders, and both won "Sportsmanof-the-Year" Awards there.

After Ernie moved on to other tracks, Andy hooked up with car owner Mickey Spiers for 8 years and the most successful phase of his racing career. When he finally packed it in, Andy had registered 53 wins, including six feature races, and finished among the top six point leaders several times.

Congratulations!

1998 Ridgefield Old Timers



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DR. JOSEPH MOYLAN

From the RHS class of 1944, the Old Timers have selected Dr. Joseph Moylan as one of the 1998 Sports Award honorees. He will travel from his home in Clayton N.C. to attend the annual banquet on October 15th, at the Italian American Club.

After graduating RHS and serving in the Army Air Corp through November of 1945, Joe earned his B.A. at the University of Dayton in 1950.

In 1951 he received his M.A. from Bowling Green at St. Clair. In August of 1955 he married Marie Clancy, and in 1957 he attained his Ph D. in Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts.

Joe and Marie's children are Patricia, Joe Jr., James, Stephen (now deceased), Sharon, and Debra. They have one grandchild, Anna Louise, daughter of Sharon and husband Alan McConnell.

Now retired, Joe spent most of his professional career in North Carolina. He has served as Director of Psychological Services at Dorothea Dix Hospital, Raleigh, N.C. and Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina Medical School.

During the years 1941-44, Joe was a very active participant in RHS sports programs. He played football, basketball, and baseball and was one of Ridgefield's best of the era. He played on the first RHS football team (six-man), which was formed in 1942. He and teammates Lou Feduzi, Jim Principi, Fred Leary, Willie Ciuccoli, Dan Fischaletti, and others, had to scrape together their own equipment and uniforms.

"We were a pathetic sight" says Joe. "We got smeared pretty bad in most of our games, but it was great just to have the chance to play." In the following year the team was uniformed but continued to get 'creamed', while having a lot of fun. That year Lou Girolmetti and Harry Zandri joined the team.

He remembers basketball of that era as very "primitive" when compared to the game as we know it today. He recalls a game against New Canaan when the score was tied 4 to 4 at half-time. "You could say we played terrific defense" quips Joe. That year he and Bernie Leighton were voted to the all league team and Joe was named honorary captain.

CONGRATULATIONS

RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS

HONOREES

AND

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

from

a friend of Tom Clark



JULIUS J. SANTINI

Born on October 15, 1945, "Bugsy" grew up on Bailey Avenue with his mother, Angie, late father, Julius ("Snakey"), and brothers, Tommy and Peter.

In grammar school, Bugsy excelled in football, basketball and baseball. In 1959, he started for The Red Raiders Midget Football team that compiled a 9-0 regular season record under Coach Georgo Fasolo.

Dr. Peter Yanity was one of the assistant coaches. That year the team played Hialeah Florida in the Orange Bowl in the "Youth Appreciation Bowl." Members of the team included Jack Baldaserini, Steve Carboni, Joe Egan, Rudy Marconi, and Harry Pierandri. Because of an imposed weight limit most of the starting offensive line was not allowed to play. Ridgefield lost 52-15.

In basketball Bugsy was a star player for The Ridgefield Townies, coached by Bob Stolle. He played Little League baseball for The Aces (League Commissioner was Joe Brunetti). The team won two consecutive championships, with Bugsy winning the League Batting Title.

In high school, he excelled in both football and basketball. During his junior and senior years (62-64) he was selected to The Western Connecticut Conference (WCC) and All Area Schools First Teams as offensive end. During his senior year, RHS was Co-Champion of the WCC.

In basketball, during his junior year, with Bugsy, as team center, RHS compiled a 16-5 record. That year produced two of the most memorable games in RHS basketball history. RHS entered the State Class "C" tournament ranked number one. After handily beating Old Saybrook, RHS beat tournament favorite Thomaston, before losing a still-to-this-day disputed, heartbreaking 1 point game to Ellington. He was chosen First Team All State Center for Class "C" Schools, becoming the first RHS athlete to earn All State honors in any sport.

During his senior year he led the basketball team to a 17-3 record. He was named center on the WCC and All Area Schools First Teams and became the all time WCC scoring leader.

Bugsy lives in New Fairfield with his wife, Kathleen. He has three children, Jay, Dawn and Kristin.

We Salute the
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- POSTHUMOUS AWARD -

ART SFONDRINI



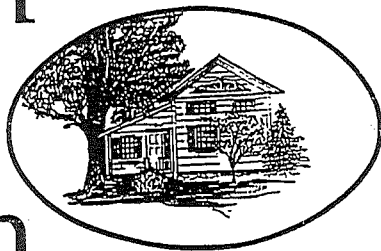
Born in Lewisboro, New York in 1913 where he received his schooling, Art was to become one of Ridgefield's most famous Spartans. Old-timers will not think of Spartan football of the 30's without thinking of Art. Feared by his foes and revered by his teammates, Art was a devastating tackler, unstoppable runner and punishing blocker.

At 6'2" tall and 225 lbs., Art was a big man for the times, yet very fast and agile, allowing him to play fullback, and both defensive and offensive tackle. As star halfback, and former award winner, Lynce Carboni would say, "I grabbed his pants, he pulled me through the line and I saw daylight." His aggressiveness on the field was probably best told in a story related by another great Spartan and former award winner, the late Primo Baldaserini. Early in Art's career, he put a monstrous hit on running back "Kid Cement" of Norwalk, knocking him out of the game. After the play, Art turned to Primo and said, "Primo, I'm going to like this game".

In contrast to his aggressiveness on the football field, Art was a caring father and a devoted husband who was always ready to lend a helping hand. Many Ridgefielders will remember going to the Hayloft Restaurant, which Art owned and operated with his brother Alfred not only to get the best meal around, but tell their stories, play a hand of gin, and maybe get some financial help in a crunch.

A long-time member of the Italian-American Mutual Aid Society, Art was married to the former Tina Girolmetti of Ridgefield for 37 years. After a protracted illness, Art passed away in 1984. He is survived by his son John who, with his wife Deborah, have given Art three grandchildren -- Michael, Alexandra and Elizabeth.

Crehan & Crehan



Attorneys at Law

Patrick J. Crehan
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- POSTHUMOUS AWARD -

BOB STOLLE



An untimely death took Robert Stolle from us in 1995, and deprived us from having him with us to receive a well deserved award. Bob was an outstanding athlete throughout his high school years. He excelled in football, basketball and baseball. After graduating from R.H.S. he played local semi-pro baseball for a Ridgefield team of that era. He played a number of years on the Ridgefield Townies basketball team, and played

softball in the Townies fast-pitch league. He played semi-pro football, but had to join a Danbury team to do so as there was none in Ridgefield at the time. Bob bowled for several years, many of them on the Ridgefield Townie team. He did spend some time on the golf links and although we can't remember how well he scored, we do recall that he could drive the ball the proverbial "country mile".

For many seasons he devoted a huge amount of time serving the youth of Ridgefield. He was a Townies basketball coach, where he coached the traveling team, the "Townies All-Stars", a group of primarily eighth grade boys. He was head coach of the Red Raiders Pop Warner Midget football team.

From 1968 thru 1970 he managed the Ridgefield American Legion baseball team. In 1968 his team won a post-season invitational tourney in Ossining, N.Y. In 1969 the team won a zone championship, defeating teams from Stamford, Darien, Westport, Norwalk and Fairfield to do so.

Several years ago, Bob, his wife Dorothy, and young son, Scott moved to North Carolina. Bob spent the last eight years of his life breeding and showing pygmy goats. He and Dot had twenty show goats, two grand champions. They traveled several weekends a year from Pennsylvania to Florida to show them.

The Stolle family of Ridgefield spans two generations of fine athletes. Father, Charles, now deceased, Robert, and brothers John and Tom have left their mark on local sports.

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- POSTHUMOUS AWARD -

JOSEPH M. VENUS



Joe was born December 18, 1905 at 612 Main Street. After attending local schools he graduated from High School in 1924. Joe captained both the baseball and the basketball teams at High School in 1923 and 1924. He starred as a pitcher in baseball and jumped center on the basketball team. Then Joe pitched and played the outfield on the Town baseball team for several years.

After High School Joe's first job was as bookkeeper for the Standard Oil Company, of NY at its distribution plant on Grove St. Where the Corner Pub is now. When the Oil Company moved its operations to Norwalk, Joe went along with them. The Company sponsored a baseball team in Norwalk and Joe pitched for that team.

Blessed with a fine tenor voice, Joe sang in many shows that played in the Town Hall and sang in St. Mary's choir for many years. He sang and played drums in Aldo Casagrande's band and later had his own band.

In 1931, Joe and his brother Jack built and operated what is now Limestone Service Station on Danbury Road. While employed at Perkin-Elmer Joe was assigned the task of gold leafing the umbilical cord used by the astronauts in their outer space walks. Joe and his wife Bridget have long since passed on, but their son Thomas and his wife Annelies still live in Ridgefield and their daughters Kathleen and Elizabeth have already made their marks in soccer and track.

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CIVIC AWARD



DR. PETER YANITY

For his numerous contributions to the youth of Ridgefield and to the town, dentist and town Selectman Dr. Peter V. Yanity, a 43-year Ridgefielder, will be honored with the Old Timers Civic Award at the annual banquet in October.

After graduating from Athens High School in Ohio in 1944, Mr. Yanity went on to receive a bachelor's from Ohio University in 1949 and a doctor of dental science from Georgetown University School of Dentistry in 1953. While in high school, he played football and baseball, and in college he played baseball.

Since coming to Ridgefield in 1955, Dr. Yanity's contributions to Ridgefield have been numerous: a member of the Republican Town Committee, he has been active in local politics for the past 27 years, serving on the Board of Selectmen since 1989; he was a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission for 15 years, the last 10 as chairman. He has also served on a town Charter Revision Commission, Board of Education Study Committees, and Salary Study Committee for elected officials.

In 1958 he and George Fasolo co-founded the Pop Warner football program, the first in the state of Connecticut, and also served as a national commissioner for the state. He continued to coach for five or six years as well. Starting with 25 players and coaches, the program has grown to approximately 225 players.

He is a recipient of the Bob Scalzo Memorial Award for significant contribution to young people in Ridgefield, and he serves as a member of the Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, as well as being past president.

The Parks and Recreation gymnasium, the Yanity Gym, was named in his honor in 1988, and in the same year he was also named the Rotary Citizen of the Year.

Dr. Yanity received the Lions Club's Melvin Jones Fellowship award, named after the founder of the Lions Club, for his outstanding recognition in the Lions Club and Lions Club International.

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SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



WALTER BOYCE

From time to time the Old Timers select someone to receive a special award. It is given to recognize a person for a special contribution to the community which does not readily fit into the regular categories of awards. This year they will honor Walter Boyce with a Special Award for his many contributions in recording and publishing statistics and information on the local fast-pitch

softball league during the Ridgefield Townies era, and his continuing efforts on behalf of the many bowlers in the area.

For over 40 years, dating back to 1957 when he put together his first book of stats on the softball league, Walter has been compiling records and making them available, through his own untiring efforts, to those whose stats they contain. His work for some of the bowling leagues have resulted in the distribution of as many as 180 copies of a yearbook, the final results of about 900 hours of work on Walter's part.

Dating back to the bowling alleys behind Bissell's, when Walter was still in high school, he has been an avid bowler himself. He also played some baseball while in school and in college. After discharge from the Navy, he played softball in the local league. He enjoys golf, but finds little time to pursue his interest there.

A man of many talents, he is an accomplished musician, and has composed several pieces for piano. For many years he played with a number of musical groups which date back to when he was still in high school. He has quite a reputation as a music historian to add to his other talents.

Walter and Emma, his wife of 31 years reside with daughter Amanda, a 1997 graduate of RHS, at 28 New Street. When his graduating class of 1947 from RHS held their 50th reunion, Walter produced a "BOOK OF MEMORIES" for each member of the class. Its content, a mere 331 pages of articles, letters, pictures, and information on the class, dating back to 1941. His talent and efforts will be recognized at the annual Old Timer's Award Banquet on October 15th 1998 at the Italian American Hall.

Congratulations to all the *Old Timers* honorees:

Dr. Peter Yanity
Walter Boyce
Bugsy Santini
Andy Montanari
Dr. Joseph Moylan
Jinx Baldaserini
Dr. Philip Martin

You have all
contributed greatly in your
own way to making Ridgefield
a great place to live and an even
greater place to remember
the days gone by.

The Ridgefield Press

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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

CHRISTINA MACKEY



Christina became a member of the Ridgefield community shortly before entering kindergarten at Ridgebury Elementary School. It was here that she began her sports career in the Soccer Club of Ridgefield (S.C.O.R.). She played soccer up to and including her freshmen year of high school. In that same year, she began playing field hockey and running track. She

commenced her sports career as being a member of the State-Qualifying Varsity Field Hockey Team and captain of the Varsity Girls Indoor Track Team. However, Christina did continue her soccer career, not as a player, but as a coach to fourth and fifth graders for two seasons.

Christina was an active member of the community. She was a member of the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) and a member of her youth group at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. Christina was Director of Services for this youth group (HyLife). In fulfilling this position she helped organize many community service projects, including trips to the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen. Other leadership roles she held in her parish community are an altar server and a religion teacher. Through another organization known as the National Honor Society, or NHS, Christina continued to help serve others. Here she assisted in running blood drives, painted locker rooms, and taught the fifth graders at Ridgebury Elementary School about Physics.

In the classroom Christina was a remarkable student. As previously stated, she was a member of the National Honor Society. In addition, she was also awarded the Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete Award and the Ridgefield High School Scholar Athlete Award. She made the honor roll every time and achieved high honors several times.

This fall Christina will be attending the University of Connecticut with a major of pre-teaching. During her sophomore year she will apply to the School of Education in pursuit of her dream of being a teacher.

Christina would like to thank the Old Timers Association for recognizing her and awarding her with this scholarship.

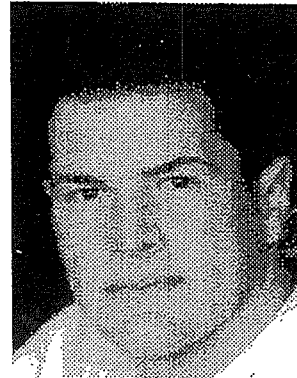
BEST WISHES TO RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS

**Donnelly, McNamara
& Gustafson, P.C.
Attorneys at Law**

**150 Danbury Road
Ridgefield, CT
438-6534**

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

JAMES P. TARSI



The son of Jim and Ellen Tarsi of Overbrook Drive, has been selected as one of the two 1998 scholarship recipients by the Ridgefield Old Timers Association. Jim, who like his father is a native Ridgefielder, is attending the State University of New York at Stonybrook where he began his studies in physical therapy. Jim selected SUNY Stonybrook be-

cause of its physical therapy program and the potential for playing Division IAA football during his college years. Jim played football for four years at Ridgefield High School and was both the Freshman team Captain and the Captain of the RHS Varsity team. In 1997 he received the Oxford Humancare Award sponsored jointly by the FCIAC and the Oxford Healthcare for sportsmanship, academic achievement and community service. Jim also played baseball during his RHS career having been selected for the Central FCIAC team in 1996 and the *News Times* All Area First Team in his sophomore year. During his senior year, Jim was elected Team Captain of the RHS Varsity baseball team.

In addition to his varsity sports, Jim was extremely active in other extra-curricular activities. Jim was a volunteer for Safe Rides throughout high school and served as President of the organization in his senior year. He was selected by the high school faculty as the model student for the Ridgefield DARE program. Jim was also selected by the school administration to represent Ridgefield at the Youth to Youth Eastern States Leadership Conference at Bryant College. In addition to part time and summer employment with Allergy Control Products in Ridgefield, Jim also found time and devoted many hours to coaching young athletes in the Ridgefield Babe Ruth baseball and Pop Warner football programs. Given his athletic and academic achievements and his community service, it is not surprising that in addition to the Ridgefield Old Timers Association Scholarship, Jim received the 1998 Rick Ligi Memorial Scholarship for excellence in baseball and academics and the Rob Phalen Memorial Scholarship presented by the Tiger Touchdown Club for sportsmanship and excellence in football.

**Congratulations, Old Timers . . .
You Bring Us Great Memories
of Ridgefield, Then and Now!**

The Baldaserini Family



POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

1994

Ralph Crouchly, Kip Holleran, Francis D. Martin

1995

Chuck Walker, Charles F. Ashbee, Frank E. Minnerly

1996

Lou Girolmetti, Ed & John Sullivan, John Bacchiochi

1997

Lick Santini, Red Dlugo, Bill Allen

PAST RECIPIENTS

CIVIC AWARD

Richard Venus ('92), Bob Tulipani ('93),
Beth Yanity ('94), Aldo Tulipani ('95)
Ferdinand Bedini ('96), Matty Pambianchi Family ('97)

SPORTS AWARDS

1992

Tabby Carboni, Lynce Carboni, Leo Pambianchi,
Tom Clark, Charlie Frattini, Joe Forcelli, John Carboni

1993

Gene Casagrande, Bob Mulvaney, Vin Petrini,
Charley Stolle, Joe Tulipani

1994

Lyman Anderson, Harry Bennett, Aldo Girolmetti,
Evo Principi, John Tulipani

1995

Peter Casagrande, Dino Cingolani, Joe Brunetti,
Ray Eppoliti, Bud Mahoney, Reno Severini

1996

Ben Bedini, Fabio Biagiotti, Jack Leary, Harold Mead,
Romeo Petroni, Janaile Severini

1997

Primo Baldaserini, Dante Brunetti, Walter Evans,
Frank Lancaster, Sr., Navio Ligi, Fred Mazzi

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Fran Moylan ('95) Paul Baker ('96)

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Bob Tulipani

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Lynce Carboni
Steve Carboni
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PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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Bob Tulipani

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Cynthia Biagiotti
Pat Ligos

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Sandy Warner
Tom Belote

PROGRAM COVER

Don Carboni

PROGRAM

Welcome Chairman Pierandri
Toastmaster Paul Baker
Dinner

CIVIC AWARD

Dr. Peter Yanity

SPORTS AWARDS

Gino "Jinx" Baldaserini
Dr. Philip Martin
Dr. Joseph Moylan
Andy Montanari
Julius J. "Bugsy" Santini

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Walter Boyce

POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

Joseph M. Venus
Art Sfondrini
Bob Stolle

RECOLLECTIONS OF YESTERDAY

Judge Ed Dowling

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AMERICAN
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CONGRATULATES
TONIGHTS
HONOREES
AND
WISHES
BEST OF LUCK
TO THE RIDGEFIELD
OLD TIMERS
ASSOCIATION.**