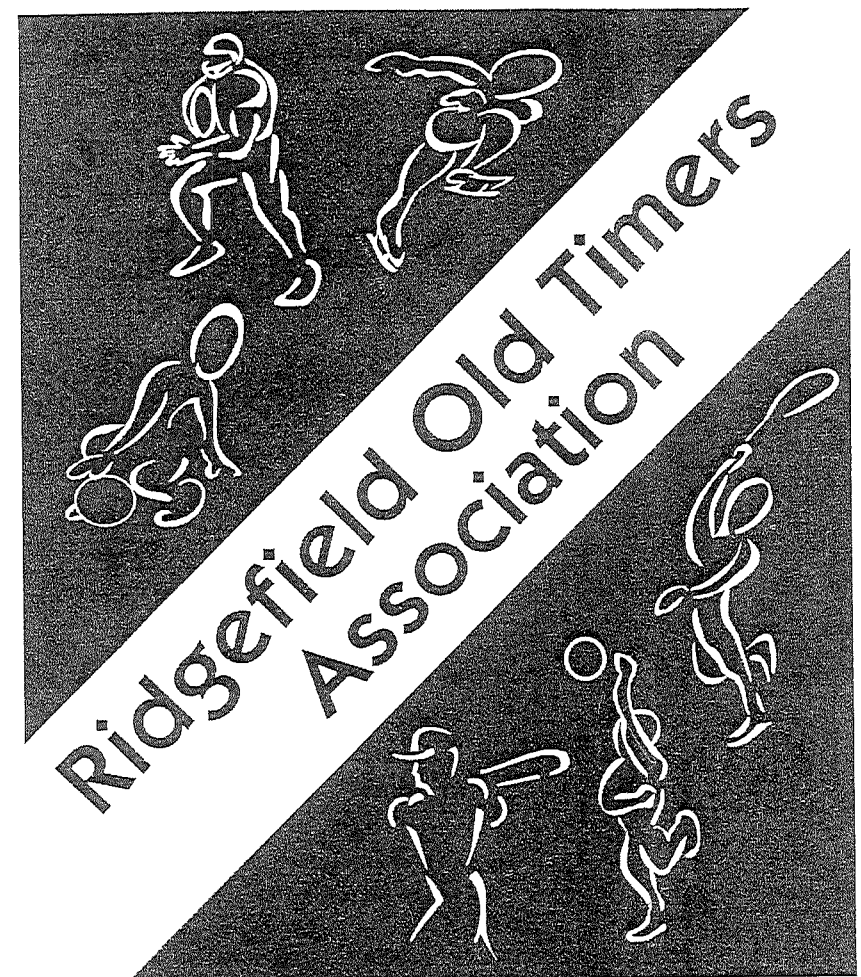


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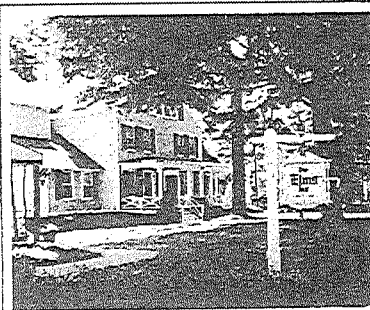
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PROGRAM MESSAGE

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members and Friends of the Ridgefield Old Timers:

For the past two years it has been my privilege and honor to serve as chairman of this fine organization. When this group organized, its primary goal was to provide scholarship assistance for those young boys and girls of Ridgefield High School who excelled academically and athletically.

Many of those who helped organize this association and many of the town's athletes of yesterday who have been honored by it never had the opportunity to continue their education. It's with great pride that this club has already helped 24 young men and women in the pursuit of their education.

If this club is to continue its good work, the responsibility for future efforts falls on those of younger generations. Remember, with the purchase of a ticket to attend tonight's dinner, you are automatically enrolled in our membership and welcome at our meetings. I especially want to thank the Union Saving Bank for again sponsoring our golf tournament, one of our principal sources of revenue.

Our meetings AE few and far between and often come with vittles and nostalgic conversation. You will enjoy the privilege of helping to select the honorees of the future. I urge those who have been honored in the past to be more active with us when possible.

I thank all of you who served on the committees and I am sincerely grateful to members and volunteers who helped with our fundraisers, dinners, and other efforts. My two years of service as your chairman have been a rewarding experience and a genuine pleasure.

Andy Montanari, Sr.
Chairman

Congratulations
to
George Fasolo
and
Many thanks for your
Contribution and dedication
to The Ridgefield Community
Center, Saint Mary's School
and
The Youth of Ridgefield
Peter & Beth Yanity

George Fasolo

George Fasolo was born and raised in Farmington, NC and after high school served in the Marines. He then went to North Carolina State at Raleigh, where he majored in physical education.

In college, he played football and basketball. During the summers, he also played class D baseball in Durham, NC.

George was in the Army ROTC program in college and after graduation served in the Army. At the time of the World War II war crimes trials, he was sent to Nuremberg, Germany.

George arrived in Ridgefield in 1954. He became the first executive director of the Ridgefield Community Center. He held this position until 1960.

George also taught physical education at St. Mary's School where he started basketball and baseball teams. At that time, most of their games had to be played in New York and New Jersey because there were very few grade school teams in the area.

George also founded the first Pop Warner team in the state in Ridgefield. With the help of Pete Yanity and Bill Anthony, they did very well. The team's record was 9-1 during its first season.

George left Ridgefield in 1960 to become director of recreation for the Town of Westport. After two years, he became executive director of the Cardinal Sheehan Center in Bridgeport where he remained for 30 years. During that time he coached two All-America players, Walter Luckett and Chris Smith.

Sports have always been his love. He still plays tennis and golf and was a F.C.F.O. referee for 35 years.

George and his wife Carol have been married 47 years and have four children and three grandchildren.

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1994

Ralph Crouchley, Kip Holleran, Francis Martin

1995

Chuck Walker, Charlie Ashbee, Frank
Minnerly

1996

Lou Girolmetti, John Sullivan, John
Bacchiochi

1997

Lick Santini, Red Delugo, Bill Allen

1998

Joseph Venus, Art Sfondrini, Bob Stolle

1999

Alan Crowley, Don Ligos, Harold Hilton

2000

Art Bellagamba, Stubb Cummings, Margaret
O'Sullivan

2001

Tony Deluca, Walt Ryba, Bob Seymour

2002

John Sturges, Jimmy Warner

2003

Scott Nye, Fred J. Romeo, Sr., Mario Scala

2004

Steve Lancaster, Bernie Leighton, Pete Carboni

PAST SPORTS AWARDS

1992

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

1993

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

1994

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

1995

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

1996

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

1997

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

1998

Gino "Jinx" Baldaserini, Dr. Phil Martin, Dr. Joe Moylan,
Andy Montanari, Julius "Bugsy" Santini

1999

Dick Bellagamba, Si Bellagamba, Gene Lavatori, John Lavatori
Gene McMahon, Harry Pierandri

2000

Glen Anderson, Bill Elliot, Booker Jackson, Tom Mitchell

2001

Ned Carboni, Paul Carboni, Jim Costanzi, John Fossi, Artie Frattini
Nick Reid, Gloria Sharkany

2002

Ed Dowling, Jack Jones, Jack O'Keefe, Jim O'Keefe
Mike Ryba, Aldo Travaglini, Harry Zandri

2003

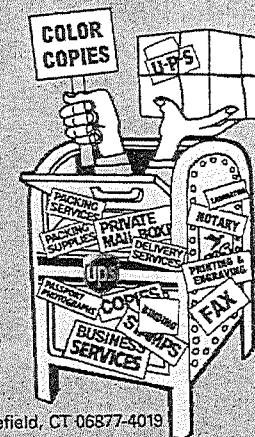
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Alexander Frulla

Alexander "Alley" Frulla, a 1947 graduate of RHS, played two varsity sports for the Tigers before moving on to various careers in the local area.

Short, stocky and strong, Alley grew up in the outskirts of the Titicus district of town. Although he lived three miles from the high school, he was determined to play sports for RHS and would walk or ride his bike to and from practice each day.

Alley played both baseball and basketball for the Tigers and eventually earned a varsity letter in each sport. Aggressive, energetic and undaunted, he proved to be a valuable asset to both teams.

In baseball, Alley played second base. He was a solid fielder who was also effective in turning double plays because of his strong arm. He also earned more walks than other players because of his good eye for the strike zone. In a baseball game against Purdys, NY on June 6, 1946, Alley went 2 for 4 to help RHS win the game 9 to 4.

Alley's prowess on the diamond helped his team win the Fairfield County "Class B" championship in 1946.

In basketball, Alley played center. Spunky and spirited, he was a stalwart defensive player and a good shooter. In a game against Bethel on January 23, 1947, in which Ridgefield High School won 47-32, Alley scored eight points.

After RHS sports, Alley moved on to careers with the Gilbert and Bennett factory, where he worked for seven years; the Charles Elliot Refuge, where he worked for 16 years; and the Ridgefield Highway Department, where he worked for 23 years.

Alley is married to Shirley Mead, and they have a son, Paul, and two daughters, Judith and Marie.

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Civic Award

Chuck Dean

Long time resident Chuck Dean was selected to receive the Ridgefield Old Timers 2004 Civic Award. Chuck had always been a great supporter of youth activities and athletics in town. In 1967 he was elected President of the Ridgefield Little League and was instrumental in building the concession stand at Aldrich Field. In 1969, with Frank Lancaster and Al Barnes, Chuck started the Pop Warner Candlewood Valley League and served as equipment manager for the Red Raiders. Between 1969 and 1974, Chuck managed the Caboose sponsored Babe Ruth team. He started the 16-18 league with Wilton and New Canaan, and managed the Housatonic summer team.

However, it is in hockey that Chuck's reputation as a coach and proponent for Ridgefield youth was most prominent. Chuck was one of the individuals who started the first Ridgefield hockey league and built the temporary rink on the land now used as soccer fields. Chuck was involved in leveling the land, lighting the area and constructing the boards. In 1971 he helped arrange for the financing of the permanent rink on Prospect Ridge. Chuck oversaw the rink's construction, served as the President of the Ridgefield Athletic Association and managed the operation of the rink in its first year. Chuck coached the first RHS hockey team and also served as a referee. Along with Charlie Roach and Nate Weston, Chuck started the Ridgefield Hockey Association which has led to the growth, popularity and success of hockey in Ridgefield.

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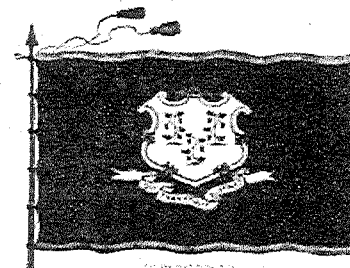
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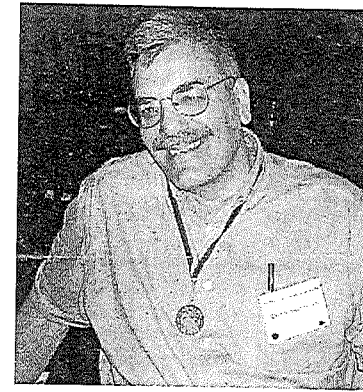
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Chip Salvestrini

Chip Salvestrini is a native Ridgefielder who served as the town's athletic director for grades K through 12 from 1993 to 2001. He currently serves as Danbury's athletic director for grades 1 through 12. Chip's youth sports included the Ridgefield Little League, the Ridgefield Townies Basketball (coached by Frank Lancaster), St. Mary's basketball and Babe Ruth (coached by Joe and John Tulipani and Frank Lancaster).

In high school Chip played football, basketball and baseball. He was the captain of all three sports teams in his senior year. In football Chip was a three-year starter, an All-WCC, All-Area, All-New York Daily News player and received All-State honorable mention. He was the Nutmeg Bowl captain and starter in the annual Connecticut East-West All-Star game in his senior year. In basketball Chip was a two-year starter and an All-FCIAC honor mention, and in baseball he was a three-time letter recipient and WCC Homerun and RBI leader as a junior. Chip graduated from RHS in 1971 and attended Yankton College in South Dakota. At Yankton he played football and was captain of the team in his senior year. Chip was a four-year starter and held the single game record for tackles in one game (23). Chip was a three-time Tri-State All Conference player and a two-time All Midwest District player. He received an All-American honorable mention, played in the Senior Bowl and was a draft pick of the San Diego Chargers. During college he was on the dean's list and was president of the Letterman's Club.

Chip played professional football between 1975 and 1977. In addition to the Chargers, he played for the Long Island Giants and the New Jersey Rams. He was All-League in 1975 and 1976.

Chip started work in the New Milford school system in 1977. He left his position of director of athletics in 1982 to become the director of athletics at Lehman College where he stayed until 1993 when he returned to Ridgefield to become our athletic director.

In addition to his Baccalaureate degree, Chip holds a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University Teachers College.

He was named to the Lehman College Hall of Fame in 2003 and to the All-Time Football Team at Yankton in 2004. Most recently he was named President of the Fairfield County Athletic Conference.

Chip has been married to his wife Gail for 27 years. They have two children, Owen and Meghan.



Faust Verna

Faust is a native Ridgefielder who graduated from RHS in 1942. In basketball he played forward under coaches "KP" Holleran and Norman Eicher. The team was the first team to play in the new gymnasium on East Ridge.

Faust played outfield on the RHS baseball teams that won the league championships for three consecutive years and against schools that included Westport, Darien and New Canaan.

After graduation Faust joined the Navy and was assigned as an air bomber and gunner on a B-24 Liberator. After his discharge he returned to Ridgefield and married his high school classmate, Emily.

Faust is now retired. He says that he spends two days a week as a starter at Candlewood Lake golf course and the rest of his week chasing wild flying golf balls.



Posthumous

Steven Lancaster

Steve Lancaster, the son of Frank W. and Bernice M. (Bedini) Lancaster, was born in Danbury on July 12, 1953. Steve lived in town all his life and graduated from Ridgefield High School in 1971. He was a member of the National Honor Society, the Student Council, the Chess Club, the Varsity Book Club and the yearbook staff. In his junior year he was the recipient of the Trinity College Book Award for his outstanding scholastic record. At graduation Steve was awarded the Wadsworth R. Lewis scholarship and the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Good Citizenship Award.

In athletics, Steve lettered in football, baseball, and indoor track. He was the captain and quarterback of the 1970-71 football team and had received the Lions Club "most improved athlete" award. In addition to his high school athletic achievements, Steve played Little League baseball, Babe Ruth baseball, Red Raider football and American Legion softball.

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Front row - left to right, Joan Korczynski Boehm, Barbara McGlynn, Joyce Casavechia
Ligi, Barbara Torcelli Serfilippi, Sandy Pierandri Mosiello, Mary Frances Mulvaney
Sloa.



Congratulations to all the *Old Timers* honorees:

2004: Faust Verna
Allie Frulla
Lou Bellagamba
Rudy Marconi
Jim Tulipani
Chip Salvestrini

Special Award: George Fasolo

Civic Award: Chuck Dean

Posthumous Awards: Steve Lancaster
Bernie Leighton
Peter Carboni

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*Peggy and I
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the Ridgefield Old Timers
for all of their contributions
to the
Town of Ridgefield
and we extend our congratulations
to the Old Timers Honorees
and Scholarship Recipients
both past and present.*

Rudy & Peggy Marconi



Posthumous

Navio (Peter) Carboni

Like his brothers, Lynce and Tabby, Peter Carboni was a legendary sports figure in this area in the 1920-30's. A native of Ridgefield, Peter ("Naz") graduated from RHS in 1926, a year earlier than his brother "Battling Bones" Lynce Carboni. Peter played high school basketball and was a member of the 1925-26 State divisional championship. The team which included brother Lynce, John Bacchiochi, Kenneth Weidner, Tim Keeler, Evo Montanari and Clarence Smith, qualified for the first Connecticut State basketball tournament, ever, and after a long trip to Storrs, in a freezing truck driven by Coach Kip Holleran, lost by a single point.

After graduation, Peter went on to play hoops for Ridgefield in the American Legion basketball league under Coach Tom Clark. The local newspapers were filled with stories about the "famous Carboni brothers" Naz and Lynce who on any given night would "run wild" and score forty-five points or more between them.

In 1932 the Carboni's 1931-32 Legion team was feted with a banquet attended by hundreds of Ridgefield officials and fans. According to the Danbury News Times the team was credited with "having brought the cage sport back to the millionaire town" and as one might expect, the Carboni brothers led the team in points for the season.

Peter was known as a strong swimmer and together with a friend swam the length of Peach Lake one summer; an event that was written up in the Ridgefield Press.

In later life, Peter spent his Wednesdays playing golf. In the early 1970's he hit 3 holes-in-one in one summer, a feat that was chronicled in the local press as well as some professional golfing magazines. As a result he was invited to participate in a PGA hole-in-one state playoff in Hartford.

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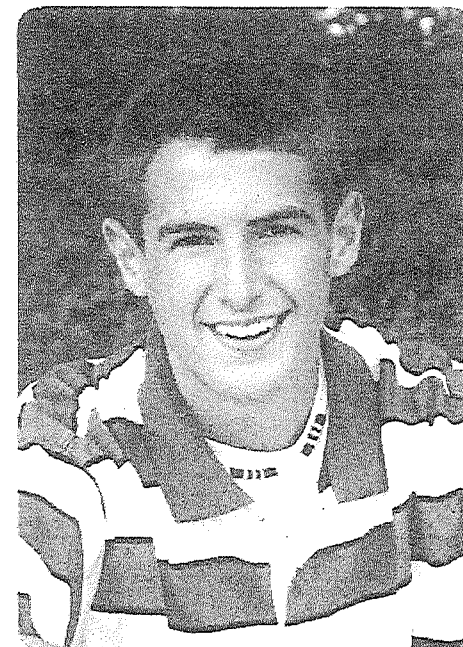
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Matt Peckham

ROTA Scholar/Athlete Award Recipient

Matt is one of our two scholar/athlete scholarship recipients.

Matt has resided in Ridgefield since 1987. Matt attended the Farmingville and Branchville Elementary Schools and the East Ridge Middle School. As a youth, he played in the Soccer Club of Ridgefield, the Ridgefield Little League, the Ridgefield Basketball Association and the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club basketball team.

At Ridgefield High School Matt was All Honors and in four advance placement classes. His weighted grade point average was 3.8.

At RHS Matt played one year of junior varsity and three years of varsity soccer, and was a team member of the 2003 FCIAC championship team. Matt also played three years of varsity volleyball. As a junior he was a member of the 2003 State Volleyball Championship team, and in 2004 was named the team captain.

Matt’s non-school sports included three years in the Ridgefield Basketball Association High School division and three years in the Parks and Recreation town tournament.

Matt’s community service and activities included Meals-on-Wheels, Catholic H.E.A.R.T. Workcamp, the Big Brother/Big Sister Club and the Future Business Leaders of America Club.

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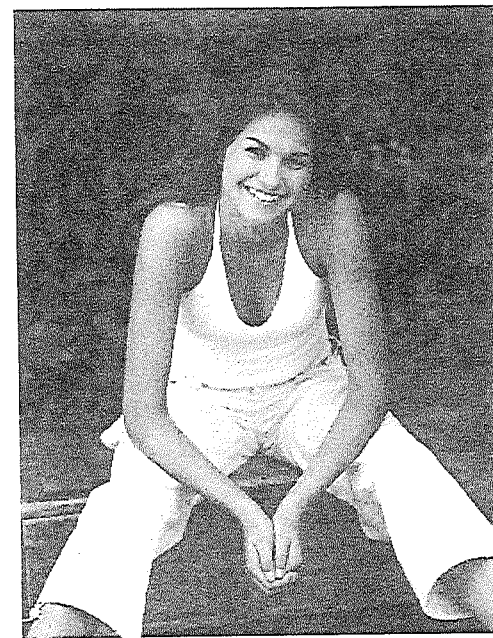


Photo by Scott Mullin



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Ari Chipouras

ROTA Scholar/Athlete Award Recipient

Ari played volleyball for three years at RHS but her true love was basketball. She played AAU basketball and varsity ball for 4 years. In her junior year she was second leading scorer and received Honorable Mention in the All FCIAC. With 875 career points, she averaged 14 points per game, 75% on field goal shots and was the high scorer for her team senior year. Senior year also brought awards to acknowledge her efforts on the court, FCIAC 2nd Team, Connecticut High School Coaches Association All Star Team, All Area Danbury News Times, Ginger Katz Foundation All Star Team. Earlier this year, she was also honored with the Captains Council Scholarship Award.

A quote from one of Ari's many college reference letters states, "Ari is a student athlete who 'gets it'; she understands what teachers and coaches are trying to pass on to student athletes. Ari understands that her hard work combined with her great desire will lead to success. In the classroom she works very hard and challenges herself to perform at a high level. Ari is a good student and a good athlete, but most of all, a good person."

Ari will be playing basketball at Springfield College this fall. With her interest in sports, although she will enter with an undeclared major, she is leaning towards a major in Sports Management. Something the coach said at a meeting made us know Ari had chosen the school that would be right for her, "At the end of four years, if Ari does not leave as a good person, I have not done my job."

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Louis A. Bellagamba

Lou Bellagamba is a native of Ridgefield and member of the Class of 1950. Born in 1932 and nicknamed "Bluebeard" at RHS, Lou played one year of varsity basketball and three years of high school baseball. According to his senior yearbook, Lou was "Tall, dark and handsome...one of the class 'Hot Rod' chauffeurs and the Class Casanova". Lou retired and lives in Newport, Rhode Island.

Posthumous

Bernard L. Leighton

Bernie Leighton was born in Ridgefield on September 26, 1925, the son of Leontine Crespin Leighton and Curtis V. Leighton. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and an honorary member of the Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Leighton was a Ridgefield police officer in the late 1940's before the town had an official police department. From that post, he went on to the state police and for a time was stationed at the East Ridge barracks. When he left police work he took up carpentry.

Bernie was known as a great sportsman and Ridgefield athlete.

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Chuck Dean

SPECIAL AWARD

George Fasolo

SPORTS AWARDS

Faust Verna Allie Frulla
Lou Bellagamba Rudy Marconi
Chip Salvestrini Jim Tulipani
and the

CYO Girls Championship Basketball Team

POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

Steve Lancaster--- Bernie Leighton--- Peter Carboni

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Treasurer ----- Walt Evans
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Bob Tulipani

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Jim Belote

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Jim Mullen
Barbara Serfilippi

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Cynthia Biagiotti
Fabio Biagiotti
Pat Ligos

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Publicity
Tom Belote

Awards Committee
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Bob Tulipani pre 50's
Andy Montanari pre 50's
Peter Casagrande 50's
Sandy Mosiello 50's
Barbara Serfilippi 50's
Pat Ligos 50's
Jim Belote 50's
Jim Mullen 50's
John Pierandri 60's+
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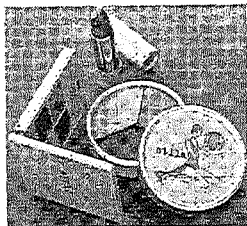
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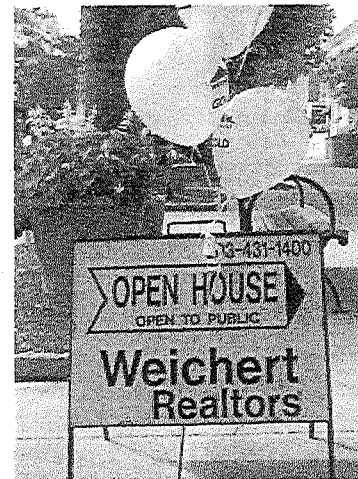
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PAST CIVIC AWARDS

1992 Richard Venus: 1993 Bob Tulipani: 1994 Beth Yanity
1995 Aldo Tulipani: 1996 Ferdinand Bedini: 1997 The Matty
Pambianchi Family: 1998 Dr. Peter Yanity: 1999 Charlie Coles
2000 Kitty Rosa: 2001 Bubby Finch: 2002 Edith Meffly: 2003
Kay Ables

PAST SPECIAL AWARDS

1995 Fran Moylan: 1996 Paul Baker: 1998 Walt Boyce: 1999
Chief Earl Sturgess: 2000 Jerry Anello: 2003 Mike Pontello




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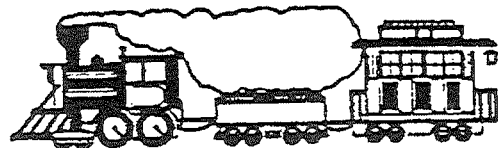
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A Short History of ROTA

Some 15 years ago a group of friends got together with the idea of forming an old timers group for Ridgefield. Their group consisted of Paul Baker, Julie Petrini, John Tulipani, and Joe Brunetti; they met at a diner. They used the model from Danbury and Norwalk which had already honored several Ridgefield Athletes. The purpose was to honor great athletes who were unable to continue their education past their school days, and set up a scholarship to assist current athletes. They held several meetings and drew in 18 other supporters. They elected a board of officers with Paul Baker as the first chairman and began to meet to select great honorees to honor in Oct. of 1992. Walt Evans was elected to be the Treasurer (he still holds this position), and Julie Petrini was the Secretary. Seven Ridgefielders were selected to be the honorees and the first Special Award was went to Richard Venus. The guest speaker was Spec Shea a pitcher from the New York Yankees. The Advertisement book was only twenty pages in length cover to cover. The event was a success and money was put into a scholarship fund. The founding friends brought in more members and set to work on their second event to be held on Oct. 14 1993. The first Scholarship recipient was Thomas B. Gareau. He had been accepted at University of Virginia, a three sport man with a great deal of community service participation. The advertisement book stayed at twenty pages, but the number of advertisers grew and has continued to grow until the book could no longer be staple bound and it now has a spring plastic book binder. In Oct of 2003, the book topped out at 104 pages.



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Our History *(continued)*

The award of the scholarship changed in Oct 1996 when our first female Scholarship Athlete Janine Murphy was honored. She was involved in three sports and numerous civic endeavors. 1997 saw another change when we honored two scholar athletes with two scholarships, Charles Bliss and Kerry Bennett; this practice holds true today and the value of the award has grown thanks to the hard work of the club members traveling about the town gathering new Ads and sponsors. The popularity of the event has also created a ticket shortage as the supporters (You All) now buy early and the event is sold out by the first week in October.

In our second year, we introduced the Civic Award and the first recipient was Bob Tulipani; who is still a very active club member. As numerous names came up for the first Civic award, a list was formulated, just as had been done for possible sports recipients. In our third year of operation Beth Yanity became the first female Civic Award winner. The first female members joined the board in 1999 when Sandy Pierandri Warner became our third secretary. Over these many years often both a Civic and Special Award were presented in the same year. A changing club, and a very good master of ceremonies, created another problem. The motivational guest speakers once thought necessary for a good event began to stretch late into the evening, guests desired to hear more from the award winners: so when the event ran until 11:10 in 1999 the speakers were eliminated. With the era of the guest speaker now gone Paul Baker has much more time for his colorful stories and "tall tales" (carefully polished to protect the innocent). In summation to paraphrase the USMC "we are always looking for a few very good hard working members."

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Rudy Marconi

Rudy was born and raised in Ridgefield, the son of Nano and Lena Marconi. He grew up at the Marconi residence on Prospect Street and was one of the first students to attend the newly constructed St. Mary's parochial school in 1954.

Rudy played in the backfield on the first organized Pop Warner football team which was coached by Dr. Peter Yanity and Joe Fasolo.

As a Red Raider on the 1958 football team, Rudy and his teammates finished the season undefeated and the team flew to Florida to play in the Pop Warner Championship at the Orange Bowl. Rudy also played on the first RBA basketball team coached by Eddie Zandri.

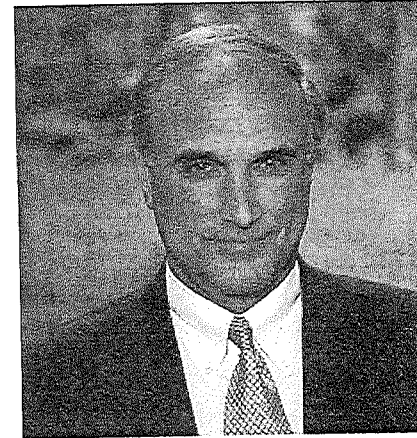
Like many of St. Mary's students, Rudy entered the Ridgefield High School and excelled in interscholastic sports. While at RHS Rudy played football, basketball and baseball. He lettered in football in his sophomore year.

In his junior and senior years, Rudy lettered in all three sports and in his senior year was the recipient of the RHS Best Athlete award.

Rudy attended Nichols College and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. After working as an executive in the paper and printing industry in Boston and Long Island for fifteen years, Rudy returned to his hometown. In 1989 he was elected to the Planning and Zoning Commission. In 1992 Rudy was elected to the Board of Selectmen and in 1999 was elected First Selectman. Despite Ridgefield's large Republican majority, Rudy, a Democrat, was re-elected in 2001 and 2003.

Rudy's wife is Peggy Marconi, a Ridgefield realtor. He is the father of Andrew, Jason and Alex Marconi, who live and work in Boston, and Amanda, a sophomore at Northeastern University.

We Applaud First Selectman Rudy Marconi



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Jim Tulipani

Jim is a native Ridgefielder who comes from an extended family of Ridgefield star athletes. Both his father and his uncles were honored by the Old Timers in the past. Jim played Little League baseball for four years and Babe Ruth baseball for three years. At St. Mary's he played basketball for three years and Pop Warner football for three years.

Jim played varsity football at RHS for three years. In 1967 he lettered as a defensive back, and in 1968 and 1969, he was the team's quarterback. RHS won the WCC Championships for all three years Jim played on the team and, in his senior year, Jim was voted captain of the team.

Jim lettered in basketball as a guard in 1968, 1969 and 1970 and was voted captain of the team in his senior year.

In baseball Jim played centerfield and pitcher. The team won the WCC championships in both 1969 and 1970.

After graduation in 1970, Jim attended Central Connecticut State College. He played varsity baseball in both 1973 and 1974 as an outfielder and went on to the New England Regionals. While in school he also played centerfield and pitcher in the American Legion baseball league and played centerfield in the Housatonic baseball league from 1973 to 1987. Between 1986 and 1987 Jim played centerfield and pitched for the Stamford Twilight league. He continues to play ball for the Ridgefield men's softball league to this date.

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