

RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS ASSOCIATION



A message from the co-chairmen

A thank you to our sponsors, our members and friends and congratulations to tonight's honorees and scholarship recipients.

As Ridgefield concludes its 300th anniversary celebration it is with great pride that we have chosen to honor a number of townspeople who have dedicated so much of their time and energy into making Ridgefield the extraordinary town that it has been over the years. It is also with pride that we honor a number of RHS graduates from decades past who contributed to making Ridgefield High School the exceptional academic and athletic experience it has always been.

In addition to this evening's awardees, we also honor our 2008 scholarship recipients, Meaghan Windisch and Peter Schieke. Both recipients were scholar/athletes throughout their four years at Ridgefield High and are truly deserving of our financial assistance. Earlier this year our membership voted to increase the Old Timers awards from two \$1,500 contributions to two four-year scholarships of \$1,000 per year. Meaghan and Peter are the first scholarship recipients under this new program.

We also want to express our gratitude to the Ridgefield Bank for their generous contribution in sponsoring tonight's program book and to Union Savings Bank for their generosity in sponsoring our spring golf tournament and porchetta dinner. Their significant contributions to the Old Timers help make it possible for us to provide scholarships to two Ridgefield High scholars each year. We also wish to express our gratitude to the Ridgefield Press for the contributions they make each week to our scholarship fund for the writing of the Press history columns. Finally, a special thanks to Jack Sanders for his work in producing our annual program book.

Our tradition of honoring past scholar athletes and individuals who have significantly contributed to preserving Ridgefield's heritage, culture and environment is the reason why the Old Timers Association was established in 1992 and is made possible each year by the efforts of our membership. Thanks to all of you. On behalf of the organization we would like to extend a special thanks to members Andy Montanari, Sr., Fred Whipple, Doug Clewell, George Besse, Steve Carboni, Carl Scala for their sustained assistance throughout the year.

As we come to the end of our town's tercentennial celebration it is our hope that more of you and your friends will consider joining the Old Timers. It is a commitment that takes little time and is a wonderful way to help preserve Ridgefield traditions. Please take a moment and consider joining us. It's rewarding and fun.

November 1, 2008

Tom Belote, Co-chair
Jay Montanari, Co-chair

The 16th annual Ridgefield Old Timers dinner

Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008

Index

High schools.....	20	Rowe, Kevin	15
History of ROTA.....	21	ROTA history	2
Kiernan, Maureen	4	ROTA officers	3
Laslo, Judy	14	Saltzgaber, Craig	17
Lavatori, Richard	13	Schielke, Peter.....	19
Message from chairman	2	Scholarship fund	17, 19
Officers of ROTA	3	Scholarship winners	19
Past Civic Awards	24	Serfilippi, Frank	10
Past Posthumous Awards	24	Timpanelli, Jeanne	6
Past Sports Awards	23	Vaughn, Paul	11
Principi, James	7	Wilson, Charles	18
Ridgefield Bank	back page	Windisch, Meaghan	19

Who's in charge of the Old Timers?

The officers

Tom Belote and Jay Montanari, co-chairman; Steve Carboni, vice chairman; Carl Scala, secretary and Chip Bliss, treasurer.

2008 Committees

Awards Dinner Committee: Andy Montanari, Sr., George Besse, Bob Tulipani; Ticket Committee: Jim Mullen; Publicity/Program and Press Biographies: Steve Carboni, Tom Belote; Scholarship Committee: Fabio Paul Biagiotti, Jim Belote; Awards Committee: Andy Montanari Sr., Paul Baker, Carl Scala, Jim Mullen, Barbara Serfilippi, Sandy Pierandri Mosiello, Jim Belote, Tom Belote, Steve Carboni, Chip Bliss, John Pierandri, Jay Montanari, Guy Rossini, Pat Ligos, Peter Casagrande; Arrangements Committee: Fabio Paul Biagiotti, Cynthia Biagiotti, Pat Ligos; Program Book design: Jack Sanders; Program Book Cover: Don Carboni; Monthly Meeting Food and Entertainment: Andy Montanari Sr., Fred Whipple Sr., Doug Clewell, Tom Belote.

Former Chairmen

Paul Baker, James Belote, Thomas Belote, Frank Lancaster Sr., Rudy Marconi, Andy Montanari Sr., and John Pierandri.

Civic Award to Maureen Kiernan

Untiring civic work for 33 years

“Maureen Kiernan was unanimously selected by the organization because of her untiring civic work during her 33 years as a Ridgefield resident,” said Jay Montanari, co-chairman of the Old Timers Association.

“A superb choice and a way to honor the town’s anniversary,” added co-chair Tom Belote who serves with Mrs. Kiernan on the town’s 300th anniversary committee.

Mrs. Kiernan has been the town treasurer since 1985 and has served as the current former treasurer of the Ridgefield VNA, League of Women Voters (30 years), the Caudatowa Garden Club, the Ballard Greenhouse, the Theatre Barn and the Graveyard Committee.

She has served on the Ridgefield Design Council, the 4th of July Fireworks Committee, Festival 2000, the Gulf War Parade and heads the “Main Street Christmas light pole garland brigade” among other civic programs.

Mrs. Kiernan and her husband Jerry have two daughters, Deirdre, who is a senior UN official stationed in Pakistan, and Sara an attorney in Washington, D.C.



Maureen Kiernan has been town treasurer for more than 20 years.

Thank you!

The Ridgefield Old Timers wishes to thank all of its many
kind and generous supporters, and especially
RIDGEFIELD BANK and CARNALL INSURANCE
which this year sponsored our banquet.

Civic Award to Dave Scott

Helping the young and the old

"There is no question that Dave Scott deserves the recognition he will get at the Old Times award dinner. His many years of Little League and Pony/Colt baseball coaching as well as his work in the preservation and restoration of the historic Scott House are perfect examples of why he deserves the Old Timer's Special Award," said First Selectman Rudy Marconi, a former chairman of the organization.

Ridgefield Architect Dave Scott coached baseball in Ridgefield during the 16 years that his three sons were in Little League-Pony/Colt programs.

He stopped when his youngest son

entered high school but found he missed baseball and began umpiring for five seasons then returned to coaching for another 14 seasons.

He also served as president of the Little League. Although retired from baseball now, Mr. Scott was drafted by the 300th Anniversary Committee to manage the town's 1880's baseball team during this year's July 5th anniversary celebration.

One of Mr. Scott's enduring gifts to the town is the work he did on preserving the 18th century Scott House (no relation) on Catoonah Street moving it to Sunset Lane where it now serves as the headquarters of the Ridgefield Historic Association.



Dave Scott at the Old Time Base Ball game at the big 300th weekend in July. You can see who won the game.

Jeanne Timpanelli, posthumous award

Preserving Ridgefield's history

As Ridgefield began its 300th anniversary celebrations the members of the Old Timers Association voted unanimously to honor a woman who dedicated 30 years of volunteer service to our town and its historic preservation.

Jeanne Timpanelli was a quiet leader and tireless organizer among volunteers working to preserve Ridgefield's history. The Ridgefield Historical Society, the Keeler Tavern Museum, the Ridgefield Garden Club, the Archives Committee, the town's Design Council and its Cemetery Committee all were beneficiaries of her energy, her organizing and her fund raising.

Born in Detroit, Michigan in 1924 Jeanne graduated from Manhattanville College in New York with a bachelor of arts degree in history. She continued her education with graduate studies at Institute Catholique de Paris and at Duquesne University. From 1952 to 1960 Jeanne was the director the American Center of the Grail, an international movement of women committed to fostering spiritual values, social justice and ecological sustainability.

In 1964 she married Dr. Alphonse Timpanelli, a professor at the Cornell University Medical College, and in 1971 the Timpanellis bought a home on Spring Valley Road. Dr. Timpanelli died in 1996.

Jeanne was a member of the Ridgefield Garden Club since 1982, serving as recording secretary, hospitality chairwoman and awards chairwoman. In 1993 the Garden Club of America issued Jeanne a special award for her work in historic preservation in Ridgefield.

Her work in town included raising money to restore the garden house and garden walls at Keeler Tavern, and organizing, cataloging and the computerization of the Keeler Tavern's records and possessions. She served on the Keeler Tavern's board of directors and was its president from 1986 to 1988, overseeing the creation of the tavern's archival room for safe document storage. She also worked on saving and catalogu-



Jeanne Timpanelli, 1924-2007

ing the Hartmann photo collection which included thousands of glass-plate negatives depicting Ridgefield life around the turn of the 20th Century.

Jeanne was a founder of the Graveyard Committee to restore the town's old cemeteries and gravestones and helped found the Ridgefield Archives Committee to create exhibits on Ridgefield's history. With the archives Committee she regularly organized displays in Town Hall, one of the most ambitious being an exhibit marking the start of World War II.

In 1999 when the Ridgefield Press first reported plans to demolish buildings on Catoonah Street, including the 18th Century Scott house, for commercial expansion Jeanne mobilized a dozen people interested

in saving that historic building. She tirelessly worked on fund raising to have the house disassembled and moved to Sunset Avenue. By 2003 and after spearheading a more than \$700,000 fund raising drive, the Scott House was re-assembled and began its new life as the home for the Ridgefield Historic Society. Jeanne, along with Bob

Tulipani, also raised the funds to create an Italian room at the Scott House honoring the Ridgefield's significant Italian immigrant community and their contributions to Ridgefield throughout the 1900's .

Jeanne Timpanelli died on September 11, 2007 leaving the town without one of its most active and dedicated volunteers.

James Principi, Posthumous Award

Baseball star, war veteran

James Principi was born in Katonah, N.Y. on August 15, 1925, the son of Nazzareno and Carola Principi. Jim was one of five siblings who included his sisters Anna and Norma and his brothers Primo and Evo. His family moved to Ridgefield and Jim attended the Ridgefield schools.

"Big Jim," as his classmates called him, was a member of Ridgefield High Schools first six-man football team and he played first base for the baseball team. He was also the star center on RHS' basketball squad and frequently scored the most points for the Orange and Black. In his junior year he was an All-League honoree.

That same year Coach Norman Eichner's RHS baseball team was the defending champion of the Fairfield County Division B League. With teammates, catcher Tony Del Biondo, pitcher Dante Brunetti, shortstop Walt Evans, third baseman Fausto Verna, Clint Reynolds and Joe Moylan alternating at second, Bill Bell in left field, Lou Ridolfi and Tony Scott alternating in right field and Ken Johnson and Jack Shean alternating in center field, RHS beat Darien 11-5 to win its second and consecutive Division B championship.

Jim sacrificed his senior year at RHS to enlist in the United States Marines at the age of 17 and served as a corporal on the U.S.S. Intrepid aircraft carrier in the Pacific Theater during World War II. During the war he saw duty in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, Saipan, Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

His ship, "Fighting 1," was the most often hit aircraft carrier by enemy planes



James Principi Sr.
Class of 1944

and torpedoes in World War II and the Intrepid was also responsible for the most enemy planes shot down in the Pacific. On November 25, 1944 Jim was on the Intrepid when it was attacked by kamikaze aircraft during the Battle for the Philippines. Two



Jim Principi scoops one up.



At bat in a game behind the old high school in 1946.

Japanese planes struck the ship but the Intrepid survived and is now docked in New York on the Hudson River and serves as an educational facility and museum. During the period following the 9/11 attack on the Trade Center towers in 2001 the Intrepid served as emergency headquarters for FBI operations.

Jim was honorably discharged in December 1945. Jim was a 59-year member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and an electrical foreman for Ducci Electrical Contractors in Torrington for 40 years.

He worked on a number of projects in Ridgefield including the Ridgefield High School, St. Mary's Church, the Union Carbide complex, Perkin-Elmer, as well as, the Danbury Hospital.

Because of his height "Big Jim" was a frequent flag bearer during town parades

and he served as a volunteer fireman and was on the town's electrical board.

Jim was an avid fan of the New York Yankees, the New York Giants and UConn and volunteered as a coach and umpire for the Little League program.

Jim was proud of living in town and he built his own house on Colonial Lane complete with a ball field on which many baseball and softball games by his children and friends.

Besides his wife for 55 years, Ann McGlynn Principi, James Principi is survived by his children: James Jr. of Wilmington, N.C., Michael of Ridgefield; Terry and husband Greg of Milwaukee, Wisc.; Tom and wife Ann-Marie of New Milford; Paul and wife Lorraine of Braintree, Mass.; Steven and wife Kim of West Roxbury, Mass.; Mark and wife Valerie of Newtown and John and wife Patty of Sandy Hook.



The 1940-41 basketball team, including Jim Principi (standing, third from left), also featured Charles Coles, second from left, front, who later became president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank; Charles Cogswell, second from right, front, who became an Army Air Force navigator, and was killed in the Pacific in 1945; second row, far left, Fausto Verna, former ROTA honoree; same row far right, Joe Moylan ROTA honoree; far right, John Tulipani, also a past honoree.



First row: B. Haeger, J. Lee, John Sturges, Joe Morganti, Glen Anderson, Doug Main, T. Salter. Second row: Renzo Falcinelli, Carl Scala, Frank Serfilippi, Fabio "Fibber" Biagioti, Duddy Mead, Andy Montanari, Tom Mitchell, Roy Deeks. Back Row: H. Lockwood, B. Roets, J. Yelinek, Charlie Ritch, Jack Cairns, J. Zemlock, B. Coles, Peter Camp, R. Almgren, Coach Allen

Frank Serfilippi, Sports Award

Charles Atlas of the Class of '48

Frank Alexander Serfilippi was born in Ridgefield on August 12, 1928 and was schooled in town from 1st to 12th grade at the combined elementary and high school on East Ridge. He was among 26 graduates in the Class of 1948 and his senior yearbook noted he was "a good athlete...built like Charles Atlas...and was always willing to help."

Known as "Serf", Frank played varsity football for three years and basketball for two, but football was where he excelled. Playing halfback in his senior year on a six-man squad that included Fibber Biagotti at quarterback, John Sturges, Joe Morganti, Glen Anderson, and fullback, Harold "Duddy" Mead with Doug Main, Carl Scala, Andy Montanari, Tom Mitchell and Renzo Falcinelli in ready reserve, the Orange and Black beat every team on their schedule except a larger Croton-Harmon squad. In the opening game of his senior year halfback Serfilippi scored the first touchdown and then scored another in a 26-0 victory over Purdy's.

In the team's second game and victory over Bedford Hills, Serf again scored the first

touchdown as he did, again, in the team's victory over Newtown.

Frank Serfilippi's interests, however, were not limited solely to athletics, he played saxophone with Lou Fossi, Dick Scala and Fiber Biagotti in the RHS' thirty-five piece orchestra directed by Dr. Robert Rowe. He was co-manager, publicity editor and sports assistant editor for the senior yearbook. Serf was a standout thespian at RHS and was a member of the dramatics and glee clubs for three years.

After high school he enlisted in the Air Force where he spent four years. Following military service he attended East Post Aero-Tech in Massachusetts and qualified as an aircraft maintenance engineer. But the pull of his extended family and a town where "you knew everyone" prevailed and Frank settled back in his home town working with his father and brother in the family construction business.

In the early 50's he married another RHS grad, Natalie Bocchini, and had a son, Stephen, and two daughters, Sally and Susan.

In the 1970's high school friend and town first Selectman Louis Fossi tapped Serf to assume the stewardship of the town's pub-

lic services department and appointed him as the town's first director. Cautious with the town's pennies ("He's the tightest with the taxpayers' money," said First Selectman Sue Manning in later years.), Serfilippi took control over public services for a rapidly growing town with outdated, and in some cases substandard roads, bringing the town's infra-structure up to date. He was also in charge of the town's garage, which maintained vehicles for the police, fire and highway departments including their special trucks and equipment. In 1991 Frank Serfilippi was



Frank Serfilippi

selected as the town's Employee of the Year. and are now star performers in their own right.

retired from public service in a town that had changed from his days as a star halfback for RHS. "You'd walk down Main Street with your father and mother-everybody you saw you knew, now you may see 10 people and only one you may know." Despite the changes of a growing town, Frank and Natalie remain in town at the Serfilippi complex and homestead on South Olmstead Lane. His daughter Susan and son-in-law Tom Weeks and grandchildren Tommy Jr. and Molly live next door. Both Molly and Tommy

Jr. acquired Frank's aptitude for music and the saxophone

Paul Vaughn, Sports Award

The football speedster

Paul Vaughn attended the Ridgefield High beginning in 1949 and graduated with the Class of '53. While attending RHS, Paul lived on Simpaug Turnpike in West Redding. Despite his Redding connection, "Arky," as Paul was known by his classmates according to the 1953 RHS Yearbook, was "one of Ridgefield High's best sportsmen." The yearbook noted that he was "fast on the football field (and heavy on the accelerator of his 'Hot Chevy')."

Paul played varsity baseball on a team that in his senior year included Tony Deluca, Phil Ritch, Jack Coffey, John Brady, Jack Cartin, Ed Zandri, Jack Coffey and Don Scott among others. He also played varsity basketball on the team coached by Charles Crouchley.

But it was varsity football

where Arky made his mark as a speedster. His senior year team, coached by Bob Allen, included Bob Scala, Bob Morganti, Jack Coffey, Fred Brown, Rudy Pancotti, Bob Hall, Roy Deeks, John Brady, Jack Cartin, Bob Mannion, Paul Venus, Paul Van Wagner, Phil Ritch, Fred Romeo, Bob Stolle, Don Cairns, Dave Scott, Fred Ferry and Ian Roy.



Paul Vaughn

After high school, Paul began working on the Shepaug Dam and later went West with his brother and began work on the Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona. When he returned to Ridgefield he began work as a driller for Caisson Wells.

In 1956, Paul was drafted in the United States Army. Sergeant Vaughn served in the military for five years. He was an MP in Korea in the 7th Division's Military Police and later served as a stock-



First row: Bob Scala, Joe Coffey, Frank Brown, Rudy Pancotti, Bill Hall, Roger Deeks Paul Vaughn; Second row: Bob Morganti, John Brady, Frank Shaw, Jack Cartin, Bob Manion, Paul Venus; Third row: Paul Van Wagner, Philip Ritch, Fred Romeo, Bob Stolle, Donald Cairns, Donald Scott, Fred Ferry, and Ian Roy .

ade guard at Fort Devens, Mass. After his conscription ended Paul reenlisted for three years and went to Jump School and became an airborne soldier. In addition to his jumps he served as a helicopter machine-gunner and helicopter mechanic at Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

In total, Paul built an impressive total of over 500 civilian and military jumps (including a memorable fixed-wing water jump from 7,000 feet into Great Pond on "Francis Martin Day").

Paul met and married a lovely British woman named Valerie. They had two children together. Paul built the house that his children grew up in with his own hands on nights and weekends after working his day job.

His son, Michael, age 40 is a web-designer and computer programmer and his daughter, Karen, age 36, is a high school Spanish teacher in New Milford. Paul now lives in Kent, Connecticut with his diabetic cat, Fat Albert.



Seated: Paul Vaughn, Donald Scott, Bob Stolle, Fred Romeo, Jack Coffey, David Scofiled, John Brady, Jack Cartin, Philippi Ritch, Ed Zandri; Standing: Jim Carboni, Dick Bellagamba, Ron or Don Carboni, Tom Foley, Ron or Don Carboni, Joe Coffey, Fran Warner, Coach Allen

Richard Lavatori, Sports Award

A star on the court and fairways

Richard "Lavy" Lavatori was a member of the RHS class of 1961. He starred on the basketball court for all four of his high school years. He worked for nine years at the Ridgefield Boys Club under Ralph Crouchley.

After graduating from Norwalk Community College (the first graduating class of a Connecticut Community College) he finished his education at Eastern Connecticut State University where he was a member of the golf team for 3 years and played number one during his last season and was also team captain.

He has been teaching History and Economics in the Vernon, CT school system for 35 years and was a basketball coach at Rockville High School in Vernon for 8 years. Lavy

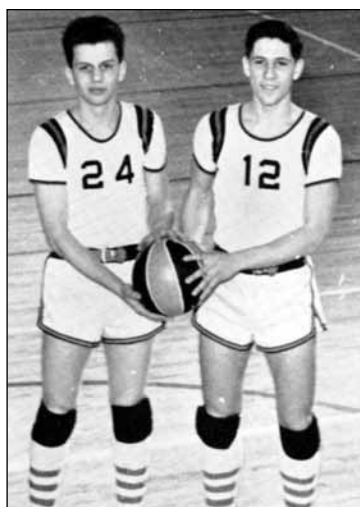


Richard "Lavy" Lavatori

and his wife of 40 years, Mary, reside in Manchester. They have 3 daughters, Marlie McManus, Marianne Lavatori and Megan Battaglia and a son Matthew, a former al state soccer player.

His teammates included Tom Fossi, Will Warner and Jack O'Keeffe. He cites the second New Milford game in his junior year as special as each team was fighting for a place in the state tournament, a game won by RHS. He is the proud owner of a golf double eagle (a two on a par 5) that he recorded at the Cedar Knob Golf Course in Somers, Conn. He can also be proud that a former stu-

dent, ex-governor of Virginia Mark Warner, delivered the keynote address at the recent Democratic National Convention.



Standing in team shot, Bjorn Larson, Bob Howe, Phil Hirsch, Harlan Brooks, coach Bob Mark; kneeling, co-captains Tommy Fossi and Richard Lavatori, also in right photo.



Judy Laslo is on the far right, shooting.

Judy Laslo, Sports Award

She got a hit off the fastest pitcher

Judy Laslo was born in Stamford, but raised in Ridgefield. A 1967 RHS graduate, she played just about every sport that was available to women in that era.

Although she says basketball was her favorite sport in high school, she also played tennis, softball, field hockey, and volleyball. After high school she bowled on leagues in Ridgefield and Danbury and was a member of many championship squads.

Summer was for softball and Judy played for



Judy Laslo

many years in the Danbury Women's League.

She was chosen from among all the teams in the league to represent Danbury in a game against the Queen and Her Court, a four woman team that starred Rosie Beard Black a pitcher that was reputed to have been the fastest pitcher in the world, having stuck out many major league baseball players. It was considered an amazing feat to get a hit off of her, Judy Laslo was one of the few who succeeded, getting a base hit off of Ms. Black's fastball.

Judy resides in Danbury, she worked for Risdon Manufacturing Corp. for thirty years, starting at the bottom and working her way up to supervisor before her retirement in 2004.

For the past twelve years she has devoted

her spare time to genealogy. She belongs to several genealogy associations as well as local genealogy groups in the area. Judy says her own family roots have been very interesting and its amazing to find out who you may be related to.

Kevin Rowe, Posthumous Sports Award

Stalwart back on champion teams

Kevin Rowe was born in Greenwich and moved to Ridgefield at age eight. He attended St. Mary's School where he was a member of the basketball team. He played Pop Warner football and Little League baseball in Ridgefield.

He was a member of the Ridgefield High School class of 1968. Kevin was an outfielder and pitcher on the baseball team, but he made his claim to fame at RHS on the gridiron. He played running back and defensive safety. He was described by former teammate Bob Petrini as a "stalwart on both offense and defense". He was a member



Kevin Rowe, 1950-2007

of the WCC champion 1966 and 1967 Tiger football team. The 1967 team was the only undefeated team in school history. During his senior season he scored 9 touchdowns in an eight game season. He scored 3 touchdowns in a 40 to 8 victory over Immaculate High School, 2 touchdowns in a 27 to 6 victory over Wilton High School and a 2 touchdowns in the perfect season finale, a 41 to victory over Colby High School. He was named WCC All Conference for his outstanding senior season. He attended Bridgeport University on a football scholarship. He played for



The 1967 football team, with Kevin Rowe in the front row, left, #30.



Kevin Rowe's basketball team.



Standing: John Pierandri, Steve Martin, unknown, John Stolle, Greg Miner, Tom Stolle, Frankie Lancaster, Jimmy Warner; kneeling Tom Santini, Kevin Rowe, Jimmy Tarsi

2 seasons, then left to enter the business world. He was a well known restaurateur, owning several different establishments in this area. He then began a second career as a building contractor. Kevin Rowe died Feb. 9, 2007, at his home surrounded by his family. He was 56 years old.

How can you help future students?

Contribute to the Old Timers scholarship fund.
See Page 25.



Craig Saltzgaber was captain and quarterback of the 1981 football team.

Craig Saltzgaber, Sports Award

Star for Tigers and Big Green

Craig Saltzgaber moved to Ridgefield at the age of three. He grew up on North Valley Road and was a member of the RHS class of 1982. He was the quarterback and the kicker on 1981 Tiger football team and was also captain of the squad.

Craig was named All Area, All FCIAC and second team All Atate after the 1981 season. He also played baseball and was the starting shortstop on the RHS 1982 state semifinalist baseball team.

He continued his athletic career at Dartmouth College, where he received his B.A. in Government and Economics in 1986. He received his MBA from New York University in 1988, majoring in finance.

While at Dartmouth Craig was the starting kicker on the football team from 1983 to



Craig Saltzgaber

1985. He was named second team All Ivy in 1983, honorable mention All Ivy in 1984 and first team All Ivy and A.P. All East and honorable mention A.P. All American in 1985. At that time he set the record for the game, season and career at Dartmouth and also the longest modern day field goal.

Craig and his wife Kelly (also a Dartmouth and NYU grad) just celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. They live in Weston with their children, Trammel and Charlotte.

He had been working in finance since 1986, a career that is temporarily on hold as

he is on, in his own words, a second round of Mr. Mom duty. Craig enjoys golf, a 7 handicapper, cooking and coaching little league.

Where are all the ads?

Thanks to Ridgefield Bank and Carnall Insurance, our banquet sponsors, we did not need to ask all our loyal advertisers from years past to support us again this year. However, we still appreciate their years of help.



The Ridgefield High School hockey team in 1974.

Chip Wilson, Sports Award

A three-sport standout

Charles Francis “Chip” Wilson is a second generation ROTA honoree. His father, Hank, was honored posthumously in 2006 for his co-founding of the not-for-profit Ridgefield Athletic Corp., which built the Ridgefield skating rink on Prospect Ridge, as well as, his work on behalf of Ridgefield’s youth hockey programs, the Little League, the Red Raiders and the Lions Club of which he was president.

Chip played varsity football, hockey and track throughout high school. He was selected for the All FCIAC football squad in his senior year.

In track Chip ran the relay but discus was where he excelled. Chip won the All State discus award. Chip and Rick Rudolf were the offensive ends on Coach Michael Oshan’s 1974 varsity football squad. He was also a defensive lineman. Other members of the squad included Guy Rossini, Jay Montanari, Ed Scala, Joe Mulvaney,

Marc Tidgwell, Bob Landers, Larry Webb, Tom Francomano, Jeff Hartfield, Peter Frattini, George MacAteer, Dana Jenkins, Peter Jongbloed, Gary and Peter Bellagamba, Gary Kerns, Peter Johnson, John Scott, Ray Duelfer and Kevin Piltz. In his senior year he was offered an athletic scholarship to play football at UConn.



Chip Wilson

In varsity hockey Chip played wing and defense on a team that included Greg Hutchings, Woody Dionne, John Scala, Reed Whipple, Ken Almgren, Peter MacLellan, Steve Weeks, Bob Smart, Ed Stevenson, Greg and Gary Bechard, Russ Homes, John Gibbons, Marc Tidgwell, Bob Garty, Steve Van Kurin.

Chip is the owner of the great White Painting Company and resides with his wife Christine and sons Charlie, Henry, and William in Madison, Conn.

Chip has ceased playing contact sports and is now an avid golfer and tennis player.

Meaghan Windisch and Peter Schielke

The ROTA Scholarship Winners

When the Ridgefield Old Timers Association was organized in 1992 one of its primary goals was to honor athletes, scholars and notable Ridgefielders of the past by establishing a scholarship endowment for RHS graduates of the future. One year after our first Old Timers' banquet at the Italian American Club Thomas Gareau was awarded the first ROTA stipend for college study.

In 1997 the association began awarding two stipends, one to a senior girl and another to a senior boy. Since then a number of deserving RHS graduating seniors received the association's annual scholarship awards.

In awarding our new, four-year-scholarships to Meaghan Windisch and Peter Schielke, the Old Timers continue their tradition in honoring scholar athletes who are deserving and have contributed greatly to our community.

• • •

Meaghan Windisch played basketball throughout her four years at Ridgefield High. She was captain of the junior varsity basketball squad in her freshman and sophomore years and played varsity in her junior and senior years.

Her varsity team made it to the state playoffs both years. Meaghan was named to the All-Tournament basketball team for the Masuk Holiday Classic and was the recipient of the Scholar-Athlete Award.

Meaghan played RHS soccer for four years and was team captain in her senior year. Her team made it to the League and State playoffs in her junior and senior years.

She also played junior varsity softball in her freshman and sophomore years but stopped to pursue her interest in golfing.

She was a member of the RHS Golf team which made it to the state championships.

Meaghan maintained a 3.5 GPA at RHS.

Her extracurricular activities included coaching elementary school basketball and membership on the RHS Captain's Council.

She participated in Relay for Life and worked on the Youth Council. Her after-school employment included babysitting, refereeing soccer games and waitressing.

Meaghan is attending Arizona State University and is pursuing a major in special education.

• • •

Peter Schielke played youth baseball and soccer at a young age and went on to play football, basketball and lacrosse at Ridgefield High.

He played junior varsity and varsity football and made the RHS varsity lacrosse team in his freshman year. He was captain of the team in his senior year. Peter was named to the All-FCIAC lacrosse team for three years.

Peter served as his class president and was elected Student Body President in his senior year.

His extra-curricular activities included coaching youth basketball and lacrosse and participating in Safe-Rides and DARE.

Peter maintained a 3.2 GPA at RHS and was the recipient of the Excellence in Service to the School award in 2007 and Excellence in Service to the Class award in 2008.

In both his freshman and sophomore years Peter was an invitee to the National Student Leadership Conference.

In addition to academics, athletics and extracurricular activities Peter worked after school and during summers at Chez Leonard, the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club, Ridgefield Flowers and at the Getty gas station. Peter is attending Merrimack College where he is a political science major.

The three high schools



In 1882 governor Phineas C. Lounsbury donated the land and money to building a new Bailey Avenue grammar school (top). Soon, the premises became inadequate and Dr. William H. Allee donated land for the East Ridge School, opened in 1915. One year later the town voted to establish a Hamilton High School in the old building on Bailey Avenue. The school had no gym; town hall was used for basketball. The growth of the secondary enrollment made it necessary to move the high school to the East Ridge

School in 1926. The school was remodeled in 1925 and 1939 and additions built in 1957 and 1968. In 1952 the Veteran Park School was built as an elementary school. Grades K-3 were moved to there and later, and later schools meant all elementary grades could move out of East Ridge. By the late 1960s, East Ridge was overcrowded again and the current RHS (bottom) was opened in 1972.—T.B.



Honoring Ridgefielders since 1992

More than 15 years ago, a group of friends got together with the idea of forming an old timers group for Ridgefield. Paul Banker, Julie Petrini, John Tulipani, and Joe Brunetti met at a dinner. They decided to model the new organization after old timers groups in Danbury and Norwalk, which had already honored several Ridgefield athletes over the years.

The original purpose of the new organization 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. The organizers held several meetings and drew in 18 other supporters. They elected a board of officers with Paul Baker as the first chairman. Walt Evans was elected treasurer, a position he still holds and Julie Petrini was the first secretary.

The Ridgefield Old Timers Association began to have awards banquets in October 1992.

Seven Ridgefielders were selected to be the honorees and the first Special Award went to Richard E. Venus. The first scholarship recipient was Thomas B. Gareau. He had been accepted at the University of Virginia.

The guest speaker at the first banquet was Spec Shea, a pitcher for the New York Yankees.

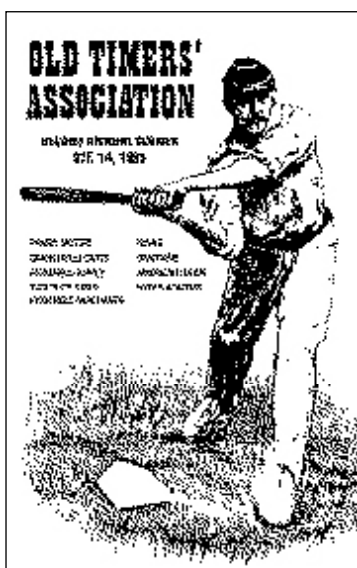
The advertisement book for that first gathering was only 20 pages, cover to cover. The event was a success and money was put into a scholarship fund. The award of the scholarship to a female Ridgefield High School graduate occurred in 1996. Janine Murphy was involved in three sports and many civic endeavors. A year later, it was decided to annually award scholarships to both male

and female recipients, and the winners in 1997 were Charles Bliss and Kerry Bennett. The amount of the scholarships has grown over the years as a result of the advertising placed in this book, as well as other fundraising efforts — especially the annual golf outing and pig roast, which takes place in June at the Ridgefield Golf Course.

In the association's second year, it introduced the Civic Award, and the first recipient was Bob Tulipani, who is a very active club member to this day. The next year, Beth Yanity became the first female recipient of the Civic Award. In 1999, Sandy Pierandri Warner became the first female member of the board of directors, she was also the association's third secretary.

The motivational guest speakers, once thought necessary for a good event, began to make the banquets stretch late into the evening. Members and guests wished to hear more from the award winners. After the event ran until 11:10 p.m. in 1999, the association decided to drop the guest speakers and to feature the honorees, as well as the emcee, often founder Paul Baker, who had a long career as a radio and television broadcaster.

The Ridgefield Old Timers Association has continued to meet annually in October to honor athletes and others, and to award scholarship. In 2006, the bylaws were updated to allow Ridgefield residents who have lived here at least 25 years to become members. Before this, members had to be natives and/or graduates of Ridgefield High School. And to paraphrase the United States Marine Corps, "we are always looking for a few, very good, hard-working new members."



Cover from 1992 Old Timers banquet



Pat Scott

Richard Ligi
1947-2008

To a good friend and native son.
Richie, we will miss you.

The Ridgefield Old Timers

Past Sports Awards

1992

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

2000

Glen Anderson, Bill Elliot, Booker Jackson, Tom Mitchell

1993

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

2001

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

1994

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

2002

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

1995

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

2003

Aldo Biagotti, Chip Bliss, Bob Carboni, John Forcelli, Jim Mullen, Vince Paccadolmi, Fred Romeo

1996

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

2004

Faust Verna, Lou Bellagamba, Chip Salvestrini, Alley Frulla, Rudy Marconi, Jim Tulipani and the 1960 CYO Girls Championship Basketball Team

1997

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

2005

Tom Cesca, Tom Santini, Richard Polverari, Bob Pambianchi, Greg Hutchings, Carol Torcellini, Bill Polverari, Renzo Falcinelli, Jimmy Bacchiochi

1998

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

2006

Larry Bossidy, Jr., Isabel Carporale, Frank Lancaster, Jr., Carl Scala, John Stolle, Dave Sturges

1999

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

2007

Dave Landers, Jay Contessa, Chip Dean, John Devendorf, Marie Frulla, Steve Martin, Alan Wallace

Past Posthumous Awards

1994

Ralph Crouchley, Kip Holleran, Francis Martin

1995

Chuck Walter, 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

2005

Charlie Ritch

2006

Roy Cogswell, Hank Wilson

2007

Tony Del Biondo

Past Civic Awards

1992

Richard Venus

1993

Bob Tulipani

1994

Beth Yanity

1995

Aldo Tulipani

1996

Ferdinand Bedini

1997

Matty Pambianchi Family

1998

Dr. Peter Yanity

1999

Charles Coles

2000

Kitty Rosa

2001

Lewis Finch

2002

Edith Meffly

2003

Kay Ables

2004

Chuck Dean

2005

Doug Main, Renee Franks

2006

Jack Sanders

2007

The Ancona Family

Help the Old Timers help our students

Please make a contribution to our scholarship fund.
Any amount is appreciated, and will assist deserving
Ridgefield High School graduates in the future.

...

Send your tax-deductible gift to:
ROTA Scholarship Fund
c/o Chip Bliss, ROTA treasurer,
246 Federal Road
Brookfield CT 06804

...

Thank you!

**Ridgefield Bank is proud to support the
Ridgefield Old Timers Association**

**Congratulations to the
Award Recipients and Honorees:**

Maureen Kiernan
Judy Laslo
Richard Lavatori
James Principi
Kevin Rowe
Craig Saltzgaber
Peter Schielke
Dave Scott
Frank Serfilippi
Jeanne Timpanelli
Paul Vaughn
Charles Wilson
Meaghan Windisch

*Your Friends at Ridgefield Bank
& Carnall Insurance, Inc.*

Ridgefield Bank
A MEMBER OF RIVERBANK GROUP

Member FDIC

CARNALL INSURANCE, INC.
A Fairfield County Bank Company