

RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS ASSOCIATION



fellowship and scholarship



21th Annual Dinner
Oct. 20, 2012

A message from the president

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people and local businesses for sponsoring this program as well as those contributing to our Silent Auction. Without your help this program and this evening would not be possible.

Congratulations to tonight's honorees and their families; including our two scholarship winners from the Ridgefield High School graduating class of 2012; Melissa Hutchings and Eric Scala. Missy and Eric are our 39th and 40th scholarship winners.

The purpose of this dinner is to honor those Ridgefielders for their past accomplishments on the athletic field along with honoring Ridgefielder's who have dedicated countless hours for the benefit of our town. This dinner also helps us to raise money to fund our scholarships. We are one to of the few organizations which give our scholarship recipients a check for all four years of their undergraduate studies.

I would like to thank the members of the Ridgefield Old Timers Association for their continued hard work; a special thanks to Gregg Hutchings, Tom Belote, George Besse, Doug Clewell, Jack O'Keefe, Barb Serfilippi, Dick Scala, Sandy Mosiello, Pat Ligos, Mark Lionetti, Linda Carboni and Reed Whipple for their help putting this night together.

I would like to give special recognition to George Hanlon, our former president for the past 3 years; for all his guidance this past year; and to Chip Bliss who is stepping down as treasurer; a position he has held for many years. Chip will be moving to North Carolina.

New this year at the dinner is a Silent Auction organized by Linda Carboni. Please take a look at the prizes displayed on the tables in the hallway. We are also excited about our new website put together by Jack Alexander and Gregg Hutchings. Please visit the site when you have a chance at www.RidgefieldOldTimers.org

Thank you all for coming out tonight to support a great cause. I hope you enjoy the evening.

Mark Fitzgerald
President, ROTA

The 21th annual
Ridgefield Old Timers dinner
 Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012

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Who's in charge of the Old Timers?

The Officers

Mark Fitzgerald, chairman; Gregg Hutchings & Reed Whipple, vice chairmen;
 Chip Bliss, treasurer.

2012 Committees

Awards Dinner Committee: George Besse, Pat Ligos; **Publicity/Program and Biographies:** Tom Belote; **Scholarship Committee:** Dick Scala, Barbara Serfilippi, Sandy Mosiello; **Awards Committee:** Sandy Mosiello, Tom Belote, Chip Bliss, Gregg Hutchings, and Mark Fitzgerald

Former Chairmen

Paul Baker, James Belote, Tom Belote, George Hanlon, Frank Lancaster Sr., Rudy Marconi, Andy Montanari Sr., Jay Montanari, John Pierandri.

Civic Award: Martha and Dave Campbell

A ceaseless effort to make Ridgefield a better community

The Ridgefield Old Timers Association is proud to honor Martha and David Campbell tonight with our annual Civic Award in recognition their sustained volunteer work for various organizations and town agencies during the past 41 years.

The Campbells moved to Ridgefield in 1971 and have ceaselessly provided their time and effort to make Ridgefield a better community.

Martha Campbell is perhaps best known for her work with the Ridgefield Federated Women's Club, the Ridgefield Visiting Nurses Association, the Keeler Tavern, the Red Cross, the Ridgefield Youth Orchestra, the Recreation Center, the Community Center as well as youth sports around town. Martha was also a member of the Board of Education and the Ridgefield Housing Authority.

She has been a volunteer at the Ridgefield congregate housing and was co-president of the Branchville Elementary School PTSA and East Ridge Junior High School PTSA. She has been honored by the Red Cross and, with her husband David, in 2004 was named the Ridgefield Rotary Club Citizen of the Year.

David Campbell served for many years on the Ridgefield Parks and Recreation Commission and specifically when the Parks & Recreation Department was attempting to get funding to provide services wanted by the public and field space



Martha and Dave Campbell

for the town's quickly expanding athletic program. He served as the chairman of the budget committee, developing a strong business plan and policy to make the department work and he was successful in fighting for funding to improve the conditions of the athletic fields and to develop new ones around town.

David also was extremely involved as a board member and coach for the Ridgefield Little League, the Pony-Colt and the Pop Warner football programs. David has also served as a volunteer for the PTA and a member of the town Pension Committee, which he chaired for 25 years.

David is a member of the Ridgefield Symphony Foundation Board and is a volunteer teacher of investment classes at Founder's Hall.

The Campbells have a son, Doug, and two daughters, Heather and Betsy, and continue to live and volunteer their time in Ridgefield.

Special Award: Joseph Consentino

On the field and behind the screen

The Ridgefield Old Timers Association would like to express our thanks to the assistance and efforts Joseph Consentino has given over the years to American Legion baseball in Ridgefield, as well as for his work in the Ridgefield Playhouse Film Society.

We also wish to recognize him for his excellence and achievement in the area of documentary film making.

Joseph Consentino has had three great passions in his life: his life partner Sandra Consentino, documentary film-making, and baseball.

Joseph received his bachelor's degree in journalism from Sant John's University and was the recipient of the Frank J. Hause Scholarship at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. At St. John's he played on the freshman basketball team and three years on the varsity baseball team.

Joseph played professional baseball for the Boston Red Sox organization and in 1994 founded the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL). He is currently active on the Board of Trustees. The NECBL has sent more than 1,200 alumni to professional baseball and has had more than 20 former players in major league baseball.

In 2004 Joseph became a founder of the Ridgefield Playhouse Film Society and became its Artistic Director. He is still active in that society.

Joseph has been the recipient of numerous television Emmy, ACE, Cine Golden Eagle, and Telly awards. For years he and Sandra produced network and cable television documentary specials and have received every major award in American television and international festivals.

Among the Cosentino's numerous



Joseph Consentino

award-winning television documentaries are TNT's "Muhammad Ali: The Whole Story"; "Family Values, The Mob and The Movies" and the History Channel's award-winning mini-series, "Mouthpiece: Voice of the Accused." In 1991 their PBS documentary, "Days of Rage: The Young Palestinians" drew the largest audience in the history of American public television. In October 2007, one of their latest films, "Bagdad Diary," a two-hour documentary on the Iraqi wars and its aftermath, was broadcast on the History Channel.

Sports Award: George R. Mulvaney, Class of 1960

Tough as nails on the gridiron

George Mulvaney is a native Ridgefielder who attended Ridgefield public schools from pre-school and kindergarten at the nursery school on Bailey Avenue to elementary school, junior high and high school at the East Ridge School.

George played three sports, football, baseball and basketball, throughout his high school years at RHS. George was an excellent infielder and a tough-as-nails football player.

George's father, Robert Mulvaney, and his sister, Mary Fran (RHS class of 1961) were earlier recipients of our ROTA awards.

After graduation from Ridgefield High, George attended and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Dayton in 1963. He went on to Fairfield University and received his Master of Arts.

George taught at Byron's Western



George Mulvaney

Middle School in Greenwich from 1964 through 1968 and in Glens Falls, New York from 1968 through 2001. In addition to teaching, George coached girls' sports including cross-country and softball.

George married fellow Ridgefielder, Ellen Tower, who grew up on Peaceable Street and graduated from Colby College in 1963.

George and Ellen raised three daughters, Michelle, Kathleen and Elizabeth, in the village of Argyle, New York (located in Washington County near the Vermont border).

George served 15 years as the mayor of Argyle. Just as George's parents raised vegetables and berries at their home in Ridgefield, George and Ellen do so in Argyle. They once sold their produce at their farm stand, but now donate produce which is in excess of their needs.



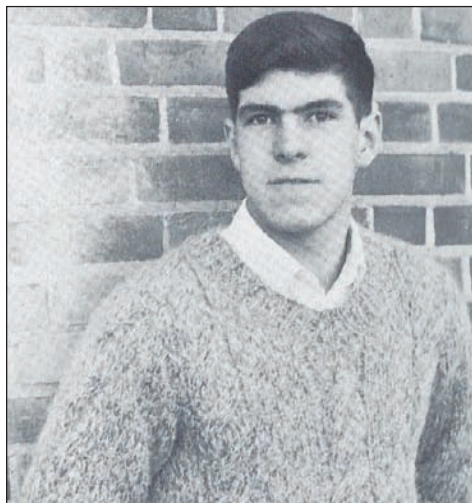
George is #38, fourth from left in front row.

Sports Award: Walt Valentine, Class of 1967

Ace hurler for undefeated Tigers

Walt Valentine moved to Ridgefield in 1959. He first attended St. Mary's School and then entered the Ridgefield public school system. Walt participated in every youth sport available in town. He played Little League and was on the Ridgefield Babe Ruth All-Star teams every year, including 1960-63 when he played Babe Ruth ball against the Stamford team that included Bobby Valentine. Walt was a member of Dr. Peter Yanity's Pop Warner football teams in 1961 and 1962 and played against Calvin Murphy of Norwalk.

At RHS Walt was the pitcher for the 1966 and 1967 undefeated baseball teams. He was selected to the All-Conference first team in his senior year. Walt did not lose a game that he pitched until his last game when RHS played in the State Tournament quarter finals. He accumulated a record of 16-0 in his junior and senior years and

**Walt Valentine**

pitched 4 shut outs in his senior year, maintaining an ERA of less than 1.00.

Walt played center in the RHS conference championship winning football team in his senior year. The RHS squad won every game until their final game of the season against New Canaan.

Walt went on to play college baseball at Bradley University and Western Connecticut State. He was asked to try out with the New York Yankees in 1968 but developed arm trouble and was unable to pitch after developing serious tendon problems-at that point all of Walt's dreams to continue on professionally were shattered.

After college Walt accepted a position with Hertz Truck leasing and moved to San Francisco. He was recruited by ITEL Container in 1977 and worked with them as Vice President of Sales and Marketing until 1991 when the company was acquired by GE. After ITEL he was asked to start a competitive leasing company by Carlisle Companies. As president he saw this company grow and become the largest refrigerated container leasing company in the country.

**Walt is standing on the right.****Continued on next page**

Walt is now the President and minority shareholder of Kleer Lumber of Westfield, Massachusetts, a manufacturing company that produces and sells PVC trim boards and PVC decking to the building industry throughout North America.

Walt has one daughter who graduated from RHS and Boston College. She went on to Harvard for her masters and is now at the University of Texas completing her PhD. Studies. Walt lives on Dowling Drive and plans to stay in town.

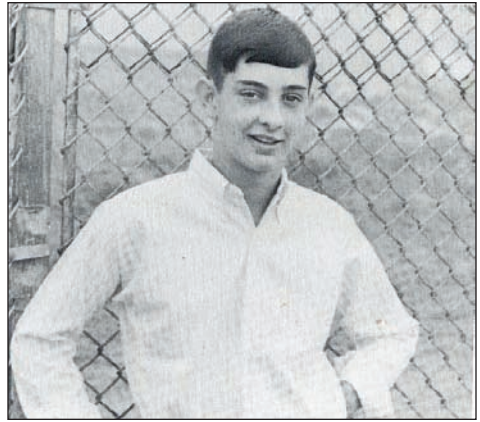
Sports Award: Anthony James Forcelli, Class of 1967

A two-sport star becomes a coach

Tony Forcelli is a native of Ridgefield. His paternal and maternal grandparents both moved to Ridgefield in the early 1920's. Tony's father was a past ROTA award recipient. Tony was active in Ridgefield youth sports from his earliest years. He was a member of the first Ridgefield Little League team to play in a national tournament. He played Pop Warner football and was a member of both the Townies and Boys Club basketball teams.

In his senior year at RHS he was All WCC second baseman and was second team All WCC basketball guard. He was 7th man on the State semifinal Class B basketball team and shortstop for the American Legion baseball team between 1967 and 1969.

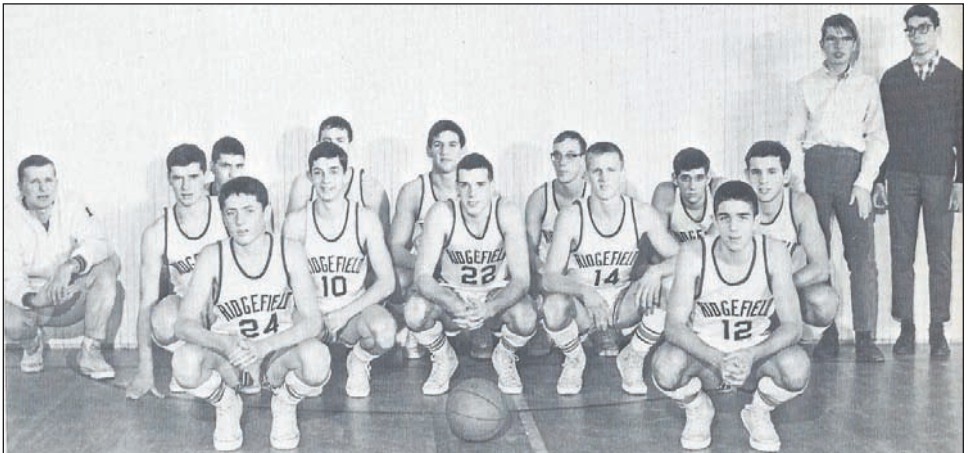
Tony went on to Assumption College



Tony Forcelli

in Worcester, Massachusetts and started at guard in half the Assumption College

Continued on next page



Tony is #10, second row, second from left.

basketball games in his freshman team. He played baseball in all four years of college and was the starting third baseman in his junior and senior years.

He was Assumption's leading hitter in his junior year and the second leading batter in his senior year. Tony also played defensive back on Assumption's football team returning kickoff and punts.

After college Tony played baseball for Scalzi in the Stamford Twilight League and led the league in batting in 1971.

He was invited to play for the Red Sox rookie league and played for the Ridgefield Cubs through 1976. He coached RHS basketball and freshman baseball from 1982

to 1987.

Tony was the assistant baseball coach for Abbott Tech High School from 2003 to 2005 and was the General Manager of the Ridgefield American Legion Post 78 baseball squad from 2000 to 2007. He coached the Junior Legion team from 2007 to 2010, including the State Championship team of 2009. He has been coaching the Senior Ridgefield American Legion Post team since 2010.

Tony is married to Jeanette (Vitali) Forcelli. They have three children: Dr. Patrick Forcelli, Robin Matos and Timothy Forcelli. Tony and Jeanette reside in Ridgefield on Old Branchville Road.

Sports Award: Michael Conroy, Class of 1973

A tough tackle and a fine cop

Mike Conroy is a native Ridgefielder who grew up attending our public schools. Although he participated in Little League baseball in town, playing for the Eagles, Mike realized early on that football, not baseball, was his game. Like most RHS football players, Mike played on the Ridgefield Red Raiders Pop Warner football team. The Raiders were then coached by Frank Lancaster (one of the founding members of the Ridgefield Old Timers Association) and Bob Bolander.

A three year, two way starter for the RHS Tigers, at offensive center and defen-

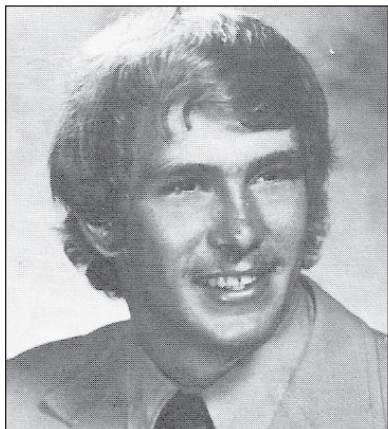


Mike Conroy on the field.

sive tackle, Mike was named to the Danbury News Times All Area Team in his junior and senior years. His RHS awards included being named the starting center for the West squad in the annual Nutmeg Bowl, Connecticut's All Star game. His teammates on the RHS squad included past ROTA awardees: Chip Dean, Chip Salvestrini, Mickey Principi, Steve Lancaster and Chip Wilson. Other mem-

bers of the team included: Steve Scala, Chris Boucher, Doug Wood, Jim Fitzgerald and Eric Wilson.

Continued on next page



Mike Conroy

After graduating from RHS, Mike attended Yankton College where he was reunited with one of his former high school teammates and past ROTA awardee, Chip Salvestrini. Mike later transferred to Western Connecticut State College and started as center for the Colonials.

Mike had been the owner and operator of the Conroy Tree Service for more than 20 years. In 2001 he was hired as a police officer by the town of Bethel. While at the Police Academy he received the "Taskowski Excellence in Training Award," which is given to the trainee who displays the highest overall performance in each of the training programs.

Mike has lived with his wife, Karen, in Redding since 1981. They have two daughters, Sarah and Katie.

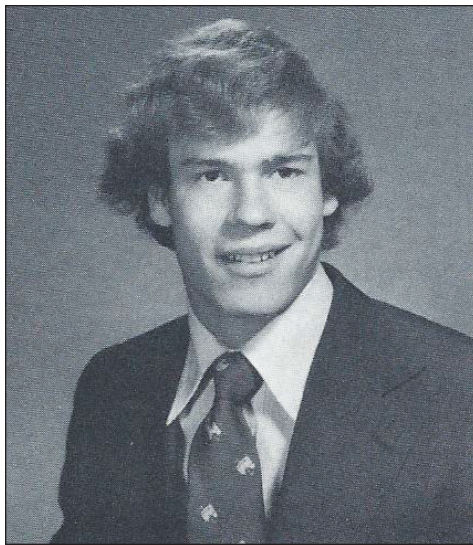
Sports Award: Phil O'Brien, Class of 1977

A scholar and a skier

The O'Brien family moved to Ridgefield in 1966 and Phil grew up on Mimosa Circle playing every sport a kid could play on the ball field and courts of Mimosa. When fall was over he would put away his football cleats and put on his basketball sneakers. In the spring his ball and bat came out. Phil has said that he and his brother, Allen, could always find enough guys to get some kind of game going as the neighborhood was filled with big families such as the Bossidy's, Briody's, Browne's and Slaughters.

Phil was a good all around athlete as a youngster. During his eighth grade year in Pop Warner football, he was coached by ROTA founding member and award recipient, Frank Lancaster Sr. He played Little League baseball and Townies basketball. His love for competition helped him excel.

During his high school years Phil played football and was a skier. He played four years of football at RHS and earned a varsity letter from his sophomore to senior years. He was elected captain by his teammates in his senior year. Many of his lifelong friends were teammates including Joe Mulvaney, Dave Kiley, Brian Tierney and



Phil O'Brien

Paul Healey, to name a few. Phil earned All-FCIAC and All Area Danbury News Times honors as outside linebacker in his senior year. Phil was also named Scholar Athlete by the Connecticut Football Coaches organization, an honor given to



Phil's football team; he's #88, first on the left in the top row.

only a handful of scholar/athletes each year.

His abilities on the football field also caught the eyes of college coaches and scouts. After graduation from RHS, Phil attended Colgate University and played football for the Raiders. His hard work on the field paid off and he started getting playing time at linebacker in his sophomore year. He then became a starter for the Raiders.

Phil excelled in many team sports and had a love for most competitive games. However, his passion in life is skiing. He has been a skier, both on snow and water, his entire life. He used his passion for the sport to become one of the most dominate ski racers in the state and in New England during his four years at RHS. He was captain of the Ridgefield team in his senior year. Phil continued competitive skiing at

Colgate where he also became captain of the ski team and earned All East honors for his times on the slopes.

Phil graduated from Colgate with a bachelor's degree in economics in 1981.

Phil continued to stay involved in sports after graduation. He has coached Little League baseball and youth football in Ridgefield. He skies during the winter, both for pleasure and competitively, and coaches an elite racing team at Catamount ski area.

Phil has lived in Ridgefield since graduating from Colgate and is the owner of the O'Brien Painting Company. He and his wife Polly have 3 sons, Kevin (St. Michaels College), Connor (Castleton State) and Dillon (UConn), who was last year's male ROTA scholarship recipient. All three of the boys are on their college ski teams.

Thank you!

The Ridgefield Old Timers wishes to thank all of its many kind and generous supporters, and especially

FAIRFIELD COUNTY BANK

which again this year sponsored our banquet.

The Ridgefield High School Tiger Soccer Booster Club

Congratulates

Terry Hughes

On his induction to the

Ridgefield Old Timers



A well-deserved recognition, not only for your own personal accomplishments, but for your devotion to the youth of the town of Ridgefield through both community and athletics.

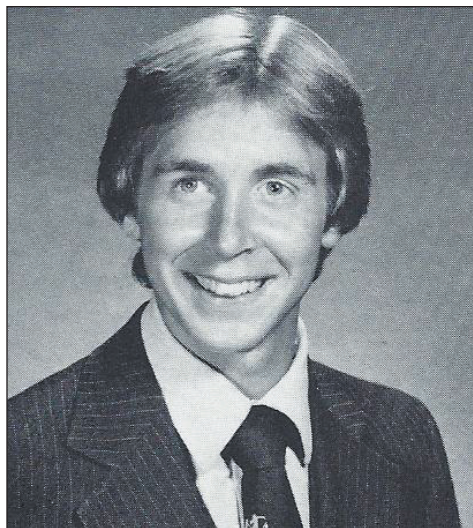
CONGRATULATIONS!

Sports Award: Terence Hughes, Class of 1981

Leader on the field and in the clubs

Terry Hughes grew up in Ridgefield playing youth sports and soccer and ice hockey at RHS. Terry was an original member of the Ridgefield youth soccer team that preceded the formation of SCOR. He won the annual Boys Club Ping Pong and paddle tournaments for many years and played for Nina's Little League team under team manager David Scott when Nina's won the town championship in 1975. As a 14-year-old Terry played on the SCOR U-18 team that won the state tournament and competed for the national title, the McGuire Cup.

Terry played ice hockey and varsity soccer at RHS from his freshman to senior years. He was the captain of the soccer team in his senior year and earned All-FCIAC, All-Area and All-State honors in his senior year. He established a new single season scoring record at RHS with 23 goals and a career record of 37 goals. Terry also played for the Connecticut ODP team, U14-18, and represented the state and region team in Europe. He was named the Outstanding Youth Player by the CJSA in the summer of 1981 before the National Team game at Dillon Stadium in Hartford,



Terry Hughes

Connecticut.

Terry attended North Carolina State and played soccer in his freshman year. He transferred to Southern Connecticut State University and played soccer until his graduation. Terry obtained his first soccer coaching license while in college and currently holds USSF, NSCAA and US Youth National licensure.

After college Terry worked in a number of managerial capacities and ran his own commercial cleaning operation until 1999 when he became the director of the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club. In 2010 Terry accepted a position with the Boys and Girls Club of Queens.

Terry continues to reside in Ridgefield with his wife, Shirley, who has taught physical education at the Barlow Mountain School for 25 years. They have a daughter, Allie, who graduated from RHS this year and is attending the University of Denver where she is enrolled in the school's ROTC program. Their son TJ will be graduating from the South Kent School this year and their other son, Colin, attends the Scotts Ridge Middle School.



Terry was an all-state soccer star.

Congratulations!

**Terry Hughes
and all the Inductees & Honorees
for inspiring youth to be great.**



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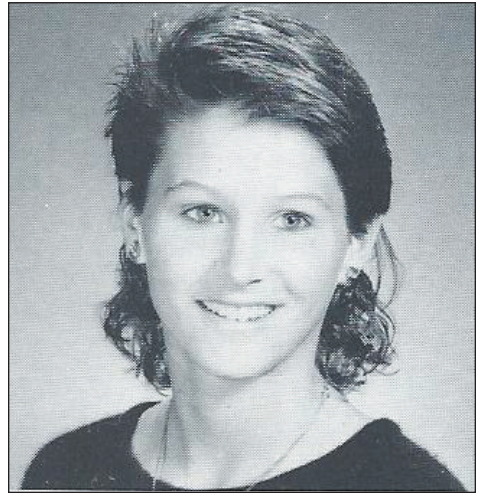
Sports Award: Beth Ondrick Gatley, Class of 1987

A standout on the soccer field

Beth Ondrick came to town as a youth when her family was still residing in Hoboken, New Jersey. Beth's parents wanted to have a place in the "country" for Beth and her brother, Dave. Their Buck Hill Road home was initially a weekend getaway for the Ondrick family. Both Beth and her brother were active kids who loved playing sports and signed up for the town's local youth programs even though they were only in town for the weekends and summers.

Beth joined youth softball and the soccer teams in town that won state championships. She was a standout performer on both the softball and soccer fields. Some of the girls that Beth remained teammates with throughout her years in Ridgefield High were Amy Miller, Susie Mang, Nancy Ruhl and Nicole Colaneri.

Beth made up her mind that she wanted to play varsity sports at RHS. The Ondricks moved to Ridgefield when Beth



Beth Ondrick Gatley

was in 8th grade.

Beth excelled on the athletic field starting in her freshman year. She played

Continued on next page



Beth's soccer team; she's last on the right, middle row.

softball and was on the varsity team for three years. However, the soccer field was where she found the most success. She was a starter and standout for RHS girls' soccer for all four years and helped lead the team to a FCIAC championship before she graduated in 1987. That championship was even sweeter because it came against a rival Wilton team that included eventual Olympic star Kristine Lilly. Beth later became a teammate with Lilly and some of the outstanding soccer players in the area when an All-Star Team was selected.

After graduation from RHS, Beth accepted a scholarship to play soccer at

Rutgers University. She was a member of the varsity soccer team for 2 years and then transferred to Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire where she played two more years of soccer and completed her undergraduate education.

After graduation from college, Beth came back to the Ridgefield area and played women's softball and soccer. Beth is now married and living in Newtown with her husband, Scott Gattey, and the three children, Clay who is 15 and their 13 year old twins, Nevan and Shane. Beth teaches in the Newtown public school system.



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.



Missy Hutchings and Eric Scala

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 Timer's banquet at the Italian American Mutual Aid Society 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 have received the association's annual scholarship awards.

In 2008 we began awarding our new four-year scholarships. This year's recipients are Missy Hutchings and Eric Scala.

Missy Hutchings

Missy was a student athlete throughout her four years at RHS. She is the daughter of past ROTA award recipient, Gregg Hutchings. Missy played ice hockey at RHS from 2008 to her senior year. She was a varsity starter for all four years and the captain of the team this past year. She received the FCIAC honor mention distinction and the Tiger Pride Leadership Award this spring.

She was one of 120 players statewide to be nominated to try out for the Connecticut Super Juniors Team of 2011 and one of 48 players to make that team. Missy played freshman and JV soccer at RHS.

In addition to athletic achievement Missy excelled in academics at RHS. She made the High Honor Roll in every quarter of her four years of high school. Missy was inducted into the National Honor Society in her junior year. She was the recipient of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Scholar/Athlete Award for RHS this year and the FCIAC Scholar Athlete in 2011. Missy was also awarded the Ridgefield High School Scholar/Athlete

Award.

Missy academic excellence at RHS is reflected in the fact that she was awarded Excellence Awards in Advance Placement U.S. History, Algebra II Honors and Global History II Honors. She received Achievement awards in

Advance Placement Environmental Science, English II Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, Chemistry Honors, Geometry Honors, Health Education, Interior Design and Spanish.

As if scholarship and athletic achievement were not enough, Missy's extracurricular school activities and volunteer work in town included Student Government (Class Senator 2009-2011), Class Secretary (2009-2012), Tiger Den RHS School Spirit Club (2011-2012, Secretary 2011-12), Student Union (2009-2012) and Maturity Matters (touring senior citizens at RHS-2010-2011).

Missy participated in Safe Rides, the Home Workers Organized for More Employment Mission Trip and has been a Vacation Bible School volunteer for four years and one of its leaders since 2008. She has been a section leader for the St. Mary's Children's Choir and an altar server since 2006.

Missy worked tirelessly to save money for college including working as a baby-sitter, a janitor at the Ridgefield Professional



Missy Hutchings

Continued on next page

Building and a referee for the Ridgefield Youth Lacrosse program

Missy is now attending Boston College.

Eric Scala

Eric was raised in Ridgefield. His grandfather, Mario Scala, was a past ROTA award recipient as were his uncles Carl Scala and Dr. Richard Scala. Eric participated in youth football when he entered second grade and continued until the end of Middle School.

Every winter was spent skiing and snowboarding and his summers were taken up with kayaking and golf. His favorite sport above all was lacrosse, which he started in first grade and continued until his senior year when he was the captain to the RHS varsity team.

Eric maintained honor roll status through-



Eric Scala

out his four years at RHS. He volunteered for the "home trip" program building houses in Maine and taught youth lacrosse during spring and summer breaks. Eric earned money for college by working as a maintenance worker at the Elms Inn and during Christmas time Eric was a worker at Tim

Dent's tree lot on Danbury Road.

Eric always wanted to play Division-I lacrosse in college and is now attending the State University of New York at Albany where he is a member of the lacrosse team. Eric is majoring in business.

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 Tom Belote,

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Ridgefield CT 06877

...

Thank you!

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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

2008: James Principi, Jeanne Timpanelli

2009: Bradford Mortensen and Edward Zandri

2010: Richard Ligi, Richard McGlynn, Richard Serfilippi

2011: Robert J. Morganti, Erik Hoag, Andrew Lecher.

Past Civic and Special 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 Meffley

2003: Kay Ables

2004: Chuck Dean

2005: Doug Main,

Renee Franks

2006: Jack Sanders

2007: Ancona Family

2008: Maureen

Kiernan, Dave Scott

2009: Vincent

Ponnozzo, Jeanne

Cook

2010: Christine and

Philip Lodewick;

Chuck Camp

2011: Mary and

Nelson Gelfman

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 Pierandi

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: Aldo Biagotti, Chip Bliss, Bob Carboni,

John Forcelli, Jim Mullen, Vince Paccadolmi, Fred Romeo

2004: Faust Verna, Lou Bellagamba, Chip Salvestrini, Alley Frulla, Rudy Marconi, Jim Tulipani and the CYO Girls Championship Basketball Team

2005: Tom Cesca, Tom Santini, Richard Polverari, Bob Pambianchi, Greg Hutchings, Carol Torcellini, Bill Polverari, Renzo Falcinelli, Jimmy Bacchiochi

2006: Larry Bossidy, Jr., Isabel Carporale, Frank Lancaster, Jr., Carl Scala, John Stolle, Dave Sturges

2007: Dave Landers, Jay Contessa, Chip Dean, John Devendorf, Marie Frulla, Steve Martin, Alan Wallace

2008: Richard Lavatori, Judy Laslo, Craig Saltzgaber, Frank Serfilippi, Paul Vaughn, Chip Wilson

2009: Robert Leary, Robert Lewis, Patricia Girolmetti, Richard Miller, Peter Santini, Michael Principi and Dr. Richard Scala

2010: Abe Morelli, Tom Fossi, Michael Bowman, Amy Fredericks, Christopher Winnes, Janel Jorgensen, Michael Dell'Aquila, Tony Wilmot.

2011: Lee Pasquarella, Harland Brooks, Janet Yanity, Harry Geary, Thomas McDonald, Joseph Korczynski, Lea Ann Schmidt, Gary Bellagamba

Honoring Ridgefielders since 1992

More than 20 years ago, a group of friends got together with the idea of forming an old timers group for Ridgefield. Paul Baker, 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

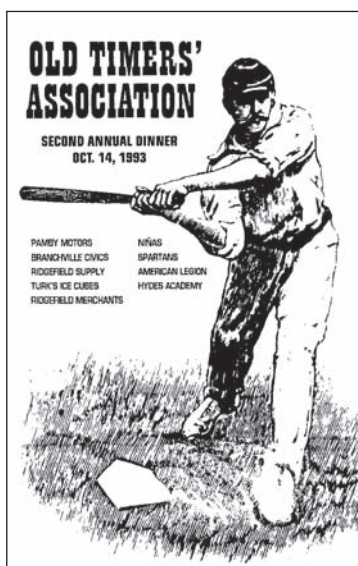
and female recipients, and the winners in 1997 were Charles Bliss and Kerry Bennett. The amount of the scholarships has grown over the years as a result of the advertising placed in this book, as well as other fund-raising efforts — especially the annual golf outing and pig roast, which takes place in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

Best Wishes!



Many thanks to those who enrich our community
with their talent, passion, and dedication.

We are proud to support
The Ridgefield Old Timer Association



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