

RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS ASSOCIATION



22ND ANNUAL DINNER
OCTOBER 19, 2013

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 2013; Molly Weeks and Andrew Barton. Molly and Andrew are our 41st and 42nd scholarship winners.

After 5 years of having this banquet outside of Ridgefield, we are pleased to be able to bring it back to town. Thank you to St. Mary's Parish for being a wonderful host and for allowing us to use their hall.

The purpose of this dinner is to honor Ridgefielders for their past accomplishment on the athletic field and classroom 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; Linda Carboni who heads the banquet committee along with the silent auction has done a great job making this evening possible; Tom Belote who's depth of knowledge of this organization has been invaluable; Doug Clewell for handling the ticket sales, along with Terry Hughes who started our new online ticket purchase site. I would like to thank Barry Finch for entertaining us again tonight with his guitar. Members Jack O'Keefe, Pat Ligos, Rick Rowella and George Hanlon have worked in various areas all year. Thanks to Barbara Serfilipi, Sandy Mosiel and Dick Scala for once again form our scholarship committee. Last but by all means not least I would like to acknowledge officers Gregg Hutchings, Mark Lionetti and Reed Whipple for their tireless work all year.

We are also excited about our ever evolving website put together by Gregg Hutchings. Please visit the site when you have a chance at www.RidgefieldOldTimers.org

After the success last year with our first Silent Auction, we have made it even bigger and better this year with the addition of more memorabilia. Please take a look at the display tables around the hall and make some bids, the higher the better!

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

Mark Fitzgerald
President, ROTA

The 22nd annual
Ridgefield Old Timers dinner
 Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013

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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.

2013 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: Richard and Deirdre Aarons

Years of volunteer service

Richard and Deidre Aarons were unanimously selected to receive the Ridgefield Old Timers 22nd Annual Civic Award for their years of volunteer service to the town.

The Aarons moved to Ridgefield in 1974 with their daughter Noelle and son Michael. After the children grew up the Aarons became empty nesters and dedicated most of their time doing volunteer work for Ridgefield. While Dick was still employed as an aviation safety writer and air safety investigator, Dee managed the household and volunteered her time to the town as a Cub Scouts leader, a matron for the Ridgefield Police Department lockup, a secretary to the Board of Selectmen and the WPCA meetings and as a member of the Ridgefield Republic Town Committee – all of this while she mothered the kids and served as secretary to the Special Education Office of the school system, a position she held for 32 years.

Despite work that kept him traveling, Dick managed to squeeze in time to serve for 25 years with the Ridgefield Fire Police Unit of the Volunteer Fire Department and as a fire/ accident scene photographer for both the fire and police department. Now all of Dick's volunteer time goes to Ridgefield emergency/disaster planning efforts and as a state-certified instructor of police photography. He is the Redding Police Department's crime/accident scene photographer and the Ridgefield Police Department's consulting photographer.

The volunteer activities Dick and Dee enjoy the most are working in support of the town's Emergency Operations Center—the specially equipped command and control center used by town departments and school officials to guide Ridgefield through



Richard and Deirdre Aarons

emergency situations such as the three major utility outages that hit town in recent years. Dick serves as Ridgefield's Deputy Emergency manger and CERT Coordinator. During emergencies he typically functions as chief of logistics and planning. Dee is unit leader of the volunteer EOC support team. During storms and other emergencies Dick and Dee each spend 12 hours days at the EOC from the first threat until clean up is well under way—typically-two-week deployments.

Dick's work in Ridgefield has lead to his appointment to the vice chairs of the 10-town HVCEO Emergency Managers Team and the 43-town Regional Emergency Planning Team. He also volunteers his time as operations instructor for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a communications instructor for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and as a firearms instructor.

As First Selectman Rudy Marconi recently said "The town is indeed fortunate and blessed to have the Aarons volunteering their time for us."

DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARDS

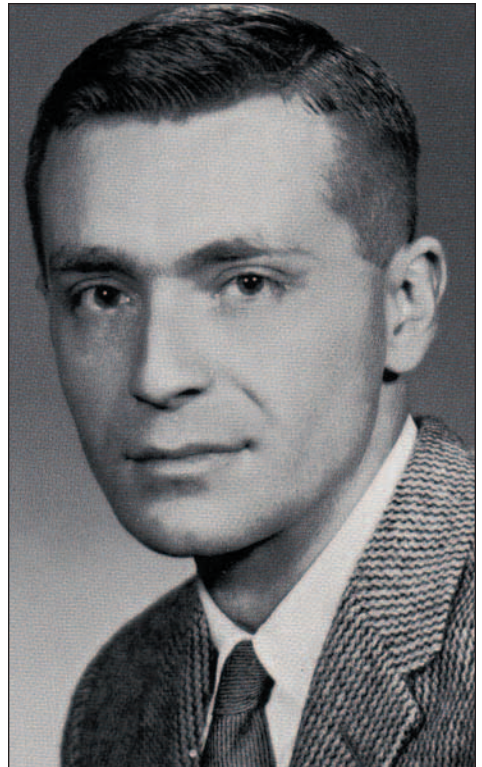
This year the Ridgefield Old Timers voted to present a new annual award to the distinguished educators of Ridgefield High School. The award was meant to honor teachers, coaches and administrators who had a positive, profound and lasting effect on the lives of Ridgefield students. Teacher Dirk Bollenback and RHS Principal Dr. Harold Healy were unanimously selected to receive the first of these awards. While no award could ever be adequate reward for the inspiration and professional excellence that these two men brought to the Ridgefield school system, the Old Timers wish to express their gratitude, as many have done previously, to Dr. Healy and Mr. Bollenback for their wise counsel, excellent guidance and tutelage during their tenure at Ridgefield High. It has been an honor to have you as Ridgefield educators.

Distinguished Educator: Dirk Bollenback

A great teacher and leader

Dirk Bollenback joined the faculty of Ridgefield High School in 1958. Mr. Bollenback was a native of Weston, Massachusetts and graduated from the Deerfield Academy before going on to Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction in government and honors in general scholarship in 1953. Mr. Bollenback went on to receive a Master of Arts degree from the School of Advanced Studies at John Hopkins University in 1955. After his graduate studies Mr. Bollenback spent two years in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Bragg teaching and researching in the Army Psychological Warfare School, time well spent in preparation for a teaching career at Ridgefield High. Following his military service, Mr. Bollenback obtained a second Masters degree in teaching at Wesleyan and then joined the faculty of Ridgefield High.

The RHS Class of 1959, Mr. Bollenback's first graduating class at the "old" high school on East Ridge, had only 60 students (far different from the Ridgefield High he taught at in the 1970's



Dirk Bollenback

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when over 2,000 students were enrolled putting a strain on every teacher, pupil and administrator.)

Mr. Bollenback quickly established himself as a distinguished teacher. In 1961 he helped design a course in international relations for seniors, which still exists in the school system to date. The Class of 1961 dedicated its yearbook to him, citing "his honesty and sincerity in teaching" and his "molding of future generations." In 1962 Mr. Bollenback was selected to receive a John Hay Fellowship for the 1963-64 academic year. The Ridgefield Board of Education waived its seven-year rule to allow Mr. Bollenback to accept the grant. During this sabbatical he studied Soviet affairs at the University of Chicago and then returned to Ridgefield and resumed his teaching career. The Hay fellowship was only the first of honors to given to Mr. Bollenback. He has been the recipient of

the University of Chicago Outstanding Teacher Award and was selected for the Who's Who Among American Teachers. In 1991 he was awarded a John F. Kennedy prize for developing creative and effective curriculum and demonstrating instructional excellence. In the final years of his teaching career he received three additional honors. In 1994 he was selected to be the commencement speaker for RHS and was the keynote speaker at the Ridgefield Memorial Day celebration. In 1995 he was given a special honor by his fellow teachers and in 1996 the League of Women Voters (for 35 years before his retirement in 1996 Mr. Bollenback coordinated and ran the mock elections at high school.) Mr. Bollenback has been the historian of the Saint Stephens Church. In 2000, the occasion of the church's 275 anniversary, he published a two-volume history of Saint Stephens and its impact the Town of Ridgefield.

Distinguished Educator: Dr. Harold E. Healy

The man in the middle

Dr. Harold Healy spent his entire career as an educator and school administrator in Connecticut. A native of New Britain, he began "cadet teaching" in 1944 while a senior at Central Connecticut State College. His student teaching assignment at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village became his first job. He was offered \$1,200 a year to remain as a mathematics and science teacher, but because teachers were so scarce due to the war, he asked for \$1,800 and settled at \$1,500.

In 1947, he joined the faculty of Middletown High School where he taught math and science and three years later he was named the chairman of the math department. He became assistant principal at the 900 student school in 1953 but continued to teach as well. In 1958 he was appointed principal.

During this time, he had earned his

master's degree from Teachers College of Columbia University and his doctorate at the University of Connecticut.

In 1960 Ridgefield was in need of a new secondary school principal. The high school which served about 450 students in the 7th through 12th grades had just been renovated and a new gym (now the Yanity Gymnasium) had been added. The popular Dr. Philip Pitruzello, who had updated the curriculum was leaving for another post (he later returned to become Ridgefield's superintendent of schools). After an extensive search the Board of Education chose Harold Healy.

Ridgefield junior and senior high schools were relatively small when Hal Healy came to town. The graduating class of 1961 was only 54 students but things were changing in Ridgefield and changing quickly. The number of students enrolling in the schools was increasing significantly

and the stress on the school's facilities and personnel was apparent. Sentiment in town regarding the schools was, to put it mildly, fractious with calls for book banning surfacing now and again. The annual school budget referendums were akin to a political bloodsport.

"It is a very difficult job...It's very hard to please everyone," said Dr. Healy about the position of school principal. For 17 years, Dr. Healy was the man in the middle, the man who had to deal with the many pressures from parents, teachers, students, central office administrators, finance boards and school boards. Yet Hal Healy weathered it all. "I have felt that the conservatives in this town believe I am too liberal and the liberals think I'm too conservative. But what I have tried to do is develop a program and a school environment that is pretty much in the middle of the road. And it works because I believed in it," Dr. Healy said describing his job in 1978.

At the time of his retirement Dr. Healy recalled the when he joined the Ridgefield school system "it was a very small school" and that he knew almost every student by name, an impossibility at the time of his retirement with a school of nearly 1,900 students. While admitting that he missed that small school with a close knit student body and staff, Dr. Healy acknowledged that the large school enabled the administration and staff to offer many more classes in subjects that would have been impossible in the school system he entered in 1960.

During his tenure, Ridgefield High School had been primarily oriented toward college preparation. In 1961 only 15 percent of the graduated did not go onto further education. In the year before his retirement 21 percent did not move on to more schooling. But 15 percent of a class of 54 was only eight students while 21 percent of 450 were nearly 100 students for whom RHS was their last years of formal education. Dr. Healy recognized and attended to the problem. While making sure that RHS' college preparatory curriculum and program was first class, Dr. Healy also met the needs of the students



Dr. Harold E. Healy

who did not go on to college by increasing the school's offerings to help students considering a vocational career by including courses in electronics, electricity, mechanics, plastics, printing and graphics. The home economics and business classes became professional.

Mary Gelfman, who served on the Board of Education for many years and was chairman of the board during Hal Healy's tenure made the following observation about our distinguished educator honoree and the time during which he served the town, "Hal was the RHS principal when I was on the Board of Education, starting in 1969. That was a time of great turmoil in high schools across the country. One of the biggest things I noticed about Hal was that he listened to everyone, and rarely took sides unless it was absolutely unavoidable. Both the students and some of the teachers wanted changes but the budget was always cut and the old high

Continued on next page

school was desperately over-crowded. Hal was managing overlapping double sessions, and it seemed as though some kids were always coming and going. After the land for the new high school had been bought and construction was about to begin, there was another referendum asking whether we really needed a new larger building. The effort to stop the project lost by only a 30-vote margin."

Quite simply, Hal Healy steered RHS through its most difficult times. During his eighteen years as an administrator he oversaw the expansion of a small school with limited programs grow into a large suburban school that offered its students the instruction and programs they needed to excel in a new and quickly changing

environment.

Hal and his wife, Mae, resided in Ridgefield throughout his tenure at RHS. They have three children, Lauren, Scott and Jane Allison. The family's first residence was on Lafayette St. and their neighbors were elementary school principal Dr. Walter Vought and family, high school women's' athletic director, Maureen O'Sullivan, Police Chief "Diamond" Jim Brady and Police Sgt., and latter to be police chief, John Haight.

Hal Healy entered the Ridgefield real estate business after his retirement and continued as a successful realtor for many years.

He remains active in the Ridgefield Rotary Club.

Special Award: George Besse, Class of 1960

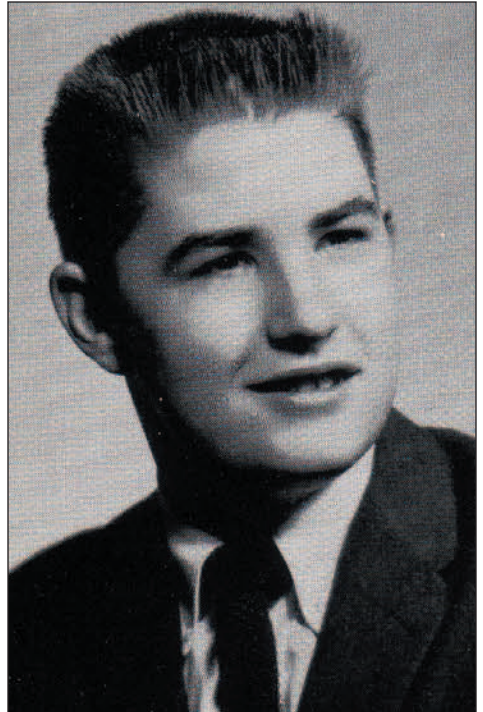
Serving country and community

George Besse is a native son of Ridgefield. George and his four sisters, Marilyn, Beverly, Jeannie and Susie, were born and raised in Ridgefield, and all attended Ridgefield public schools.

George graduated in 1960 and, after joining the Air Force, married his high school sweetheart, Dawn Baldaserini. Together they raised three daughters who cumulatively have given George and Dawn six wonderful grandsons. George's parents (George Sr. and Alice Stefanelli) were well known and respected in town. Alice served for years as Tax Collector of Ridgefield.

The Ridgefield Old Timers Association is honoring George, as Commander, and all the members of the American Legion Post 78, the Everett Ray Seymour Post, for the special service they give to our community.

Veterans, who have first served their country with their active military service, when they join the American Legion, continue service their country, state and community throughout their lives. George, who has been Commander of the Legion Post for the past four years, epitomizes that



George Besse

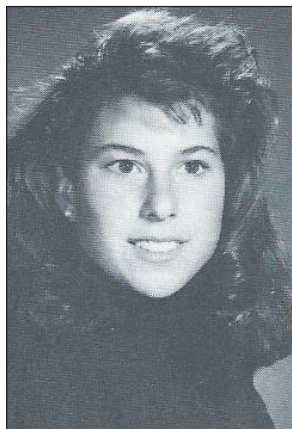
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service.

The Memorial Day Parade, Veteran's Day and Flag Day events are among the patriotic events sponsored by the Legion that promote teamwork, sportsmanship, Americanism and patriotism. The Legion also sponsors Boy's State and Girl's State participation by an RHS junior boy and girl every year. The week-long event promotes civic participation, understanding and respect for the American form of government and its institutions.

George and other members of the Legion also visit public schools in Ridgefield to educate the students about the contributions of members of the U.S. Armed Forces of the United States throughout our country's history.

We also express our gratitude to George, individually, for his exemplary work and overall guidance in the development of the American Legion baseball team. Together with his coaches he has been a role model for Ridgefield youth.



Nicole Colaneri Twomey and her team at RHS.

Sports Award: Nicole Colaneri Twomey, Class of 1987

A lifelong soccer standout

Nicole moved to Ridgefield at the age of 1. Her parents still live in Ridgefield in the house Nicole grew up in on Indian Cave Road.

She began playing soccer at the age of 7 for the Soccer Club of Ridgefield (SCOR) and played on "The Magic", which was SCOR's first all girls travel team in 1980. Many of Nicole's teammates on "The Magic" went on to play soccer with her at Ridgefield High.

During the 1984 soccer season she participated in the Regional Tournament and the Regional Camp. She was then selected to become a member of the U-14 Regional

Team. Between 1983 and 1984 Nicole was a member of the U-14 Connecticut State Select Team. Between 1985 and 1986 she was a member of the U-16 Connecticut State Select Team and participated in the 1985-86 Regional Tournament.

Nicole played soccer at RHS throughout high school. She was All Conference F.C.I.A.C. 1st Team between 1984 and 1986.

In 1985 she received All State Honorable Mention and in 1986 and 1987 she was on the All State 1st Team. In her senior year she was co-captain of the women's team.

Continued on page 11



Nicole on the field

After graduation from Ridgefield High Nicole went to the University of Vermont and played for the university's Division 1 soccer team between 1988 and 1992.

In her sophomore year the team was the E.C.A.C Champions and Nicole and her teammates went on to play in the National Tournament. In 1992 Nicole received the University of Vermont Coach's Award.

After graduation from college Nicole played both indoor and outdoor soccer for North Andover in a Women's Soccer League and since college she has continued to play for co-ed and women's soccer leagues wherever she and her family have lived including San Francisco, Boston and now on Massachusetts' North Shore.

Nicole and her husband, Chris live in Wenham, Massachusetts with their three children Annabella, age 14, Eliza, age 12, and Luke, age 9.

All three children play a variety of sports including soccer!

Thank you!

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

MONTANARI FUEL

and

DiNAPOLI DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Sports Award: Mike Harris, Class of 1978

An athlete and a scholar

Mike Harris, class of 1978, excelled both athletically and academically during his 3 years at Ridgefield High School. Both on the football field and track Mike used his athletic ability as well as his brain to earn All FCIAC honors as well as other accolades.

The Harris family moved to town from Rome, Georgia, in summer of 1975. Mike's family, parents Jim & Pat and brother, Dave ('76), immediately felt at home in Ridgefield. By the start of school that fall Mike was starting as running back with the JV team and eventually earned some playing time with the varsity before the year was out. The following two seasons Mike was a starter every varsity game at running back, along with John Scott his junior year and Steve Scalzo his senior year. The quarterback with Mike all

those years was classmate Paul Bossidy, another honoree from this year's banquet. Some of Mike's other football teammates where Phil O'Brien and Mike Del'Aquila (both past honorees), Dave Lavatori, Mike Sheehan and Charlie Belardinelli to name a few.

During Mike's senior year he was elected as the New York Times Offensive Player of the week when he rushed 212 yards against Andrew Warde High School, breaking one run for 85 yards. At that time the 212 yard performance was the top rushing output in one game by any back at Ridgefield High School. He was also selected to the All FCIAC team at the conclusion of that season.

As testament to his athletic and academic progress Mike was also honored as a National Football Foundation Scholar

The Ridgefield High School Boys and Girls Cross Country/Track Teams

Congratulates

Mike Harris, Ed Stone and Jim Story



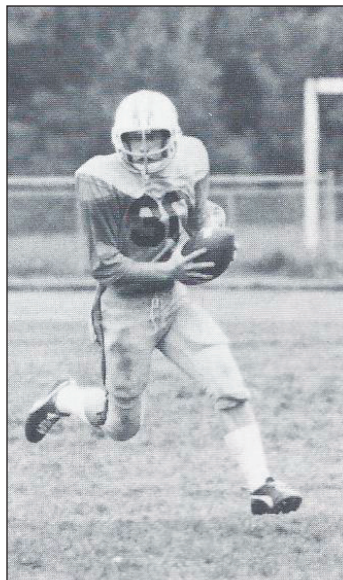
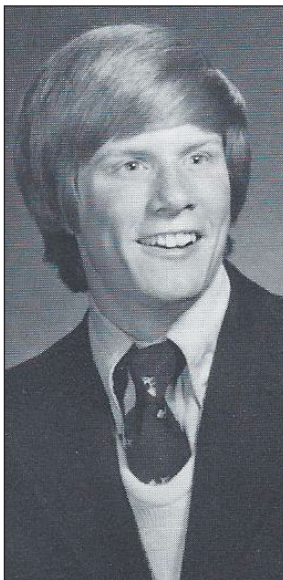
A well-deserved award for their accomplishments and for
paving the way for future runners!

Athlete for the fall of 1977.

Mike spent his winter and spring seasons running track. He mostly ran the 800 but also competed at times in some of the sprints, 100, 200 and 400. He earned spots on the All FCIAC team twice. Mike also was a member, his junior year, of the All FCIAC, All State and All New England relay team for the 4 x 100. The other 3 runners on the relay team were Mike Phelan, John Scott and Bob Plucenik.

Mike was not only a great athlete he was also a top student. Mike graduated from RHS in the top 10 of the class and went on to attend the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. He graduated in 1982 and instead of venturing into the business world decided that educating young minds was his calling. Mike has spent over 25 years teaching high school math at Brunswick School in Greenwich, CT. He has coached various sports, including football, baseball and golf and he runs an intramural basketball program each winter.

Before leaving Notre Dame Mike was lucky enough to meet his future wife (and



Mike Harris, in the studio and on the field

better half) Ellen. Ellen and Mike live in Greenwich where they have raised 2 sons and 2 Basset Hounds. Their oldest son, Christopher, is a University of Vermont graduate working in California while younger son Pete is currently a junior at Bucknell. A family of high values they all give back to the community and typically spend their Christmas morning preparing food and feeding the homeless at a local shelter.



Mike is in the middle of the bottom row of this track squad shot.

Sports Award: Dorene Almgren DeCecco, Class of 1979

Field hockey star who helps others

Dorene was born and raised in Ridgefield. Her father, Rolf, is also a Ridgefield native and together with his wife, Pauline, the Almgrens had five children: Dorene, Dan, Ken, Ron and Victor. Dorene attended Veterans Park Elementary School, the East Ridge Junior High School and RHS.

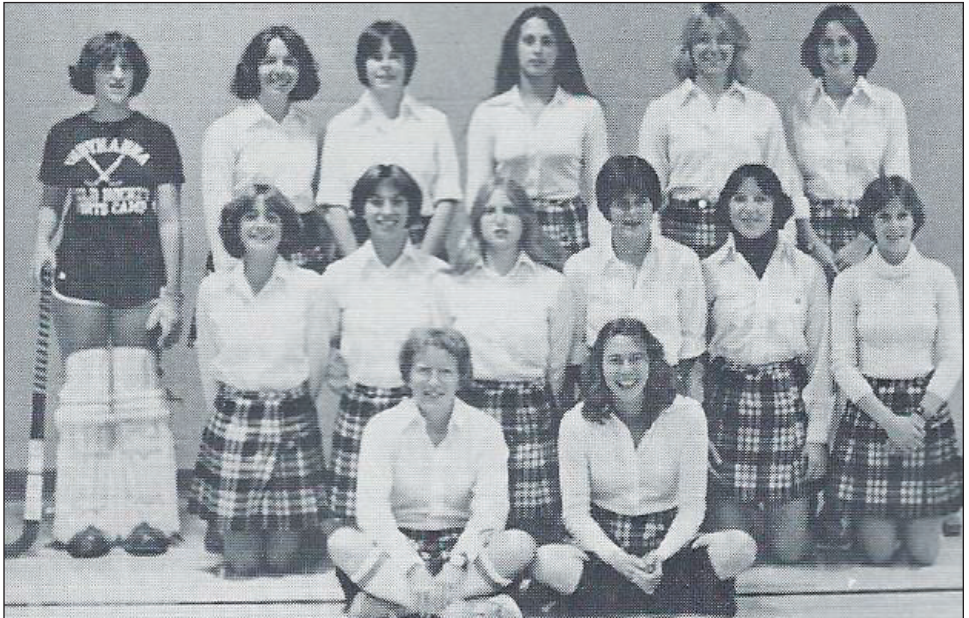
Dorene's involvement in Ridgefield sports came early. In fifth grade she played softball on a team coached by her father but she also made time for her love of dance and she danced ballet from 2nd grade to her senior year under the direction of Patricia Schuster.

At RHS Dorene played right wing for the high school field hockey team for four years. She was FCIAC All County field Hockey for two years (1977-78 and 1978-79). During high school she was recog-

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Dorene Almgren DeCecco



Dorene's field hockey team; she's bottom row on the right

nized as an "athlete of the week." In addition to her success in field hockey Dorene played softball for three years.

After RHS Dorene attended the University of Vermont (UVM) in Burlington and played field hockey for the university women's team for three years. She graduated from UVM in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Education. From UVM Dorene attended Hahnemann University in Philadelphia and graduated in 1988 with a Masters Degree in Physical Therapy.

For the past twenty five years Dorene has lived in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania working as a physical therapist and raising a family. She has worked in many areas of physical therapy treating people of all ages and spending time volunteering with the Special Olympics. She has been involved in her children's youth and high school sports programs coaching her daughters youth soccer team and her son's baseball team. She was the president of the high school boys' football booster club and a team photographer for the track & field team. She maintains an active lifestyle and has returned to fun competition by training and competing in triathlons.

Dorene is married to Dave DeCecco. Their son, Nicholas, 21, is attending the University of West Virginia; son, Joseph, 19, is attending West Chester University in



Dorene on the field

Pennsylvania and their daughter Rachael, 17, is a senior at Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg.

Help the Old Timers help our students

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

Send your tax-deductible gift to:

ROTA Scholarship Fund
c/o Tom Belote,
24 Bailey Avenue, Suite 3
Ridgefield CT 06877

...
Thank you!

Molly Weeks and Andrew Barton

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. Each scholarship recipient currently receives an award of \$1,000 each year of his/her four-year baccalaureate studies. This year's recipients are Molly Weeks and Andrew Barton.

Molly Weeks

Molly is a life-long resident of Ridgefield and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weeks. Molly grew up on South Olmstead Lane next to her grandfather, Frank Serfilippi, a former ROTA honoree. She graduated from RHS this past June with a 3.75 GPA and a SAT total of 1,710. She was inducted into the National Honor Society in 2012. Throughout her four years at Ridgefield, High Molly was in a number of honors courses including biology, Spanish, English, and history and in her senior year she took college algebra and UConn English 1011 for college credit. During her four years at RHS Molly was in the school's Jazz Band, the Wind Ensemble, the Marching band and the Concert Band.

Molly's honors include the East Ridge Middle School Principal's award in recognition of academic excellence, outstanding character and leadership and awards in mathematics, physical education and



Molly Weeks

academic excellence at RHS. She was the 2009 winner of the Leigh Knowles Scholarship for arts and excellence in jazz music. She was inducted into "The Best Basketball Players of the AAU" in 2010 and has been on the RHS honor roll every quarter

of her four years at RHS.

Molly has excelled in athletics as well as the arts and academics. She was a varsity runner for all four-years of high school and was a member of the FCIAC Central Divisions Champions from her freshman to senior year. Molly was also a member of girls cross country FCIAC Champions in her junior year and the Connecticut State Open and Connecticut State Class Champions in her junior and senior year. As a senior Molly placed 1st in the Connecticut State Class LL Championships for the Sprint Medley Relay (400m leg) and 3rd in the Connecticut State Class LL Championship for the 4 x 800m Relay. She placed 5th in the New England indoor track meet for the 4 x 800 relay. Molly also played both junior varsity and varsity basketball at RHS.

In addition to her musical performances at Ridgefield High, Molly excellence in music and her talent on the alto saxophone led her to performances at the Western Connecticut State University Jazz Festival in 2009 and at the Western Connecticut State University Regional concert that same year.

Privately, Molly has performed on the

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alto saxophone at Molly Darcy's with "Jazz for Juniors" on "Fat Tuesday" and for "All That Jazz" at the City Center Danbury, First Night at the Danbury Library, the Brookfield Memorial Day Parade, summer miniseries concerts at the Bethel Green, the Georgetown Saloon, The Putnam House, Plain Jane's, Greenwoods in Bethel and in many other private and public functions.

Molly's community service has included serving at the Ridgefield Community Center, assisting in the Junior Olympics, participating in the Multiple Sclerosis Walk at Manchester Community College. She has also used her extraordinary talent in music for a number of community benefits including performing on her alto saxophone at Founders Hall, Laurel Ridge Health Care Center, Wilton Meadows Senior Assisted Living, the Ridgefield Newcomer's Club and the Ridgefield Fire Department and Ridgefield's Parks and Recreation Center.

Molly has been employed as a file clerk at the Family Physician Practice and as a babysitter to earn money for college.

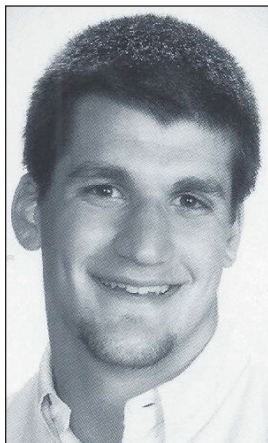
Molly is attending Marist College.

The Ridgefield Old Timers congratulate Molly for her excellent achievements in the arts, academics and athletics.

Andrew Steed Barton

Andrew is an eighteen year resident of Ridgefield who is now attending Bryant University. Academically, Andrew was on the honor roll in every quarter of his freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years at Ridgefield High and placed in high honors in his senior year. He had a 3.6 GPA at RHs and was an A+/ B+ student throughout high school.

Andrew played junior varsity and varsity football and basketball throughout his years at RHS. He was a three- year varsity starter in football and team captain in his senior year. Similarly, he played varsity basketball in his sophomore, junior and senior years and was team captain in his senior year. His athletic awards at Ridgefield include the Coaches' Tiger Pride (V Basketball) Award and selection as All FCIAC Central Division First Team



Andrew Barton

Football in his junior and senior years. Andrew received the RHS football "Chain Gang" Lineman Award in his senior year and was selected as the football team's Most Valuable Player. Andrew's volunteer service has included Safe Rides in his junior and senior years

and counseling at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Bible School.

Andrew had been employed at Deborah Ann's Sweet Shoppe and with the Ridgefield Basketball Association as a referee to earn savings for school. He has also been employed every summer throughout high school by the Carl Charles Basketball Camp and in his junior and senior years also took employment with Tiger Sports in Ridgefield.

Ridgefield Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach wrote in his recommendation to the Old Timers, "Andrew's greatest assets lie in his extremely fine qualities as a person. He is very warm and sincere and is respected by his own peers and faculty members. He is a wonderful young man who is of the highest character with very positive aims and values. He is a very effective leader because he directs and motivates people by his own super examples of hard work, dedication and excellence. He is genuinely supportive to his peers and teammates. Andrew is constantly trying to supply an emotional lift to his fellow teammates. He is always quick to recognize someone else's achievements and progress with warm and sincere praise."

The Ridgefield Old Timers wish Andrew well in the next four years at Bryant University and look forward to hearing about his achievements in the years that will follow.

Gary Beaudine, Posthumous Award

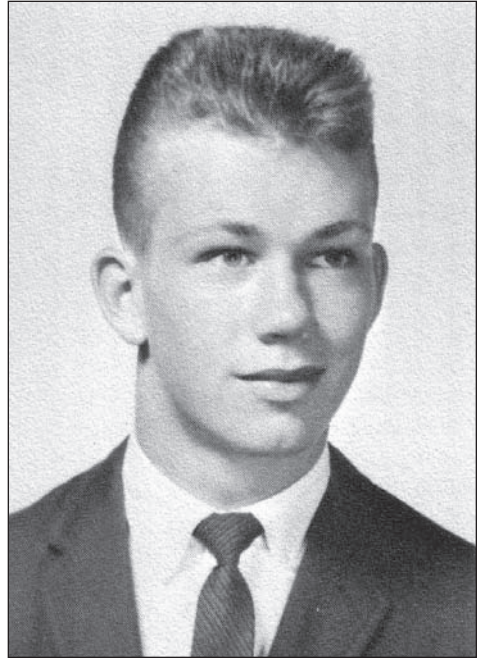
An All-Conference tackle

The Beaudine family moved to Ridgefield in the late 50's and their family name became quickly associated with Ridgefield High School football.

Mr. Beaudine worked with the varsity football players in the summers preparing them for the formal season practice when school commenced in September. Guy Beaudine, Gary's older brother, played varsity football and graduated in 1962.

Gary also played varsity football and was a member of the 1963-64 football team that was the finest eleven-man football team that RHS had to date.

Gary's senior year team started off the season with a bang, scoring 74 points in its first two games while holding its opponents scoreless. The squad, led by the quickest and most dependable line in the Western Connecticut Conference went on to become the highest scoring team in the state and to share first place in W.C.C. honors. With a rugged defense and a potent



Gary Beaudine

Continued on next page



Gary is in the back row, third from the right.

offense, the Tigers reaped the results of hard work, cooperation, and a will to win by taking six of their seven games, losing only to Joel Barlow.

Gary was an All-Conference tackle on that team. With him on the Tiger's line were Jeff Theiss (tackle), Jeff Miner (tackle), Denny Murasky(guard), George Jacobsen Guard), David Ferry (center and backfield), Bob Degan (end) and Julius "Bugsy" Santini (end). The backfield, quarterbacked by Harry Pierandri, consisted of Brian MacKenzie (half back), Dave Hodson (halfback), Bruce Robertson

(full back) and Bob Lewis (halfback). Head Coach Robert Mark directed the team with Coaches Soper and Rowland.

In addition to football, Gary was on the Student Council and played three years of RHS varsity baseball and two years of basketball.

Many of Gary's teammates have already been honored by the Old Timers including Harry Pierandri, Julius Santini, Paul Carboni, Mike Bowman, Bob Lewis and Joe Korczynski.

The Ridgefield Old Timers wish to add Gary's name to that group.

He earned it.



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.



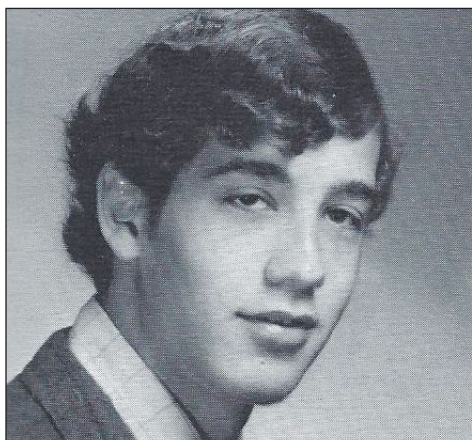
Sports Award: Ed Stone, Class of 1971

A top runner and top coach

Ed Stone moved to Ridgefield with his parents, Albert and Rita, in 1965. Upon entering Ridgefield High, Ed joined the track team and soon after earned accolades as a runner. He was chosen as co-captain of the varsity track team and became the RHS record holder in the 220 yard dash. His team won the Western Connecticut Conference championship in 1970 and was the runner up in both the 1970 and 1971 state meet competitions.

After graduating from RHS in 1971, Ed attended Denison University in Ohio. As at Ridgefield High, Ed quickly earned a distinguished reputation in track. Ed set the university's record for the 300 yard and 440 yard dash. He was selected as the team's co-captain and received the school's Most Valuable Player Award. He was a three time NCAA All-American Ohio Athletic Conference Champion. After graduating from Denison, Ed was inducted into the Denison Athletic Hall of Fame.

After completion of his university studies Ed coached track in Ohio and his team won the 1977 Ohio AAA State Championship. His team set both state and national records in the relays and hurdles. Ed also coached Mike Halloway who became the #2 hurdler in the United States and who is now the head track coach at the University of

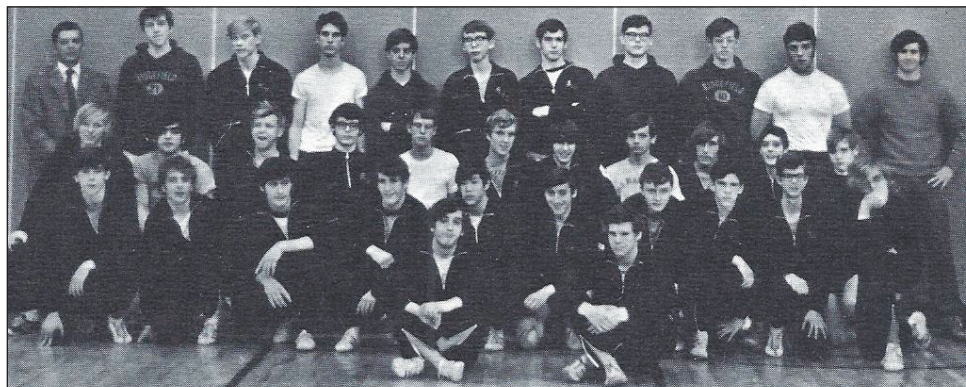


Ed Stone

Florida. Halloway was also selected as track coach for the U.S. team that competed in the 2013 World Championships in Moscow.

Ed taught high school in Ohio before moving back to Connecticut in the early 80's. He coached the New Milford track team, which, in 1982, came in second in the State Class M league. He also won election to the Danbury Zoning Board.

Ed and his wife, Leslie, married in 1981. They live in Indiana where he serves on his town's Board of Education. The Stones have four grown children and one grandchild.



Ed is on the bottom row at the left.

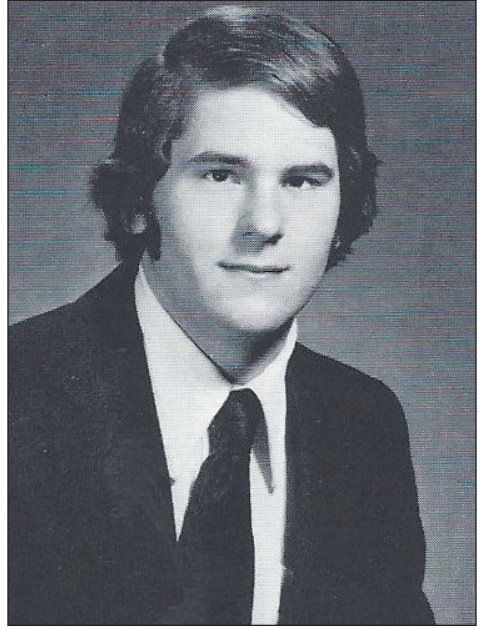
Sports Award: Paul Bossidy, Class of 1978

A leading athlete and student

Paul Bossidy is the third of Larry and Nancy Bossidy's nine children and the second son. As one could imagine with a large family, competition is learned at an early stage in life. Whether it is keeping up with older brother Larry Jr. (former honoree) and his friends or just finding a good seat for a car trip — Paul developed a great competitive spirit that brought him far on the athletic field, academically and professionally.

Paul started playing youth sports from the day the family moved into Ridgefield in 1971. He was the quarterback on Pop Warner teams that regularly finished with no more than one loss per season. He was typically the high scorer in all his townie basketball games and was a Little League and Babe Ruth all-star on the baseball field.

Upon entering Ridgefield High School Paul continued to excel in all three sports as a freshman. He quarterbacked the freshman team, was the leading scorer on the freshman basketball team and started on the



Paul Bossidy



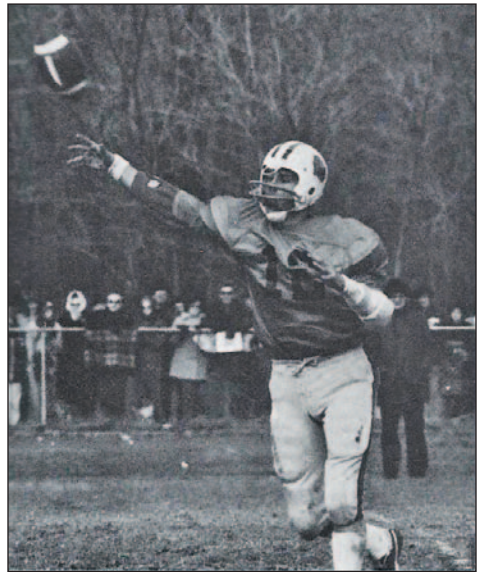
Paul is #12, second from left on the bottom row.

baseball team. He played one more year of baseball as a sophomore and two more years of basketball, one year on JV and then as a starter for his junior season.

However it was the football field where Paul found the most success. During the fall of Paul's sophomore year he became the starting quarterback on the varsity team about half way through the season. He kept that spot for the next two and half years as he threw for more than 2,500 yards and 18 touchdowns. Many of those balls he threw went to All State wide receiver Bob Phelan as well as brother's Mike and Joe Chedlinick, Rick Rowella and John Gilcrest. He was also teammates with fellow honor Mike Harris. Paul was named All FCIAC quarterback both his junior and senior year.

Paul was at the top of the class academically as well and because of his strong work ethic in both the classroom and athletic field he was able to gain admission to Williams College, one of the top liberal arts schools in the country. While at Williams he was a member of the football team, quarterbacking the JV team for two years and then getting some playing time with the varsity during his junior year. After two years away from baseball Paul decided to try out for the Williams team and started for two years at third base on the JV team. Most importantly Paul continued to excel in the classroom preparing him for the next phase of life.

Upon graduation Paul took a job in New York City with Coopers & Lybrand LLP and began his post graduate work. He obtained a masters degree in accounting from NYU and his masters of business administration from Columbia. After six years at Coopers, Paul moved on to General Electric



Paul was an All-FCIAC quarterback.

Company where he spent 13 years working his way up the corporate ladder eventually becoming the president and CEO of GE Capital Solutions Group. Paul is presently the president and CEO of Clayton Holding, LLC which is a provider of risk management services to the mortgage industry globally.

Since moving back to Ridgefield, in 1999, Paul and his wife Tricia have raised two sons, Paul Jr., and Brendan. Both of their sons competed for Ridgefield High School, Paul Jr., class of '08 and Bucknell '12 was captain of the boy's ice hockey team and Brendan, '12 and freshman at Williams College, was captain of the ice hockey team and lacrosse team. Tricia and Paul give of their spare time helping local charities.

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Sports Award: William ‘Sandy’ Allen, Class of 1962

Talent in the growing years

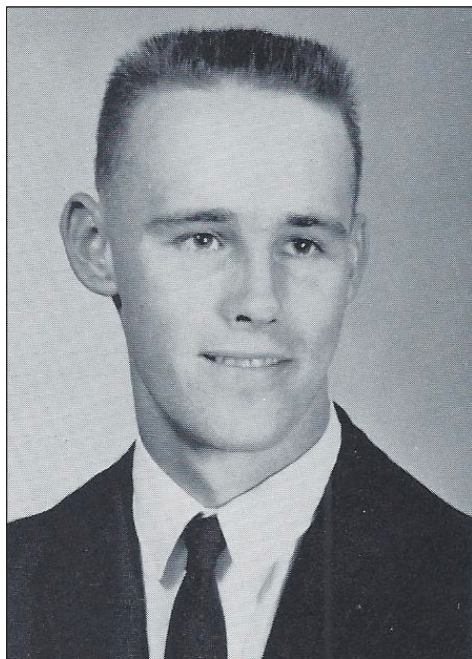
Sandy Allen, son of long time RHS athletic director and former Old Timers posthumous awardee, William “Bill” Allen, came to Ridgefield with his parents in 1947 when the population of the town was under 3,000. He remained involved in Ridgefield athletics throughout his time in town.

Sandy played Little League baseball for the “Diamonds” and the “Bugs” and graduated to play for the town Babe Ruth baseball team. He was also a member of the Ridgefield/Danbury team that played baseball in the Norwalk Recreational League.

When Sandy moved over to the high school section of the East Ridge School (while he was growing up the school was both the home of the elementary, junior and senior high schools), he began playing freshman baseball (pitcher) and football (quarterback). During his sophomore, junior and senior years at RHS he lettered in both sports.

Sandy was among the first wave of the “Baby Boomers” to grow up in town. The

Continued on next page



Sandy Allen



Sandy is on the left of the bottom row.

late 1950's and early 60's presented a difficult challenge to the athletes at RHS. The town was still small (Sandy's graduating class was only 55 seniors) and Ridgefield High had only changed from 6-man football to eleven man squad in 1957.

In his freshman year at RHS, Coach Mark had difficulties scrimmaging during practice because there weren't enough players to fill both an offensive and defensive squad. The team had to rely on blocking dummies as defensive players.

Sandy's football team members during the early years included past Old Timers awardee, Harlan Brooks, Craig Warren, Bob Rutan, Steve Guthrie, Jim Belote, Gordon Petite, Ronnie LeClair, Craig Warren, Charlie Castronovo, Bob Wilder and Fred Ball. But by the time Sandy played his last season a number of underclassmen had swelled the ranks of the team with extraordinary talent that ultimately changed RHS' position in the conference including former Old Timers awardees Harry Pierandri, Buggy Santini, Mike Bowman and Bob Lewis, as well as, Guy and Gary Beaudine

and Terry McManamy.

Sandy was the pitcher for the RHS varsity baseball team. Even given the school's size the squad was capable during the growing years of RHS to put on a fine performance in the conference. With Sandy on the 1962 squad were Wally Walker, Scott Nye, Craig Warren, Bill Bolling, Bob Howe, Grant Drake, Bob Manna, Mike Ryba and Guy Beaudine.

After RHS Sandy attended Wesleyan University in Middletown and played football and baseball. His pre-med major led him to Cornell for a degree in Veterinary Medicine. He started his own practice in 1971, the Northside Animal Hospital in Danbury. In 1998 he and his partner Randy James Paulding sold the practice and since that time he has been a part time vet in Rhode Island. Sandy never gave up his childhood passion for fishing, hunting and golf.

Sandy and his wife, the former Anne Middlebrook (RHS Class of 1965) reside in Charlestown, Rhode Island. They have three daughters and five grandchildren.



ALL SEASON COMFORT

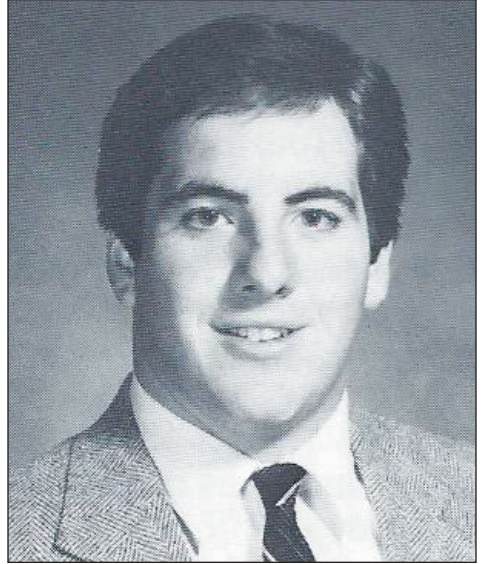
Sports Award: Mike Maiolo, Class of 1985

A record-breaking tackler

Mike's family moved to Ridgefield in 1979 prior to his starting seventh grade. Mike graduated from Ridgefield High in 1985. His sister, Christine, graduated in 1983 and his brother, Brian, graduated in 1986. It was not surprising that all the Maiolo children were athletes.

Mike's father, Guido, was the RHS football coach for many years and led Ridgefield to its first State Football Championship in 1983. Mike's mom, Toni, was an avid fan of RHS athletics for many years. Christine played softball and was a soccer cheerleader. Brian was a multi-year letterman at RHS in both football and track and was All Conference while at Ridgefield High.

In Mike's freshman year at RHS he was a co-captain on the junior varsity football team and was the only two-way starter on a team that lost but one game. He lettered on the varsity for three years and for two years was selected for the All-FCIAC First Team



Mike Maiolo



Mike is number 64 in the upper right.

Defense.

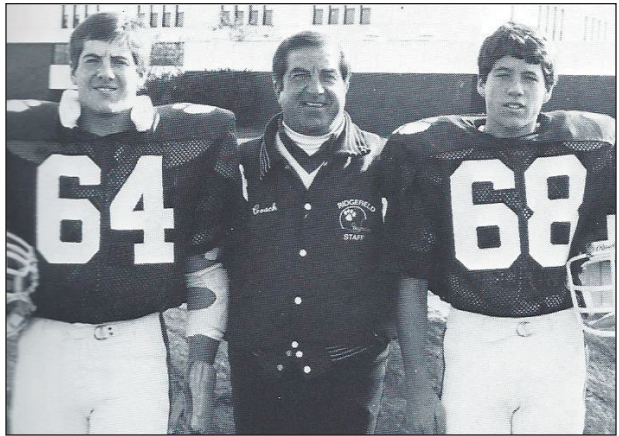
He was also All Area Defense for two years and was a member of the All State, second team, in his senior year. In his junior year Mike led the team that won the Connecticut Class L State Championship in tackles.

He was one of the team captains in his senior year and led that team in tackles, setting a school record for tackles per game.

Aside from starring in football Mike also lettered in track and wrestling.

After graduating Mike played on the Connecticut All Star team as a starting linebacker for the East team.

Mike played football at Bucknell University in the Patriot League but his career was cut short by injuries. He has stayed in close touch with the Bucknell Bison's football program and is still in touch with their head coach, Joe Susan.



Mike, his dad, Guido, and his brother, Brian.

Following college Mike spent ten years working in the paper industry and is currently the CEO of an international consulting business that he started in 2005, which now employs over 150 people in North America, Europe, Australia and Southeast Asia.

Mike and his wife, Giulia, and their two children, Gabriel (9) and Anna (7) live in Old Greenwich, Connecticut.

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