

RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS ASSOCIATION



23RD ANNUAL DINNER
OCTOBER 18, 2014

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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 2014; Christina Gramling and Martin (Mickey) Carbone. Christina and Mickey are our 43rd and 44th scholarship winners.

For the second year in a row we are back in Ridgefield at St. Mary's Parish. Last year was the most successful banquet in more than a decade. 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; Tom Belote for putting together all the biographies for this program; Gregg Hutchings and Mark Lionetti for organizing the ads for this program. Again this year Doug Clewell and Terry Hughes have handled our ticket sales. I would like to thank Barry Finch for organizing our entertainment at tonight's banquet. Members Jack O'Keefe, Pat Ligos, Rick Rowella and George Hanlon have worked in various areas all year. Thanks to John Pierandri and Reed Whipple for heading our scholarship committee and picking this years winners. Last but by all means not least I would like to acknowledge Mannette Hutchings, Andree Fitzgerald and Sarah Flanagan for running our silent auction.

I would like to thank Ridgefield Prime for serving us a delious dinner tonight, please support this exceptional local business.

I would like to make plea to everyone reading this to consider become an active member of this organization. Like I stated earlier we provide a wonderful scholarship to deserving RHS graduates and for this to continue we need your help. You can go on our web site, Ridgefieldoldtimers.org to see when our next meet will take place or feel free to email me at Fitzfive@att.net.

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

Mark Fitzgerald
President, ROTA

The 23rd annual *Ridgefield Old Timers dinner*

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014

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Who's in charge of the Old Timers?

The Officers

Mark Fitzgerald, chairman; Reed Whipple, vice chairmen; Gregg Hutchings, secretary; Mark Lionetti, treasurer.

2014 Committees

Awards Dinner Committee, Mark Fitzgerald, Gregg Hutchings, Mark Lionetti, Pat Ligos, Doug Clewell, Terry Hughes, George Hanlon, Rick Rowella.

Program and Biographies, Tom Belote, Gregg Hutchings, John Pierandri, Barry Finch, Jack O'Keefe, Jack Sanders. **Silent Auction**, Manette Hutchings, Sarah Flanagan, Andree Fitzgerald. **Scholarship Committee**, Reed Whipple, John Pierandri, 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: Darla and Ben Shaw

Helping others around the world

Ben and Darla moved to Ridgefield in 1966, where they raised two children, Dyke (NH) and Kobi (WI). They have five grandchildren. Ben and Darla are very active, and consummate volunteers both on a local and global level! They have, and continue to volunteer tirelessly for literacy, humanitarian and cultural causes.

Darla has been a teacher for 57 years. She spent 38 of those years in the Ridgefield school system, teaching reading and English. She has received many awards for her teaching including: Reading Teacher of the Year in Ridgefield and in New England. Based on her work in the field of literacy, humanitarian travel and women's studies, she also received the Higher Education Award for the State of Connecticut for Service Learning (2012). For the past 18 years Darla has been a professor at WCSU and was also adjunct professor for 20 years at Fairfield University, Sacred Heart, WCSU and Southern Connecticut.

Darla has an eye for identifying need, and an expertise for founding organizations where help is needed. Darla was the founder of the Alzheimer's Awareness Project for Kids, the Women's Empowerment Program at the Women's Center in Danbury, Drum Circles for Autistic Children in Danbury, the Peace Garden Project for Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots Program, the Women's Conference at WCSU and the Danbury Mentor of the Year Program. She was also on the committee that wrote the book, "Listen to the Ladies of Ridgefield". Darla also founded the Founder's Hall Band of which both Darla and Ben are members, and which voluntarily plays at many community functions. Darla has served in Ridgefield on the Cultural Commission, the Commission for the Elderly, as a docent for Aldrich Museum, and as a Weir Farm archives volunteer.

Ben has always been in recreation and loves working with his hands. He worked as the Superintendent of Recreation



Darla and Ben Shaw

in Pelham and Supt. of Buildings and Grounds for Chappaqua, NY. He devotes much of his time now working with Habitat for Humanity, the ASP Service Project in Appalachia and the CERTS program in town. He also built the Alzheimer's float for this year's Memorial Day parade and does all the construction for the Alzheimer's Awareness projects. Ben has played hockey for more than 65 years and in 2013 he was featured in a hockey video which was shown during the 2014 Stanley Cup playoffs, showing how you can still play in your mid 70's! This fall Ben will be featured in an edition of the AARP Magazine for his career in hockey.

Through his hockey team, the Olde Crabs, Ben has participated in many years of fundraising efforts for many causes. He is a trail maintenance volunteer at Weir Farm, a past President of the Eight Lake's Community Association and was an original volunteer boat builder at the Norwalk

Maritime Museum.

Ben and Darla have a knack for writing, music and theater and put that knack and their skills to good use by volunteer storytelling for the Tellabration Story Telling Project, preparing articles for the Ridgefield Press covering civic deeds, (Darla does the writing and Ben takes the photos), and being an oral historian for the Renewal House, Elmwood Senior Center and Women's Center. Darla is a role playing historian for the Danbury Historical Society and for the International ACE Women's Network and the founder of the Danbury Ghost Tours project. She also volunteers for the Norwalk Historical Society Ghost Tours and for the Long Lake, NY Historical Society where she regularly visits schools to share the legends of the Adirondacks.

In 2013, Darla was awarded the

Connecticut AARP Citizen of the Year Award for her work with Alzheimer's, autistic children, senior citizens, women in need, and people in third world countries. This September Darla will be among only seven people selected worldwide to be featured in the BBC Network 2 hour documentary on Eccentrics and How Much Good They do for the Community. Both Darla and Ben frequently travel abroad to do humanitarian work in third world countries. In 2013 Ben traveled to Bulgaria to do work at the Vrata Orphanage; in 2014 he worked on construction projects in Appalachia and in 2015, both Darla and Ben will be working with the Blackfoot Indians in Montana on their reservation.

We are proud and pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Ben and Darla for their many good works in our community and afar!

Distinguished Educator: Dr. Philip Pitruzzello

An overwhelming impact

While Dr. Pitruzzello's years in Ridgefield were limited, his impact was overwhelming.

He was Principal of Ridgefield High School from 1957 through 1960 and Ridgefield's Superintendent of Schools from 1962 through 1964. He had a profound, positive impact upon the institutions and individual students who attended them during his tenures. He ceaselessly encouraged students, collectively and individually, to target and achieve higher academic and personal standards.

After leaving Ridgefield, Dr. Pitruzzello became a superintendent of schools on Long Island and in 1968, Professor of Educational Administration at New York University. Since 1988, in addition to holding the title Professor Emeritus from NYU, Dr. Pitruzzello was a highly esteemed arbitrator and mediator.

He is retired and lives in Seattle.



Dr. Philip Pitruzzello

Special Award: Joy and Hank Kutcha

Many contributions to our youth

Joy and Hank Kutcha are the 2014 ROTA Special Award recipients for their contributions to the youth of Ridgefield.

High school “sweet-hearts” who grew up in Detroit, the Kutcha’s moved to Ridgefield in 1996, after living in Saudi Arabia and Middletown, NJ.

Throughout their years in Ridgefield, Joy and Hank have been active in coaching or administration of youth soccer, basketball and lacrosse. Joy was a member of the Board of Directors for Tiger Hollow and co-chaired the scholarship and holiday house tour committees for three years. Joy was President of the boys and girl’s lacrosse booster clubs and Tennis booster club at RHS. She was also very active with the Athletic Advisory Committee at RHS. In 2006 the Kutcha’s were instrumental in organizing a Division I college lacrosse game between the United States Air Force Academy and Dartmouth College at Tiger Hollow. Both institutions needed to use the boys’ locker room and showers at RHS. However the facilities were in disrepair and Hank spearheaded the raising of funds to accomplish the needed improvements. The Kutcha’s also helped raise funds for much needed trophy cases that were recently completed in the lobby adjacent to the high schools’ gymnasium.

Their three children, Justin (RHS 2003), Jocelyn (RHS 2007) and Jordan (RHS 2012) were all very active in youth and high school sports. Justin graduated



Joy and Hank Kutcha

from the Air Force Academy in 2007 and served in Afghanistan. He was a four year member of the Men’s Varsity Lacrosse team. Jocelyn is a 2011 graduate of the University of Denver and was a member of the Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team. Jordan is currently a junior at Loyola College in Baltimore and is captain of the Boys Varsity Tennis team. Joy is the Team’s mom.

According to Joy and Hank, although they are “empty nesters,” they still love Ridgefield and consider it “home”. They do however frequently travel to see Jocelyn in Denver, Justin, his wife and their 14 month old granddaughter in Midland, Texas and to Baltimore to root for Jordan.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Joyce C. Ligi, Class of 1960

A pillar of community service

Joyce, a graduate of Ridgefield High School and Williams College School of Banking, spent her working career in banking having retired from Fairfield County Bank in 2010 as a Senior Vice President, Community Relations.

Long active in community service, she is a member of the Board of Directors of the Visiting Nurse Association and Meals on Wheels of Ridgefield. She's also a member of the Wadsworth R. Lewis Trust Advisory Board, Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra Endowment Board and the Salvation Army Ridgefield/Redding Service Unit. She has served on the Boards of United Way, Danbury Hospital, Ridgefield Community Center, Ridgefield Library, Ridgefield Playhouse, Danbury Chapter of the American Red Cross and Hanahoe Clinic. She is an Incorporator of Fairfield County Bank, Danbury Hospital, Ridgefield Community Center and a member of the Ridgefield Lions Club.

Joyce has earned several awards and honors for community service including the 1991 Women of Challenge Award from the Girl Scout Council of Southwestern Connecticut, the 1993 Peter T. White Volunteer Service Award from the United Way of Northern Fairfield County, the 1994 Danbury Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow Award, the 2000 Connecticut Yankee Council, Boy Scouts of America Good Scout Award, the 2003 Ridgefield Lions Club, Volunteer of the Year Award, the 2007 Women's Center of Greater Danbury, Shelter from the Storm Honoree,



Joyce Ligi

the 2008 Ridgefield Lions Club's

Melvin Jones Fellow Award, the 2010 Catholic Charities of Danbury Mary Dolce Memorial Award, the 2011 Lions Low Vision Centers of Connecticut, Ambassador of Sight Award and the 2012 Keeler Tavern Cannonball Award.

She and her husband, Dante, live in Ridgefield.

**You don't have to be old
to be an Old Timer.**

All ages are welcome. Join today. For information, see Mark Fitzgerald or one of other other officers listed on page 3.

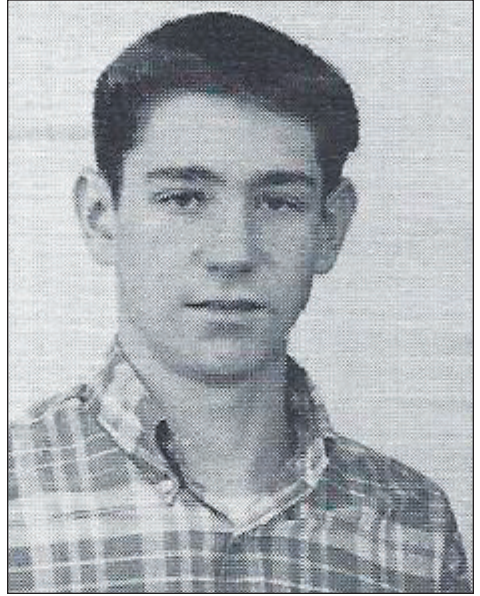
Sports Award: Brian Sullivan, Class of 1967

A star, near and far

A native Ridgefielder, Brian made his mark in Track & Field far beyond the limits of his hometown. First and foremost, he wants to thank the then “Ridgefield Boys Club” and Andy Kock for having introduced him and to a sport that was virtually unrecognized back in those years. Brian also gives credit to his Ridgefield High coaches, Bill Baron and Richard Medve, who helped him to fine-tune his running skills, especially at hurdling. To quote Brian: “this was back in the day when winter ‘indoor’ track practices and a handful of meets were held on the asphalt parking lot and inside the gym of the former high school on East Ridge and in the outdoor season our squad ran on the 220 oval grooved into the grass of Veterans Park field.”

It wasn’t until 1968 when as a member of Drake University’s track team that Brian was to achieve some of his best marks. After earning a partial scholarship as a “walk-on,” he broke the Bulldogs’ freshmen record at the 440-yard intermediate hurdles (54.4 seconds). He consistently placed in the top 3 in that event in conference meets. He placed 3rd & 4th in that same event during consecutive years at the Missouri Valley Conference Championships – contributing to Drake being the Conference champion for both years. At his own admission, “the latter performances would not have qualified [him] for the Olympic Team roster.” Just the same, he considered his achievements at Drake as “personal milestones, especially for a hurdler who in high school years had earned no more than an average ranking in [his] home state.”

Brian had opted not to run for his last two years of college, he returned to the sport in 1972, a year after receiving his B.A. at Drake. This time he kept close to home by running for the Fairfield Country Striders then featuring the former Connecticut State sprint champ and fel-



Brian Sullivan

low Ridgefielder, Ed Stone. This same summer was highlighted by The Striders taking home the Connecticut AAU team title, an outcome that was helped along by Brian’s victories in both hurdle races. By that same summer’s end, Brian had tried his hand at the decathlon for the first time, totaling 6188 points thereby earning for himself another Connecticut AAU title. At The Striders’ year-end banquet they honored him with their “Most Outstanding Athlete” award.

While continuing to train for the decathlon Brian received a call from the Peace Corps inviting him to work on a farm-research program in Costa Rica. While in Costa Rica he was pleased to find out that the country’s Estadio Nacional hosted track meets and he went on to win the country’s decathlon title. He helped promote Track & Field events for those youths living in and around the rural outback where he was stationed.

Continued on next page

Upon his return to the United States and the start of graduate studies in Spanish at Fairfield University, Brian continued to compete in track at the Master's level. In 1980 he culminated he placed second at the 400-meter hurdles in the Sub-Master's category at the National Championship held at Franklin Field in Philadelphia. During this time, Brian also served as an assistant track coach at Staples High and also assisted for two seasons at his alma mater of Ridgefield still under coach Richard Medve.

After relocating to El Paso, Texas, he continued to compete in hurdle races well into his thirties. "I ran 'unattached' in a handful of meets at The University of Texas at El Paso where I was continuing my studies to become a college profesor in Spanish & ESL. On one occasion he crossed over the border to run hurdles in the State of Chihuahua Championship in Ciudad Juarez.

"I guess that my long competitive career in Track, including coaching for a while must say something about my love for the sport. I can now appreciate that, not



Brian in front

very different from my educator role in languages, I also saw 'the coach' in me as a bridge of sorts hoping to pass on to the 'younger crowd' some of the things I had learned while competing." While no longer competing, he still continues to take long runs ("at a very slow pace and preferably on the grass") during his time off from teaching Spanish at the Southern Oregon University.



Brian is #25, fourth from left in front

CONGRATULATIONS

*To The Scholar - Athlete
of Our Family*



Dr. Brian J. Sullivan



Ridgefield
High School



CHEERS UNCLE BRIAN!

Jessica, Daught, Erin, Merritt

Sports Award: Nicole Muschett DiAntonio, Class of 1985

Transforming RHS volleyball

“She was one of the key players that transformed RHS Girls volleyball from the bottom of the FCIAC to a competitive program.” This statement from Nicole (Muschett) Di Antonio’s high school volleyball coach, Frank Lancaster Jr, twenty five years after she graduated indicates the fact that Nicole left an impression on her coach. Nicole is a 1988 graduate of RHS who excelled not only on the volleyball court but 2 other sports as well.

Nicole’s was born in Ridgefield but her family moved to Europe before she started kindergarten. The Muschett family moved back to Ridgefield for Nicole to go through 4th grade at Ridgebury Elementary School. After a year they moved back to Europe before coming back to town for a third time as Nicole was about to enter Ridgefield High School.



Nicole Muschett DiAntonio

Continued on page 13

**Congrats to former RHS Volleyball
Nicole Muschett DiAntonio on being inducted
into the Ridgefield Old Timers Association!!!**



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During her freshman year at RHS Nicole participated in field hockey, basketball and softball. It wasn't until her sophomore year that Nicole discovered volleyball. She continued to play basketball and softball working her way through the junior varsity teams. In her last two years at RHS Nicole earned a varsity letter in all 3 sports. She was a valuable member of the basketball and softball teams but volleyball was where she stood out. During her junior and senior year Nicole was elected to the All-FCIAC first team for volleyball. Her defense at the net was where Nicole excelled. Block and re-directing her opponent's shots was her specialty. Nicole, along with some of her teammates from those years; Kristin (Polverari) Ryan, Cindy (Collins) Saleeby and Michelle (Cavallo) Barbera; helped the tigers earn more wins in a season than any other team since Ridgefield entered the FCIAC in 1971.

After graduation Nicole moved to



Nicole Muschett DiAntonio blocks a shot.

Pennsylvania and started working full time and taking night classes. She found time her senior year to get back on the court and was able to play a year of varsity volleyball at Wilkes College. She met her late husband, Fred, in Pennsylvania and had a daughter, Ashley, who is now 9 years old. She continues to live in PA where she works as a Project Manager for Vanguard.



Nicole is #13, fourth from left in the rear.



Ridgefield Youth Lacrosse

Congratulates



Neil Ringers - 1987

A well deserved award for your
accomplishments and for paving the way for
more Lacrosse players!!

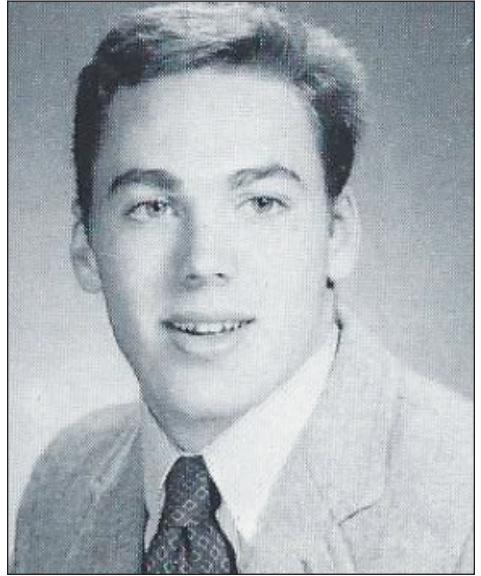


Sports Award: Neil Ringers, Class of 1979

The first to go pro in lacrosse

Denny & Minnie Ringers moved to Ridgefield in 1966 and lived on Shadow Lane for 30 years. There they raised four children, two daughters Judy and Anne and two sons Jim and Neil. Neil followed in the footsteps of his older brother Jim by becoming an outstanding football and lacrosse player on youth teams before taking his talents to Ridgefield High School.

Neil made an immediate impact on both the football and lacrosse fields. He was a dominant defensive player on the grid iron and an all-purpose mid-fielder on the lacrosse field. During his junior and senior years he impressed the area coaches and was chosen as All FCIAC and All State for his defensive prowess. In his senior year he was also voted the Defensive Player of the Year. Some of his teammates on those teams included Mike Bossidy, Tom Hallett,



Neil Ringers

Continued on next page



Neil, #77, was also a football star. He's with fellow captains and Coach Maiolo.

Matt O'Gorman and Rick Kirchbaum.

Neil was even more impressive when he took up varsity lacrosse. For three straight years he earned All-FCIAC and All-State honors. He also participated in the All State North-South All Star game after his senior year play at RHS. Lacrosse was still a relatively new sport in Ridgefield at that time and these honors were very rare for someone not coming from some of the more traditional lacrosse powerhouses in Fairfield County. Neil's lacrosse teammates included: Tom Henderson, Bill Wyman, Tim Daubenspeck and Keith Kavanaugh.

After graduating from RHS in 1987 Neil took his athletic talents to Ohio Wesleyan. His success was instant when he hit the field for the Battling Bishops. He became an outstanding member of both

the football and lacrosse teams. His list of college accomplishments were numerous and included many team championships. However none of his awards are more impressive than being an 8 time All American -four times in each sport- the most in the history of Ohio Wesleyan.

After graduation from Ohio Wesleyan Neil was the second player drafted during the 1990 Major Indoor Lacrosse League. He was selected by the Boston Blazers and spent a year playing in the Boston Garden for the Blazers.

Neil now resides in Georgia where he works for Oracle. He is a Vice President for Middle Market business in the Service Cloud Division. He is married and has 3 children, 2 daughters and 1 son. He is still active and spends his spare time coaching youth lacrosse in Atlanta.



ALL SEASON COMFORT

The Ridgefield Lacrosse Booster Club

Congratulates

Neil Ringers 1987



Congratulations Neil
on your recognition by the
Ridgefield Old Timers.

For the Love of the Game

Sports Award: Thomas Scala, Class of 1982

Part of the famed 'First Line'

Tom Scala comes from a family with close association to the Ridgefield Old Timers. His father, Dr. Richard Scala, was a ROTA honoree in 2009. His uncle Mario Scala was honored in 2003 and his uncle Carl Scala was a 2006 honoree. His uncle Tony Del Biondo was honored posthumously in 2007.

Tom played RHS varsity ice hockey in his sophomore, junior and senior years. He was the teams co-captain in his junior and senior years. He also played lacrosse in his freshman, sophomore and junior years.

Tom was a member of Ridgefield's famed "First Line" which was relied upon to do most of the scoring for the team. The "First Line" consisted of Tom at left wing, 2011 ROTA honoree Harry Geary, center, and Dave Dec, right wing. Tom amassed 26 goals and 43 assists during his senior year of play. He was second only to Harry Geary in goals made. The team, coached by Ed Stevenson and Gregg Hutchings, had a regular season end with 17 wins, 1, tie and 1 loss. Going into the state championships it was considered "the team to beat." Ridgefield beat Wilton in the FCIAC quarter-finals but lost to Greenwich in the semi-finals.

After graduation from RHS, Tom attended Connecticut College where he played



Tom, #6, on and off the ice and with team, second from right in front.

ice hockey for the Camels. He graduated in 1986 with distinction and is still remembered at the college for his ability and agility on the ice.

After graduation Tom entered the telecommunications/security industries with his pal John Ambler. He lives in Fairfield, Connecticut with his wife, Lori, and their two children, Chelsea and Kay Lee.



Sports Award: Sandy Beal Carpenter, Class of 1980

Softball star from the age of 9

Sandy (Beal) Carpenter has spent almost her entire life in Ridgefield. Her family moved from Syosset, New York in 1964, when Sandy and her sister Debbie (Beal) Ahle, were young children. Their parents, Roger and Audrey Beal, settled on Flat Rock Drive in the house that now belongs to Sandy and her husband Todd.

Sandy enjoyed many outdoor activities in the neighborhood including the batting cage and pitching mound her father built in the family's back yard. The first

**Sandy Beal Carpenter**

organized sport she participated in was softball. Sandy began playing softball at age nine in the newly formed Ridgefield Girls Softball League. She continued to improve and eventually played on the Junior Rockettes while at East Ridge Junior High School.

Arriving at RHS Sandy was immediately drawn to athletics. In the fall she began playing field hockey, which she participated in for all 4 years of high school. She was a varsity player- *Continued on next page*



For information on RHS Boys Ice Hockey visit:
www.rhstigerhockey.org

We hope to see you for the alumni game Friday
 November 28

Salutes

The Ridgefield Old
 Timers Association
 And Congratulates

Tom Scala

Their Latest
 Inductee

And former
 RHS Hockey Player

er for her entire career and by her senior year she earned All FCIAC as a forward. Some of her teammates from those field hockey teams were Dorene Almgren (a 2013 Old Timers awardee), Liz Batesole, Mary Janick, Sue Lauer and Kim Schmuck.

For two winters at RHS Sandy was a member of the girls' basketball team.

The spring of each year Sandy was on the RHS softball field using the skills she had honed since she was nine. She played on the varsity squad for all four years at RHS. Sandy pitched and played second base and was proficient enough to be selected All-FCIAC her junior year. She also spent her summers playing on the Ridgefield Rockettes women's softball team. Sandy also found time to umpire youth softball games for the local girls softball league. Some of her teammates from those high school years were Mary Janick, Sue Lauer and Tina Piacentini.

While keeping her grades up and play-



Sandy in action

Continued on page 22

FIELD HOCKEY



Chicks with Sticks

Congratulations Sandy!!

From the RHS Field Hockey Booster Club



***Congratulations
To
Sandy Beal Carpenter
from
Ridgefield Youth Field Hockey!***

Ridgefield Youth Field Hockey (RYFH) is a “young” organization compared to many of the youth sports programs in Ridgefield. We began our program a little more than 10 years ago with less than 20 middle school players. Our league now offers teams for all level players in grades 2-8. One of the most amazing things about our program is that the Ridgefield High School players not only coach our teams but they run a clinic for the youth league every fall. And we usually have at least one RHS alumni, who has played in our program, coach for us as well. Some of our adult coaches and referees are even graduates of RHS! These women are incredible role models for our young players. Like ROTA, it is an organization that runs full circle!

Sandy came from a time when there was no “RYFH”. It was, as they say, “all her”. There was no youth program where she could hone her skills... she did it by herself. We are proud to come after Sandy and to have her as an inspiration for all of our athletes!



Visit us on our website at www.fcfha.com-select Ridgefield Tab

ing up to 3 sports a year Sandy also found time to belong to the DECA club, acting as president her senior year, and was the Editor in Chief of the yearbook staff also in her senior year.

After graduating from RHS in 1980 Sandy attended Bates College in Lewiston Maine. She played varsity field hockey for three years and varsity softball for all four years. She was awarded a degree in Mathematics upon graduation in 1984.

After graduation from Bates, Sandy took a job at IBM where she worked for 15 years as a Network Applications Programmer. She continued to be active participating in company intermural leagues as well as playing in the Ridgefield Women's Softball League until 1995.

Sandy has been living in Ridgefield, in the house she was raised in, with her husband Todd and 2 children, Melissa, 17, and Matthew, 12. She has coached youth



Sandy is second from left in the middle row

sports in town and has been active in her church, Jesse Lee Memorial Methodist Church and has been an active member in the Veteran Park and East Ridge Middle School PTA's.

Thanks!

from The Ridgefield Old Timers

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Sports Award: John Lorenzini, Class of 1984

A record-breaker in track

John held the RHS record in the 3000M run in both indoor and outdoor track and the 5000M in outdoor track from 1983 to 1996. He competed on the state level for two years in cross country, indoor and outdoor track and won the first Wickham Invitational in 1983 by beating the eventual state open champ.

John organized summer practices for the RHS cross country team in 1982 and 1983. One of his cross country teammates was Mike Smith who subsequently finished 7th in the 1983 state open cross country championships. Suffice it to say John's RHS cross country team was very competitive.

After graduating from Ridgefield High John went to UMass where he received his bachelor's degree in Sports Management in 1989. He received his Master's degree in Education



John Lorenzini

from UConn in 2003. He was employed by the Hartford Public School System for 15 years as a health teacher and is currently employed at the Sports Medical Science Academy.

He made the varsity cross country team in his freshman year at UMass. He had extremely successful cross country seasons in 1986 and 1987. John ran 31:28 in the 5K in his freshman year and scored a point in New England's 10,000M that same year. In 1987 he made All New England's 3rd place in the 10,000M.

After college John coached cross country at Ridgefield High from 1992 until 1999. He was Coach of the Year in 1997. With John's coaching RHS won the State Class L Championship in 1997. The team was won two FCIAC Championships and one Central and five Eastern Divisional

Continued on next page



John is on the right end of the middle row.



John Lorenzini handing off.

Championships. The team had one State Open individual champion in 1997 and six consecutive State Class L individual champions starting in 1996. From 1996 until 1999 when John moved to Manchester, Connecticut, the team had six runners who received All New England awards by fin-

ishing in the top twenty five. Five of those six finished in the top ten.

In 1997 and one of John's athletes came within 1.2 and 2.1 seconds respectively from finishing in the top eight and qualifying nationals in a thirteen state meet at Van Cortland Park.

Sports Award: Peter Stuart Jongbloed, Class of 1975

From RHS defense to USA offense

The Jongbloed family moved to Ridgefield in 1972. Peter began his athletic career with RHS soon thereafter. He lettered with the varsity tennis team for three years and was the team's number one in singles.

Although a stellar tennis player, Peter is perhaps best known for his performance on the gridiron. He played varsity football at Ridgefield High for three years and lettered each year. Peter was named All-State Honorable Mention in 1975. That same year he was also selected FCIAC All-County, East Defense Team, End; the Bridgeport Sunday Post Defense Team, Class AA All Star Defensive End and the Danbury News Times All Area, Defense player.

Apart from his prominence in RHS athletics, Peter was on the Student Council in his sophomore and senior years and was

class president in his junior year. He was chosen as the Ridgefield Boy's State representative and was on the National Honor Society while at RHS.

Following high school Peter attended Trinity College in Hartford where he received his BA in history with a concentration in archaeology. He played on Trinity's varsity football team as an offensive lineman and outside line backer. He received Trinity's Gold Award for his three varsity letters.

Following graduation Peter worked as a paralegal in the litigation department of Davis Polk & Wardwell for two years. He then attended Quinnipiac University School of Law and was a member of the Law Review. He received his Juris Doctorate in 1985. Peter clerked for

Continued on next page



Peter, #51, on the field.

United States District Judge Alan Nevis in Hartford for two years. In 1987 he was appointed as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut where he still serves. At the United States Attorney's Office he has investigated and prosecuted a wide range of federal criminal cases including organized crime, public corruption, money laundering. Tax evasions, mortgage fraud, civil rights, child exploitation and drug trafficking. He has served as the Chief of the Criminal Division of that office and as Chief of the Organized Crime Strike Force. He is currently serving as the Executive Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut.

Peter was married to his wife, Barbara, at St. Stephen's Church in Ridgefield. They are the proud parents of three children, Bailey, John and Walter.



Peter Jongbloed



Peter is #51, top row, seven from the left.

Congratulations Recipients!





Christina Grambling and Martin 'Micky' Carbone

The ROTA Scholarship Winners

Our two 2014 scholarship winners are Martin (Micky) Carbone and Christina Grambling. This year's winners have been lifelong friends. Micky and Christina have been schoolmates from elementary school through Scotts Ridge Middle School to graduating from Ridgefield High School this past June. Both are exceptional students, leaders and are community minded individuals.

Christina played softball as a youth and then all 4 years at RHS. She earned a var-

sity letters her junior and senior years. Her coach at RHS said "she was willing play any position that would help the team and would sacrifice personal accomplishments for the good of the team."

Christina graduated from RHS with a GPA of 3.961. She was on the RHS High Honor Roll from her freshman to senior years. Christina was a member of the National Honors Society, DECA, and the Diversity Club. Her honors and awards

Continued on next page

included: Connecticut Youth of the Year Finalist (2014); Ridgefield Youth of the Year (2014) Bronze President's Volunteer Service Award (2013, 2014); Boys and Girls Club Leadership Award (2013) Most Improved Player-Softball (2013); Silver President's Award (2012) and the Tiger Pride Award (2011).

Off the field Christina was a fixture at the Boys and Girls Club. She went from being a member as a youth to an employee in her teenage years. Christina worked the summer camp with younger children as well as working at the club during the school year when her schedule permitted. This past spring she was awarded the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Award for her many years of dedication to the club. Christina is currently a freshman at Bryant University in Rhode Island.

Micky Carbone maintained honor roll status throughout his four years at RHS. He was twice named FCIAC Scholar Athlete of the month and was accepted into a number of AP classes.

Micky played as many sports as his schedule would allow. He played football throughout high school. He lettered in

varsity football in his sophomore, junior and senior years. Micky was captain of the Tiger team in his senior year and was selected as Defensive Player of the Year as well as All-Conference Defense. He was the captain of the RHS ski team in his senior year and was named to the All-State 1st team.

Micky also played lacrosse all 4 years at RHS. He was chosen as captain of the team in his senior year. In sum, Micky earned 3 varsity letters in football, 4 skiing and 3 in lacrosse. He was so well respected by his teammates and coaches that he was elected captain for all 3 sports his senior year. His lacrosse coach said "If we had a team full of Mickys we would be better off both on and off the field."

Off the field Micky worked teaching lacrosse to younger children in Ridgefield. His community involvement included Safe Rides, Save Children, Youth Football referee, Youth Lacrosse coaching, student government and Tiger Power Football Camp volunteering.

Micky is a freshman at Providence College in Rhode Island and is currently playing fall lacrosse getting ready for the upcoming spring season with the Friars.

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

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.



Congratulations to

Peter Jongbloed
and Neil Ringers

***EVERYTHING
MATTERS***

The RHS Football Team thanks The Ridgefield Old Timers for 20+ years of commitment to our athletic community.

Posthumous Awards: Harold Finch & Percy Marshall Bouton

Best friends and good sports

Harold E. Finch

Born August 16, 1886, Harold Everett Finch, along with his best friend Percy Marshall Bouton, brought basketball to Ridgefield from NYC in 1908. Upon his death February 27, 1952 the town hall flag flew at half mast, and Harvey D. Tanton, Joseph H. Donnelly, Thomas J. McGlynn, Frank Wallington, William Weinberger and Raymond M. Keeler were pall bearers at his funeral.

Harold Finch attended public schools as well as the Nash Private School in Ridgefield before attending Pratt Institute in NY, where he first played basketball prior to his and Percy's introducing the game to Ridgefield.

He was one of the town's first "real estate operators", and ran his office out of the United Cigar Store Sales Agency, known then as Finch's, later Squash's and today, Ridgefield News and Office

Supply. In those days it also had a soda fountain.

While he was a Republican Town Committee Chairman for 16 years, he held public office in Ridgefield. An original staff member of the Danbury Traffic Court since its inception in 1929, he was clerk of the court for the last 16 years of his life.

Harold Finch was member of the Methodist Church, Jerusalem Lodge A.F. and A.M. and a founding member of the Ridgefield Lions Club.

One of the greatest local fishermen of his time, Finch journeyed each year to the famous salmon fishing waters of the Margeree River on the Cabot Trail in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia with another best friend Pinky Gillum, who was one of our nations' top tree fly rod makers.

Harold was also one of the founders of the Wooster Mountain Gun Club and well known for his ability to hit 100 straight in skeet (clay pigeons).

Percy Marshall Bouton

Percy Marshall Bouton was born on March 13, 1891 at what is now 258 Kitchewan Road, Pound Ridge, New York, to Elmer Brundage Anderson Bouton and Ann Amelia Marshall Bouton. Amelia died in 1918, Elmer in 1941. Percy was raised in Ridgefield, Connecticut at 28 High Ridge Avenue, where Elmer was a keeper/gardener for the estate that then occupied most of that locality. For much of Percy's youth, a woman named Laura was a housekeeper for Elmer and Amelia and helped raise Percy. Percy stayed in touch with Laura and her family throughout his life. He also remained close to his cousin, Rowena Bishop of Pound Ridge, whom he visited occasionally on Sundays. As a boy he had enjoyed her chocolate cake which she would prepare for him on those visits even into his sixties.

From Laura's 1908-09 diaries we know that Harold E. Finch, Barry Finch's grandfather, was Percy's closest friend during their high school years and perhaps also before. They frequently stayed at each other's homes and enjoyed fishing, basketball and other pursuits together. It is perhaps not a coincidence that apparently Elmer and Harold's father, John H. Finch, knew each other through their shared interest and skill at skeet shooting, as both are listed on a silver cup ("The Ridgefield Cup") during the 1920's for excellence in that sport. Elmer also loved to square dance and perhaps so did John.

Horses and horseback riding must also have been a childhood interest of Percy's because later in his life he continued to love and ride and passed that interest along to his first child, Barbara. During World War I he joined Squadron A, a cavalry regiment based on the upper east side of New

York, and during World War II he was an un-enlisted member of the National Guard. He had learned to play the trumpet in High School and played the bugle during both associations with the military.

In spring 1909 Percy finished high school and left Ridgefield to find work in Stamford, Connecticut. He related later in his life that he had very much wanted to attend college but his father either could not afford to send him or thought college unimportant or perhaps both. Over the next several years Percy had various odd jobs based in Connecticut and Massachusetts including road construction and selling watches and knives. During that same period he attended for some time Babson, a business college north of Boston that later became a junior college.

At some point in the early nineteen-teens Percy found his way to New York City, probably looking for work. In 1913 he met and married his first wife, Gertrude Titus Curse, who was Brooklynite of Dutch ancestry. Gertrude died giving birth to their daughter, Barbara in 1920. At that time men alone were not expected to raise girls, and Barbara went to live with her aunts on her mother's side. But Percy remained in New York and stayed in touch with his daughter, although Barbara later recalled that she wished she had been able to spend a lot more time as a girl with her father.

At some point during those years between high school and his early time in New York Percy decided not to use his given first name, but to be known to his family, friends, and co-workers by the nickname "Boots", he had acquired along the way. More formally he always was known after that as P. Marshall Bouton or P.M. Bouton.

For about ten years from the time he moved to New York and met Gertrude, Boots had a number of jobs in New York, including playing trumpet in a dance band and managing a restaurant in lower Manhattan that catered to sailors off ships docked there among others. It was probably during that time that Boots contracted very serious dysentery. Doctor after doctor was unable to diagnose and treat the disease and over time Boots' weight

dropped to 90 lbs. Weak and unable to work, he returned to live with his father in Ridgefield. In Ridgefield, a local doctor suggested that given his dire condition Boots might take a medication that contained arsenic. He did and was cured, almost miraculously. After regaining his strength he returned to live in New York at some time in the early to mid 1920s.

In early 1929 Boots took a position selling government bonds at the First Boston Company in New York and began a career in Wall Street that lasted unbroken until his retirement in 1964. Somehow, perhaps because he was on the bond rather than stock side of Wall Street, Boots employment in the world of markets survived the Great Depression. In the 1930s he moved from First Boston Company to Eastman Dillon and then Kidder Peabody and Company where he remained for the rest of his working life.

In 1934-1935 Boots met and married Mary Melvin. Mary, about 28 at the time, was from North Carolina and had moved to New York to work along with other Carolinians. They had their first and only child, Marshall, in 1942, when Boots was 51 years old. By that time they lived in Jackson Heights, Queens, at that time a developing almost suburb of New York, in one of the first apartment complexes built there, the "Chateau". Several years later they moved one block to another early garden apartment, the "Towers", where they continued to live until 1965.

After Boots retirement from Kidder Peabody in 1954, he and Mary remained in Jackson Heights for another year but then moved to the warmer climes of Aiken, South Carolina, to play golf (a game he and Mary both enjoyed). Sadly, Boots did not get to enjoy their new life for long. In 1967 Boots suffered his first heart attack, and in 1969 a second heart attack killed him. His ashes are buried in Greensboro, North Carolina, next to his beloved Mary.

Boot's warm spirit, love of people and great sense of humor (many of his friends spoke of remembering his hearty laugh) helped him surmount many limitations and difficulties in his life, and greatly enriched the lives of those who knew and loved him.

Past Posthumous Awards

1994: Ralph Crouchley, Kip Holleran, Francis Martin	Harold Hilton	2006: Roy Cogswell, Hank Wilson
1995: Chuck Walter, Charlie Ashbee, Frank Minnerly	2000: Art Bellagamba, Stubb Cummings, Margaret O'Sullivan	2007: Tony Del Biondo
1996: Lou Girolmetti, John Sullivan, John Bacchicchio	2001: Tony Deluca, Walt Ryba, Bob Seymour	2008: James Principi, Jeanne Timpanelli
1997: Lick Santini, Red Delugo, Bill Allen	2002: John Sturges, Jimmy Warner	2009: Bradford Mortensen and Edward Zandri
1998: Joseph Venus, Art Sfondrini, Bob Stolle	2003: Scott Nye, Fred J. Romeo, Sr., Mario Scala	2010: Richard Ligi, Richard McGlynn, Richard Serfilippi
1999: Alan Crowley, Don Ligos,	2004: Steve Lancaster Bernie Leighton, Pete Carboni	2011: Robert J. Morganti, Erik Hoag, Andrew Lecher.
	2005: Charlie Ritch	2013: Gary Beaudine

Past Civic and Special Awards

1992: Richard Venus	Pambianchi Family	2004: Chuck Dean	Kiernan, Dave Scott	Nelson Gelfman;
1993: Bob Tulipani	1998: Dr. Peter	2005: Doug Main,	2009: Vincent	Terry Hastings.
1994: Beth Yanity	Yanity	Renee Franks	Ponnozzo, Jeanne	2012: Martha and
1995: Aldo Tulipani	1999: Charles Coles	2006: Jack Sanders	Cook	Dave Campbell;
1996: Ferdinand	2000: Kitty Rosa	2007: Ancona	2010: Christine and	Joseph Consentino.
Bedini	2001: Lewis Finch	Family	Philip Lodewick;	2013: Richard and
1997: Matty	2002: Edith Meffley	2008: Maureen	Chuck Camp	Deirdre Aarons;
	2003: Kay Ables		2011: Mary and	George Besse

Past Sports Awards

1992: Tabby Carboni, Lynce Carboni, Leo Pambianchi, Tom Clark, Charlie Frattini, Joe Forcelli, John Carboni	CYO Girls Championship Basketball Team
1993: Gene Casagrande, Bob Mulvaney, Vin Petrini, Charly Stolle, Joe Tulipani	2005: Tom Cesca, Tom Santini, Richard Polverari, Bob Pambianchi, Gregg Hutchings, Carol Torcellini, Bill Polverari, Renzo Falcinelli, Jimmy Bacchicchi
1994: Lyman Anderson, Harry Bennett, Aldo Girolmetti, Evo Principi, John Tulipani	2006: Larry Bossidy, Jr., Isabel Carporale, Frank Lancaster, Jr., Carl Scala, John Stolle, Dave Sturges
1995: Peter Casagrande, Dino Cincolani, Joe Brunetti, Ray Eppoliti, Bud Mahoney, Reno Severini	2007: Dave Landers, Jay Contessa, Chip Dean, John Devendorf, Marie Frulla, Steve Martin, Alan Wallace
1996: Ben Bedini, Fabio Biagiotti, Jack Leary, Harold Mead, Romeo Petroni, Janalie Severini	2008: Richard Lavatori, Judy Laslo, Craig Saltzgaber, Frank Serfilippi, Paul Vaughn, Chip Wilson
1997: Primo Baldaserini, Dante Brunetti, Frank Lancaster, Sr., Walt Evans, Navio Ligi, Fred Mazzi	2009: Robert Leary, Robert Lewis, Patricia Girolametti, Richard Miller, Peter Santini, Michael Principi and Dr. Richard Scala
1998: Gino "Jinx" Baldaserini, Dr. Phil Martin, Dr. Joe Moylan, Andy Montanari, Julius "Bugsy" Santini	2010: Abe Morelli, Tom Fossi, Michael Bowman, Amy Fredericks, Christopher Winnes, Janel Jorgensen, Michael Dell' Aquila, Tony Wilmot.
1999: Dick Bellagamba, Si Bellagamba, Gene Lavatori, John Lavatori, Gene McMahon, Harry Pierandi	2011: Lee Pasquarella, Harland Brooks, Janet Yanity, Harry Geary, Thomas McDonald, Joseph Korczynski, Lea Ann Schmidt, Gary Bellagamba
2000: Glen Anderson, Bill Elliot, Booker Jackson, Tom Mitchell	2012: Michael Conroy, Anthony James Forcelli, Beth Ondrick Gattey, Terence Hughes, George R. Mulvaney, Phil O'Brien, Walt Valentine.
2001: Ned Carboni, Paul Carboni, Jim Costanzi, John Fossi, Artie Frattini, Nick Reid, Gloria Sharkany	2013: William 'Sandy' Allen, Paul Bossidy, Dorene Almgen DeCecco, Mike Harris, Mike Maiolo, Ed Stone, Nicole Colanari Twomey
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	

Past Educator Awards

2013: Dr. Harold E. Healy and Dirk Bollenback

1959 Red Raiders



RIDGEFIELD, CONN. LIONS CLUB TEAM

No.	Name	Age	Wgt.	Position
46	PIERANDRI, H.	13	109	QB
17	LEARY, D.	13	82	B
47	KORCZYNSKI, J.	13	111	B
13	MEYLAN, R.	11	71	B
18	RITTENHOUSE, W.	11	80	B
17	MARCONI, R.	11	75	B
39	POLAVARI, R.	12	98	QB
37	EGAN, J.	13	87	B
38	PHELAN, R.	13	112	T
32	LERNEHAN, K.	12	89	T
40	RYBA, M.	13	107	T
34	VELTE, S.	12	80	T
43	PAMBIANCHI, J.	13	106	T
33	BOYCE, P.	12	99	T
35	BALDASERINI, J.	13	112	G
15	EGAN, T.	11	85	G
10	LARSEN, P.	12	97	G
41	SWOPE, T.	13	107	G
32	KOLASKIE, G.	12	89	G
42	TIBURZI, A.	13	111	G
28	CARBONI, S.	12	100	G
30	HERTZOG, F.	12	85	G
45	DINGEE, R.	13	102	G
31	GUIDO, R.	12	89	G
36	LARSEN, C.	13	102	C
48	NASH, B.	13	112	C
34	SANTINI, J.	13	112	E
23	KARWOSKI, P.	12	101	E
26	DORA, R.	13	89	E
44	HANSON, D.	13	112	E

MANAGERS

Robert Santini Chester Zawacki

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach, George Fasolo
Head Line Coach, Peter Yanity
Asst. Line Coach, William Anthony

TEAM RECORD

Season Record—8 Wins - No Defeats

Ridgefield	22	Lincoln Hall	6
Ridgefield	14	Norwalk	6
Ridgefield	20	Somers, N. Y.	0
Ridgefield	6	Children's Village	0
Ridgefield	28	Mt. Kisco	6
Ridgefield	10	Norwalk	8
Ridgefield	6	Mt. Kisco	0
Ridgefield	22	Lincoln Hall	6

This is the Ridgefield Community Center team sponsored by the Lions Club.
Population of Ridgefield — 6,500.

This is the 2nd year of Midget Football.

The Red Raiders of Ridgefield, Connecticut, sponsored by their local Lions Club are unbeaten and untied, with an 8-0 record. Half their opponents are from Connecticut and the remainder from the Westchester section of New York State. Coach George Fasolo is also the Director of the Ridgefield Community Center. The team's offense is built mainly around a spectacular passing game and is wide open and high scoring.



WISHES THE BEST OF LUCK TO THE

RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS



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Best Wishes!



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

We are proud to support
The Ridgefield Old Timers Association



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