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OCTOBER 14, 2017



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A Message from Our Chairman

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 4-year scholarship winners from the Ridgefield High School graduating class of 2017, Alexandra Damron and Steven Signorelli. Alexandra and Steven are our 49th and 50th scholarship winners. This is our second year with a new scholarship in memory of past ROTA chairman Tom Belote. The 2017 winners are Lucie Picard and Liam Courtney.

We are delighted to have our annual dinner in Ridgefield at St. Mary's Parish. The past few years have been some of the most successful dinners 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 Ridgefielders 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 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; Darla Shaw and Terry Hughes for putting together all the biographies for this program; Gregg Hutchings for organizing the ads for this program and Mark Lionetti who took on the task of organizing all the bios and ads and making sure the programs completed. Thanks to Doug Clewell, Richard Proctor and Terry Hughes for handling our ticket sales, as well as the staff at the Ridgefield Town Clerk's office for their continued help.

Thanks to John Pierandri, Peter Nichols and Mark Lionetti for heading our scholarship committee and picking this years winners. Trish Gernert and Trish La Rosa did a great job setting up the room for this event with the assistance of many members. Last but by all means not least our treasurer, Manette Hutchings, for running our silent auction as well as assisting with setting up this event.

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

I would like to make a plea to everyone reading this to consider becoming 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

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of The American Legion



SALUTES

Doris Ventres

We honor Doris for her more than forty years of dedication of writing letters to all of Ridgefield's brave men and women serving their country. Letting them know the local news and they had a friend in Ridgefield who supports them.

God Bless Doris and the USA!

The 26th annual Ridgefield Old Timers Dinner Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017

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Who's in charge of the Old Timers?

The Officers: Mark Fitzgerald, chairman; Gregg Hutchings, secretary; Mark Lionetti, vice president. Manette Hutchings, treasurer.

Awards Dinner Committee: Doug Clewell, Mark Fitzgerald, Andree Fitzgerald, Sarah Flanagan, Trish Gernert, George Hanlon, Terry Hughes, Gregg Hutchings, Manette Hutchings, Dave Kiley, Trish LaRosa, Mark Lionetti, Pete Nichols, John Pierandri, Richard Proctor, Darla Shaw, Ben Shaw

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



Doris Ventres writing to a Ridgefield soldier.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD:

Doris Hoyt Ventres **A True American Hero**

Ms. Doris Ventres is considered a true American hero by many in the town of Ridgefield, and it is easy to see why. For 46 years, Ventres had been hand writing letters to hundreds of veterans from her hometown. For her great patriotic service to the community Ms. Doris Ventres is posthumously being awarded the 2017 Service Award by the Ridgefield Old Timer's Association.

At age 40 Ventres was in a church hallway and spotted a beautiful bronze plaque in memory of two young men who had lost their lives in the Vietnam war. One of the men had been a school mate of hers. After seeing this plaque, Ventres decided that something needed to be done for these young men who were sacrificing so much for their

country. The next day Ventres starting writing letters to service men and women and never stopped.

A much disciplined person, Ventres spent one week a month from Monday through Friday, six hours a day, writing to military personnel about what was going on in their home town and sending them photos and news article. She would have about fifty young men and women on



her list at a time. Never liking the typewriter, she used a special pen and stationery that she would buy on sale. All of her writing was done at her special desk in her memory room which was filled with photos, flags and letters from the people she corresponded with on a regular basis. To get the names and addresses of people to write to, Ventres would use word of mouth, information from the

town hall records, announcements in the newspaper and any other source. Most of the people that she wrote to, wrote her back, but that was not necessary in her mind. She just wanted people serving their country to know that those at home were thinking about them.

Ventres knew the military first hand as her husband, George, and her father-in-law were in the military. She was proud to continue in this vein and be known as Ridgefield's ambassador for the military. Two years before her death, Ventres had the honor of being asked to ride as the marshal of the Memorial Day Parade in Ridgefield. Six years before her death she was honored by the American Red Cross and also at a special banquet given by the DiPreta family. This family wanted to show appreciation to her for what her letters had done to help their daughter through hard times. At this banquet many of the young men and women with whom she had corresponded, spoke of how much her letters meant to them over the years.

A 1946 graduate of Ridgefield High School, Ventres became a commercial model and appeared regularly in national magazines. She was also a bookkeeper and an active member of the First Congregational Church where she served as historian. Enjoying the out-of-doors and hunting and fishing, Ventres was a member of the NRA and the Ramapoo Rifle Club.

Always proud of her two sons, Tad and Dale, Ventres loved to travel to Montana to be with her two grandsons. But being at home with her husband of 68 years and writing her letters also brought her also great joy. A unique, one of a kind patriot, Ms. Doris Ventres will not soon be forgotten as her legacy has touched so many generations.

Governor Jodi Rell presented a proclamation to Doris Ventres in praise of her selfless work, altruism, and enthusiasm in support of the US Armed Forces. No more true words were ever spoken.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR:

Joan Voss

One of the Best-Loved Teachers

Ms. Joan Voss will be the recipient of the Old Timer's Award for Educator of the Year, 2017 for her forty years as an outstanding teacher of English and theater arts at Ridgefield High School and as the first Ridgefield Alternative School Principal/Teacher in town. Not only did Voss work as the first administrator of the Alternative School, it was also due to her efforts that the school was established and has been successful for so many years.



Joan Voss was a popular teacher and administrator for 40 years.

Coming to Ridgefield from New York City, Voss graduated from Catholic High in Waterbury in 1969 and then Seton Hill University in Pennsylvania. She worked for Ridgefield Parks and Recreation Dept. in the summers and then went on to get her first job at Ridgefield High School.

Over the years Voss has received many prestigious awards including the Ridgefield Teacher of the Year in 2002 and Seton Hill's Outstanding Alumnae Award in 2003. She has also received the 1998 Children's Empowerment Award for service to the children in the community. It has been evident to people throughout her career, that Voss was a woman of exceptional talent.

Ms. Voss is most proud of her efforts with the Alternative School saying, "This school was not a school for only special education students. It was a school for bright, creative students who needed a different environment in which to learn. It was a school that was based on teamwork where faculty and students worked together to make the rules, create a learning environment, develop curriculum and be as productive as possible."

"The Alternative School was a place where faculty were on call 24/7 and were considered "family." We were able to function in a

positive manner if we were in the old cow barn or in the old Spotlight Theater. Because of the supportive learning environment at the Alternative School, all of the students graduate, almost all go on to college (many highly selective colleges), and most are now leading very productive lives. I am so proud of my graduates and their many and great accomplishments.”

Voss is also very proud of her wonderful family. As a widow, Voss raised two adoptive children who have brought her great joy. Her daughter, Elizabeth, from Romania, has recently married and works for Factcheck. Her son Adrian works in New York City with Transperfect.

While at Ridgefield High School, Voss taught theater arts and produced and directed all of the non-musical plays. She also was on the Board of Directors for the Ridgefield Theater Barn, ran it for several years and also acted there. She still treasures her years when she was acting. Her one acting student who stands out in her mind is Paul Stroili who is now a well-known actor in Chicago.

For hobbies, Voss loves to travel (especially to Italy), garden, read, meet with her friends, and design jewelry. With a real eye for beading, Voss has created some magnificent pieces of jewelry.

Probably Voss’ greatest strength, however, is her ability to connect with people, understand them, and truly care about them. A very compassionate person, Voss is probably one of the best loved teachers in the town. Once a student has been in one of her classes or been a part of her very special school, they are forever changed. Voss helps them to understand both their strengths and weaknesses and helps them to go through life with greater purpose and self confidence

When asked about her goals for the future Voss replied, “To just continue to live life to the fullest and stay spontaneous.” —Darla Shaw



SPECIAL AWARD

Janice Pauly

One of Ridgefield's Leading Volunteers

Since moving to Ridgefield almost forty years ago, Janice Pauly has been committed to serving the community in a variety of ways. As a booster club member for multiple sports, Little League coach and board member, to being a key person in the PTO's and publishing literacy magazines, to leadership on almost every playground committee, Pauly has been one of Ridgefield's leading volunteers.

With an undergraduate degree from Cortland University and two master's degrees, one in health education and the other in exercise physiology from Columbia University in New York City, Pauly stated out being a director of a YMCA and then went to work for Xerox Corporation in both Stamford and Greenwich as manager of their health facilities. Along the way she also worked for IMRS as a data control manager before coming to Ridgefield to work as our Director of Aquatics at the Recreation Center and physical education teacher at East Ridge Middle School from 1996 to 2009.

A very humble and unassuming person, Pauly is highly organized and knows how to get the job done while maintaining a wonderful relationship with her co-workers.

She is also very willing to take on the harder tasks as a volunteer and never seeks recognition. A working mom with one married son, and a widow, it was hard for Pauly to say, "No" if she believed in a cause.

In addition to serving as treasurer for the Imagination Station Playground in Ballard Park, and serving for 30 years on the board for Friends of Parks and Recreation, Pauly took it upon herself as a faculty member at East Ridge Middle School to do something about the tennis



Janice Pauly

courts at her facility. Through her efforts, we now have courts that are useable and of value to the community.

A strong activist, Pauly is also involved in the Save the Antlers Program in the Adirondacks to keep the park forever wild. Caring deeply about the underprivileged and those in need, Pauly also volunteers regularly with Catholic Charities and other organizations that helps those who are disadvantaged.

One of Pauly's biggest volunteer contributions to the town, however, was making Ridgefield the pickleball capital of Connecticut. Pauly learned to love pickleball, an interesting paddleball type sport that is growing in popularity, while being a physical education teacher at ERMS. She had learned the sport as a college student and saw its potential not only with senior citizens, but with middle school students. Pauly considers pickleball more than a sport, she considers it a community of people.

Approximately ten years ago, Pauly started teaching and running pickleball tournaments for our local area. Then due to her expertise, was asked to run both the Ct. State Senior Pickleball Tournaments and the Empire Senior Games in N.Y. Again her outstanding leadership and coordination skills were noted, and she is now the volunteer director of the USAPA Pickleball Tournaments for the Atlantic Coast. This means that she is coordinating over 400 tournament players. Her outstanding computer skills also come into play here.

In addition to continually running classes and tournaments for the Recreation Center, Pauly regularly volunteers there with a variety of other projects, especially those dealing with computers and web sites. A person who can be counted on without question, Pauly fills in for many recreation activities in her own seamless fashion and has been nominated for awards by the Parks and Recreation Department. Athletically she continues to run, but has given up her competitive marathon running of the past.

Pauly has also devoted a great deal of time to the Alzheimer's Program in CT, winning awards for her work as the business manager, web site manager, grant writer, and organizer for the Ridgefield's Kid's Program for Alzheimer's. It was also Pauly's idea to establish a Music and Memory Program for the Alzheimer's Unit at Laurel Ridge Health Care Center. Due to Pauly's grant writing efforts, Laurel Ridge now has a dedicated computer with thousands of pieces of music to provide personalized play lists to residents. Her program started with ten residents and now Laurel Ridge wants to expand the program to the entire facility. When Pauly is behind any new program, there is usually an extremely high success rate.

We are fortunate to have a woman in Ridgefield who is not only willing to serve on numerous committees, but has the ability to create entirely new programs that bring a better life style to people of all ages in her community. —Darla Shaw



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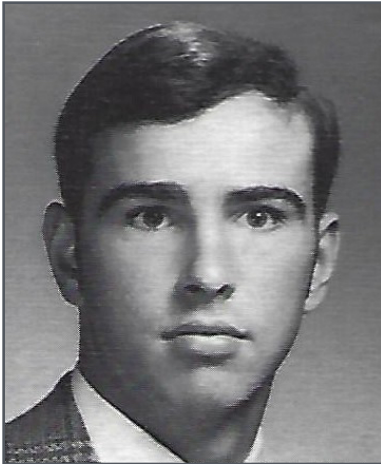
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SPORTS AWARD

Dr. Joseph Connelly

A Two-Sport Record-Breaker

Although Dr. Joseph Connelly (class of 1971) did not arrive on the sports scene at Ridgefield High School until the end of his sophomore year, he made quite a name for himself. In his two years at RHS,



Joe Connelly

Connelly excelled in both track and football.

In football, Connelly was a running back, and a defensive back, winning All Conference, All Area, and All State and achieving a School Year and Career Touchdown Record that lasted until the 1990's. In track Connelly was equally as impressive as he set school records in high hurdles, both indoor and outdoor 800 relays and the 400 relays. His time for the 400 relay established a new FCIAC record.

After Ridgefield High School, Connelly got his BS degree in biology from Boston College and then went on to Georgetown University to earn his medical

degree in 1979. His residency was in Family Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia.

Since obtaining his medical degree, Connelly has worked in family medicine in Appalachia in both West Virginia and Ohio. He then came back east where he began working at both St. Joseph's and Stamford Hospitals in Connecticut. In 2009 Connelly became the Chairperson for Family Medicine at Stamford Hospital and also the Residency Coordinator for doctors from Columbia University.

While working as a physician and hospital administrator, Connelly also taught medical students at numerous medical facilities; New York Medical College, Yale University, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the University of Ct., Columbia University, and Albany Medical College. He also has certification in sports medicine.

Today Connelly lives in Wilton with his wife and is very proud of his five children who range in age from 25 to 37. He children now have careers in the secret service, the Marines, investment banking and business, and in education.

SPORTS AWARD

Nancy Ruhl Hurley

The Scrappiest on the Team

Nancy Ruhl Hurley (Class of 1987) moved to Ridgefield from Freehold, N.J. when she was three years old. She lived with her parents, Ed and Patricia, and six siblings on Mimosa Circle and went to Scotland Elementary School. In the fourth grade she joined SCOR Soccer Program, playing on a coed team. She found that the boys did not like to pass to the girls and found it very frustrating as the girls were good players.

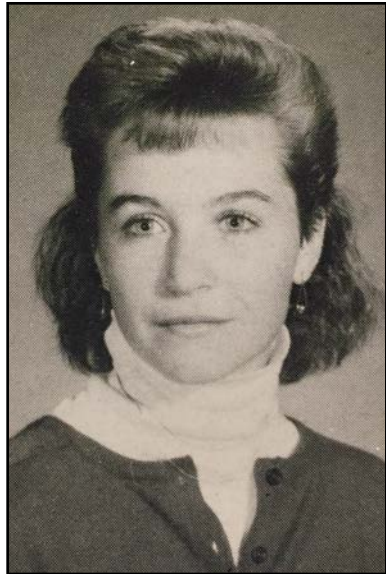
After joining Lee Scher's indoor travel team and playing tournaments on Long Island, in Niagara Falls, and Columbia, Maryland, the girls seemed to prove their worth and their parents loved going to their travel games as much as the girls loved playing in them.

For coaches, Hurley also had Joe Colonari and Phil Santoro at Ridgefield High School.

Playing mostly outside midfielder, Hurley was captain of the girls' soccer team her senior year along with Beth Ondrick, Amy Miller and Chris Tiffany. Starting in 1983 Hurley was on the FCIAC Championship Team that went to the semifinals.

In 1984, she was runner up on the FCIAC Girls' Soccer quarter finals for the state. In 1985 she was named a FCIAC Soccer Champion and played U-16 in the Northeast Regional Tournament in Niagara Falls where the team won the State Cup.

In 1986 Hurley was runner up FCIAC Girls' Soccer and in 1987 she was on the team that won the CJSA Cup Championship against Simsbury. No matter what competition Hurley was in, it did not get any better than beating arch rival, Wilton.



Nancy Ruhl then...

When Hurley was not playing soccer she was playing softball, starting with youth softball, first with Grabofski Roofing, then with the Rockettes Travel Team, and then on the high school varsity softball team. She played varsity for three years under the direction of Coaches Charboneau and Matteo, usually playing second base.

Hurley went on to play soccer for four years, as a walk on, at Providence College. She remembers playing outside halfback and being the smallest and scrappiest on the team. She also remembers playing with Ridgefield classmate, Christina Tiffany. At Providence

she majored in English and business.

Continuing to play soccer in her 20's, 30's, and 40's, in leagues on the North Shore of Massachusetts, Hurley had to stop when she tore the fascia on her right foot eight years ago. This did not stop her from coaching, however, and she went on to coach all four of her children for Wakefield, Mass. Travel Teams. Today she still has two children in high school, one at Providence College and one at Holy Cross.

While working at Scudder, Stevens and Clark, Inc. in mutual funds and marketing, Hurley met her husband, Tim. They were married at St. Mary Church in Ridgefield and then moved to Massachusetts. Hurley is still active in golfing and is the nine hole champion at Bear



Nancy Ruhl Hurley now...

Hill Golf Club in her town.

Some of the early soccer memories that Hurley retains are playing with Kristine Lilly of Wilton between her senior years of high school and beginning of college in a special tournament. She loved that she could play on the same team with Lilly and not against her.

Hurley also remembers all the new swear words that the team would learn from the mean girls of Long Island, the night practices on the football field, and the mosquito infested practices next to the skating rink. Highest in her memory however, was the unusual howl of joy that came from Beth Ondrick's father each time a goal was scored for the Ridgefield team.

Congratulations

NANCY RUHL HURLEY

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leadership in the
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We hope to see you at the field!

ATHLETIC AWARD

Bo Beatty

A Six-Sport Athlete

When it comes to taking part in multiple athletic events at Ridgefield High School, Bo Beatty would be hard to beat. He played baseball, basketball, football, tennis, skied, and ran track. Athletics was a part of the DNA of all members of the Beatty family.

Beatty moved to Ridgefield from Evansville, Indiana in 1972 and his parents and brother, Paul (1985), still live here today. He started school as a third grader in Farmingville Elementary School and was introduced to the class at Boo Beatty. This was not a happy moment for Bo.

Beginning very young in sports, Beatty played Pop Warner Football, Little League, Babe Ruth, and Pony-Colt Baseball and Townies basketball. At the high school level, Beatty played freshman and varsity football and freshman basketball and then went on to play on the varsity tennis team for three years, the varsity ski team for two years, and the varsity track team for one year.

Most heavily awarded in football, Beatty made the All-Area, All FCIAC Team with a rushing record of over 1,000 yards during his senior year. During that same year he also won the team's MVP Award, and was a Dial Scholastic All-American.

Mr. Bill Dent was the Pop Warner football coach most remembered by Beatty. Beatty also remembers fondly the last football game of his senior year with Wilton. Along with Bobby Riddell, he made a bet with two girls about the score of the game. If Ridgefield won, the girls bought dinner. If Wilton won, the boys bought dinner. Unfortunately, the game was tied with only seconds to go, Ridgefield kicked a 30 yard field goal but missed it, and no one got a free dinner.



Beatty in Pop Warner

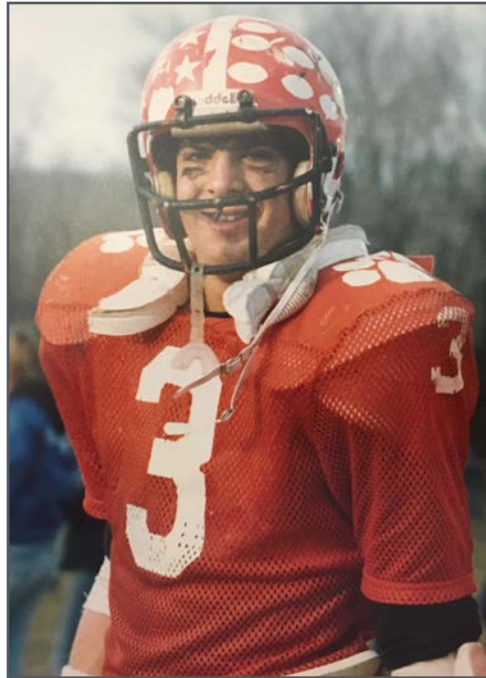
Beatty also remembers playing freshman football at 90 pounds, while Gregg Brown was 180. He also remembers when quarterback Steve Pinkerton accidentally took the wrong helmet and squished his head into the helmet waiting for the ball to be snapped. The group did not remember the ball play, but still remember the painful look on Steve's face. Beatty's last strong athletic memory took place during a State Individual ski meet where he was in first place after the first run. But he then fell, almost on the the finish line, during his second run. This loss hurt as much as a squished head in a helmet.

From Ridgefield High School, Beatty went onto Dartmouth College where he played football as a cornerback and a wide receiver. During his time with Dartmouth he played against Army at Michie Stadium with 40,000 cadets and fans. He also remembers seeing some of his games replayed on ABC Sports, and was even able to play a game against Columbia in Giant's Stadium.

As an academic major, Beatty chose economics which would take him to IBM and Wall Street for five years before entering the world of media and entertainment with Sony for 14 years.

However, for the last ten years, Beatty has been working as the community director for Grace Community Church in Grace Farms, New Canaan.

Still very active in sports, Beatty has been playing with Fairfield County's Tennis League for over 33 years and also plays a great deal of paddle tennis. He also continued to play softball in Ridgefield as an adult and for the last nine years has been playing softball for a New Canaan team.



Beatty as a Tiger



**The Ridgefield High School Cross Country and
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ATHLETIC AWARD

Danny Geary

A Real Triple Threat

If there was ever a royal hockey family in Ridgefield it had to be the Geary Family. Danny Geary is being inducted into the Old Timer's Club for his hockey career at this year's ceremony. His brother Harry

was honored by the Old Timer's Club in 2011 and his other brother, Paul, was on the first ever Ridgefield High School Hockey Team.

One of eight children, Geary moved to Ridgefield in 1970. Being the youngest of five sisters and two brothers, Geary, like the other family members excelled in sports. As an active member of the Ridgefield Boy's Club, Geary also played youth hockey, youth soccer and youth baseball. Geary was a real triple threat. He credits his past coaches –



Danny Geary on the ice

William Hoag, Robert Stearns, Ed Stevenson, Gregg Hutchings and Charlie Huntington for helping drive the passion he has for the game. He also thanks Ed Helminski and Mike Bedini from the Boys Club for providing the opportunity to develop into a better athlete and person.

As a 1986 graduate of Ridgefield High School, Geary played junior varsity football in his sophomore year and started seriously on his hockey career at that same time. By the time he was a senior he was captain of the Ridgefield Hockey Team and made First Team All

FCIAC for both the 1984-5 and 1985-6 seasons. He has also awarded an Honorable Mention in hockey for All State, 1985-6 and was on the Team Connecticut for both 1985 and '86. During his time on the ice in the winning years, he skated with other well-known skaters as Chris Winnes, Kevin Buckley, Bob Wyman, Erik Hoag, Paul Protomastro, Mike Kearney, Scott Steiger and David Hutchins.

With the love of hockey in his blood, Geary went on for an additional year of post grad hockey at Canterbury School where he played soccer and baseball and made ALL NEPSAC Hockey, 1987.

After Canterbury, Geary chose to attend the University of Lowell and major in business. As a walk on for a Division I Hockey East School, he was able to play in the NCAA Men's Ice Hockey Tournament in 1987. He had truly made a name for himself in the sport which was such an important part of life since he was a young boy. He also got his BS degree from the University of Lowell in 1991.

After college, Geary returned to Ridgefield to be the assistant coach of the Ridgefield High School Hockey Team from 1991 to 1994. From this position he moved to Holliston, Mass. where since 2015 he has been the head hockey coach for the high school. In addition to coaching hockey, his love for working with young people has him also coaching the youth level in soccer, baseball and, of course, hockey.

Now married for over 20 years to a wonderful woman named Melanie, Geary has two children, Brendon 16 and Lauren 14. He continues to live in Holliston, Massachusetts and play hockey. —Darla Shaw

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ATHLETIC AWARD

Amy Walter Hillenbrand

Outstanding at Track & Cross Country

Amy Walter Hillenbrand, Ridgefield High School graduate of 1979, is being recognized by the Old Timer's for her outstanding career in cross country and track during her four years at Ridgefield High School.

In the middle of kindergarten, Hillenbrand moved to Ridgefield along with her parents, Richard and Shirley Walter, and her six siblings. All seven children attended and graduated from Ridgefield High School.



Amy Walter Hillenbrand

Although Hillenbrand did not participate much in athletics as a youth, she came into her own in high school in both cross country and track. In 1976 she was the FCIAC First Place finisher in cross country. In 1977 she followed up with another FCIAC First Place finish and qualified for the State Team. Then in 1978 Hillenbrand took Second Place in FCIAC, again qualified for states, and also served her track team as co-captain.

Hillenbrand had a similar record in track, holding the Ridgefield High School mile record with a time of 5:23. She also held the Ridgefield High School two mile record with a time of 11:52. With her outstanding talent in track, Hillenbrand qualified for states for all four years at Ridgefield High School and was co-captain of the track team in 1979.

For college Hillenbrand chose to go to Rutgers University and went on to graduate from Rutgers University in 1983 with a BA

Biochemistry. She did not participate in team sports on the college level.

After college Hillenbrand came back to Connecticut to work for International Biotechnologies, Inc. in New Haven. She was in charge of quality control. She then stayed home to take care of her three children who have since gone on to exciting careers of their own. Michelle is a lawyer in New York City, Becky is a physical therapist in Wisconsin, and David is an industrial designer in Wisconsin.

Along with two of her brothers and sisters, Hillenbrand lives in Wisconsin and is married to Philip Hillenbrand, a Lutheran pastor. Her life is full and exciting and she is happy to be receiving the prestigious award from the Old Timer's.

Currently working at Concordia University in Wisconsin's School of Education, Hillenbrand has fond memories of Ridgefield where her parents still live. Her brother Mark who still lives in town, and his four children all graduated from Ridgefield High School. She is grateful for her athletic career, the friendships, the coaching and the discipline that one learns from achieving in an athletic endeavor. —Darla Shaw.



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ATHLETIC AWARD

Dr. Theodore Librizzi

An Athlete and a Scholar

As a 1974 graduate of Ridgefield High School, Ted Librizzi went on to use his high school athletic/academic record to obtain a four year football scholarship to Ohio University. He went on to get his Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the Ohio State University.



Ted Librizzi

Librizzi moved with his parents, Frank and Bernadette, to Ridgefield early in his life so that he was able to play on Ridgefield teams for Little League, Babe Ruth Baseball, Townies Basketball and Red Raider's Football. He was well prepared to take key roles on the high school football and track teams.

Earning his letter in football for three years, Librizzi went on to serve as the captain of the 1973 Ridgefield High School football team and earned three special honors; honorable mention All-State, All-FCIAC Eastern

Division, and Danbury All Area Team. He was also a three year letter athlete in shot put.

After obtaining his football scholarship, Librizzi continued to pile on the awards. As a starting right defensive tackle for three years on the Ohio University varsity, Librizzi was named, all three years, to the Mid-American Conference All-Academic Team. In 1977 he was named to the Division I, second team, as an All-American Player.

Education, along with athletics, has always been a priority with Librizzi who got his first degree in zoology. Then in 1982 he received a doctorate in dentistry, and finally in 1984 a post graduate Orthodontic Certification from Tufts School of Dental Medicine.

Married to Linda Kappes in 1980, Librizzi has five children and is a senior partner in Associates in Orthodontics in four areas in Vermont; Essex, South Burlington, Middlebury, and Newport. He is most proud of his five children, who each excel in their own ways.

His daughter, Jamie, also has her doctor's degree and was 2004 captain of the Dartmouth Women's Basketball team. Kelly, another daughter, was captain of the University of Vermont's swim team, while Zachary followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a dentist after

graduating in 2008 from Wesleyan University and being captain of his football and lacrosse teams.

Evan Librizzi, the fourth child, received her MBA from Colgate in 2011 and was captain of the Women's Basketball Team. Max, her brother, got his CPA from Holy Cross in 2014 and played varsity football. What mother and father would not be proud of five children who followed so closely in the footsteps of their outstanding parents?

The Ridgefield Old Timer's Association is proud to be able to recognize someone of such great athletic and academic stature as Ted Librizzi in our 2017 ceremony.



Librizzi at Ohio University



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This Year's Scholarship Winners



Each year the Ridgefield Old Timers awards four scholarships. This year's winners are, from left, Alexandra Damron, who will be studying at Johns Hopkins; Liam Courtney, College of Charleston; Lucie Picard, Clemson; and Steven Signorelli, Dartmouth.

In memory of

Tom Belote

*"The Ridgefield Old Timers
Tom Belote
Memorial Scholarship"*

He loved Ridgefield...





ALL SEASON COMFORT

Past Old Timers' Awards

Posthumous Awards

1994: Ralph Crouchley, Kip Holleran, Francis Martin; 1995: Chuck Walter, Charlie Ashbee, Frank Minnerly; 1996: Lou Girolmetti, John Sullivan, John Bacchiochi; 1997: Lick Santini, Red Delugo, Bill Allen; 1998: Joseph Venus, Art Sfondrini, Bob Stolle; 1999: Alan Crowley, Don Ligos, Harold Hilton; 2000: Art Bellagamba, Stubb Cummings, Margaret O'Sullivan; 2001: Tony Deluca, Walt Ryba, Bob Seymour; 2002: John Sturges, Jimmy Warner; 2003: Scott Nye, Fred J. Romeo, Sr., Mario Scala; 2004: Steve Lancaster, Bernie Leighton, Pete Carboni; 2005: Charlie Ritch; 2006: Roy Cogswell, Hank Wilson; 2007: Tony Del Biondo; 2008: James Principi, Jeanne Timpanelli; 2009: Bradford Mortensen and Edward Zandri; 2010: Richard Ligi, Richard McGlynn, Richard Serfilippi; 2011: Robert J. Morganti, Erik Hoag, Andrew Lecher; 2013: Gary Beaudine; 2014: Harold Finch, Percy Marshall Bouton; 2015: Stephanie Boles-Kavanagh; 2016, Tom Belote.

Civic and Special Awards

1992: Richard Venus; 1993: Bob Tulipani; 1994: Beth Yanity; 1995: Aldo Tulipani; 1996: Ferdinand Bedini; 1997: Matty Pambianchi Family; 1998: Dr. Peter Yanity; 1999: Charles Coles; 2000: Kitty Rosa; 2001: Lewis Finch; 2002: Edith Meffley; 2003: Kay Ables; 2004: Chuck Dean; 2005: Doug Main, Renee Franks; 2006: Jack Sanders; 2007: Ancona Family; 2008: Maureen Kiernan, Dave Scott; 2009: Vincent Pannozzo, Jeanne Cook; 2010: Christine and Philip Lodewick; Chuck Camp; Reed Whipple; 2011: Mary and Nelson Gelfman; Terry Hastings. 2012: Martha and Dave Campbell; Joseph Consentino. 2013: Richard and Deirdre Aarons; George Besse 2014: Darla and Ben Shaw; Joy and Hank Kutcha; Joyce Ligi; 2015: Liz & Steven Goldstone, Bill Craig; 2016, John and Elaine Couri

Sports Awards

1992: Tabby Carboni, Lynce Carboni, Leo Pambianchi, Tom Clark, Charlie Frattini, Joe Forcelli, John Carboni; 1993: Gene Casagrande, Bob Mulvaney, Vin Petrini, Charly Stolle, Joe Tulipani; 1994: Lyman Anderson, Harry Bennett, Aldo Girolmetti, Evo Principi, John Tulipani; 1995: Peter Casagrande, Dino Cincolani, Joe Brunetti, Ray Eppoliti, Bud Mahoney, Reno Severini; 1996: Ben Bedini, Fabio Biagiotti, Jack Leary, Harold Mead, Romeo Petroni, Janalie Severini; 1997: Primo Baldaserini, Dante Brunetti, Frank Lancaster, Sr., Walt Evans, Navio Ligi, Fred Mazzi; 1998: Gino "Jinx" Baldaserini, Dr. Phil Martin, Dr. Joe Moylan, Andy Montanari, Julius "Bugsy" Santini; 1999: Dick Bellagamba, Si Bellagamba, Gene Lavatori, John Lavatori, Gene McMahon, Harry Pierandri; 2000: Glen Anderson, Bill Elliot, Booker Jackson, Tom Mitchell; 2001: Ned Carboni, Paul Carboni, Jim Costanzi, John Fossi, Artie Frattini, Nick Reid, Gloria Sharkany; 2002: Ed Dowling, Jack Jones, Jack O'Keefe, Jim O'Keefe, Mike Ryba, Aldo Travagliini, Harry Zandri; 2003: Aldo Biagiotti, Chip Bliss, Bob Carboni, John Forcelli, Jim Mullen, Vince Paccadolmi, Fred Romeo; 2004: Faust Verna, Lou Bellagamba, Chip Salvestrini, Alley Frulla, Rudy Marconi, Jim Tulipani and the CYO Girls Championship Basketball Team; 2005: Tom Cesca, Tom Santini, Richard Polverari, Bob Pambianchi, Gregg Hutchings, Carol Torcellini, Dave Campbell, Bill Polverari, Renzo Falcinelli, Jimmy Bacchiochi; 2006: Larry Bossidy, Jr., Isabel Caporale, Frank Lancaster, Jr., Carl Scala, John Stolle, Dave Sturges; 2007: Dave Landers, Jay Contessa, Chip Dean, John Devendorf, Marie Frulla, Steve Martin, Alan Wallace; 2008: Richard Lavatori, Judy Laslo, Craig Saltzgaber, Frank Serfilippi, Paul Vaughn, Chip Wilson; 2009: Robert Leary, Robert Lewis, Patricia Girolametti, Richard Miller, Peter Santini, Michael Principi, and Dr. Richard Scala; 2010: Abe Morelli, Tom Fossi, Michael Bowman, Amy Fredericks,

Christopher Winnes, Janel Jorgensen, Michael Dell'Aquila, Tony Wilmot; 2011: Lee Pasquarella, Harland Brooks, Janet Yanity, Harry Geary, Thomas McDonald, Joseph Korczynski, Lea Ann Schmidt, Gary Bellagamba; 2012: Michael Conroy, Anthony James Forcelli, Beth Ondrick Gattey, Terence Hughes, George R. Mulvaney, Phil O'Brien, Walt Valentine; 2013: William 'Sandy' Allen, Paul Bossidy, Dorene Almgren DeCecco, Mike Harris, Mike Maiolo, Ed Stone, Nicole Colanari Twomey; 2014: John Lorenzini, Peter Stuart Jongbloed, Brian Sullivan, Thomas Scala, Sandy Beal Carpenter, Nicole Muschett DiAntonio, Neil Ringers; 2015: Don Innamorato, Richard Dingee, Susi Mang McDonald, Guy Welton, Karen Dingee Leibowitz; 2016, Al Diniz, John Kreisher, Jack Hughes, Jim Croce, 1967-68 Football Team, Chip Wood, William Van Orman, Cliff Onolfo, Kate McMorran Leavey, Sue Ellis,

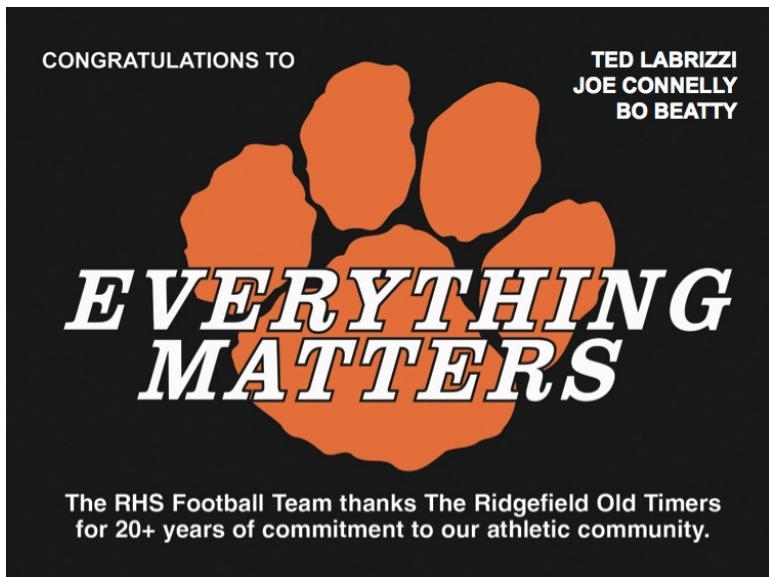
Educator Awards

2013: Dr. Harold E. Healy and Dirk Bollenback; 2014: Dr. Philip Pitruzzello; 2015: Bob Cox; 2016, James Muraski.

Ridgefield Old Timers Association: *Honoring Ridgefielders since 1992*

About 25 years ago, a group of friends got together with the idea of forming an old timers group for Ridgefield. Paul Baker, Julie Petrini, John Tulipani, and Joe Brunetti met at a dinner and decided to model the new organization after old timers groups in Danbury and Norwalk, which had honored several Ridgefield athletes over the years.

The original purpose of the new organization was to honor great athletes who were unable to continue their education past their school days, and set up a scholarship to assist current athletes. The organizers held several meetings and drew in 18 other supporters. They elected a



board of officers with Paul Baker as the first chairman. Walt Evans was elected treasurer, and Julie Petrini was the first secretary.

The Ridgefield Old Timers Association began to have awards banquets in October 1992. Seven Ridgefielders were selected to be the honorees and the first Special Award went to Richard E. Venus. The first scholarship recipient was Thomas B. Gareau. He had been

accepted at the University of Virginia.

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

The advertisement book for that first gathering was only 20 pages, cover to cover. The event was a success and money was put into a scholarship fund.

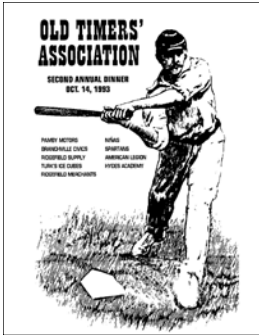
The first award of the scholarship to a female Ridgefield High School graduate occurred in 1996. Janine Murphy was involved in three sports and many civic endeavors. A year later, it was decided to annually award scholarships to both male and female recipients, and the winners in 1997 were Charles Bliss and Kerry Bennett.

The amount of the scholarships has grown over the years as a result of the advertising placed in this book, as well as other fundraising efforts — especially the annual golf outing and pig roast, which took place in June at the Ridgefield Golf Course.

In the association's second year, it introduced the Civic Award, and the first recipient was Bob Tulipani. The next year, Beth Yanity became the first female recipient of the Civic Award. In 1999, Sandy Pierandri Warner became the first female member of the board of directors; she was also the association's third secretary.

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

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



The cover of the 1993 dinner program.



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