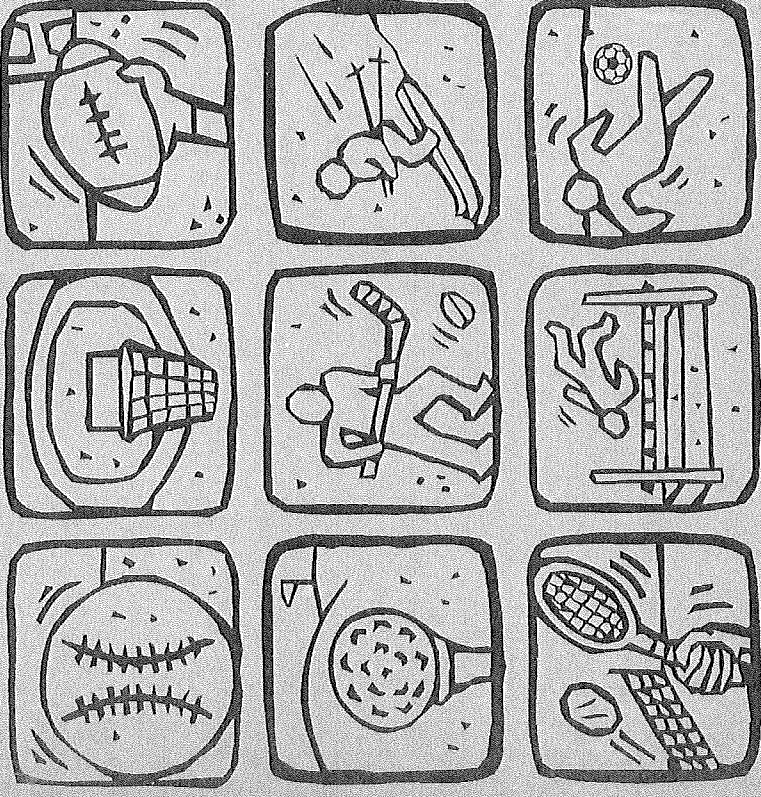


# RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS ASSOCIATION



15th Annual Dinner  
October 19 2006

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The 15th annual  
**Ridgefield Old Timers dinner**

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2006

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*Cover by Don Carboni*

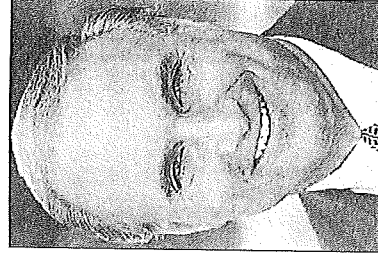
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**A message from our chairman**

*Thank you, all!*

First let me say thank you to all who have supported our organization with your generous contributions this year. As you all know, and for those of you who may not, the Ridgefield Old Timers Association provides scholarships to two Ridgefield High School athletes each year. With the cost of education, I am sure these fine representatives of our community and their parents appreciate our financial help.



As we salute athletes from the past this evening and turn the corner into the next year, our organization asks each and every one of you to consider joining our organization. It is a commitment that takes little of your time and can be a wonderfully enjoyable experience for you and your spouse or for you individually.

Specific thanks this year goes to Tom Belote and Carl Scala for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty. These two gentlemen deserve many thanks from all of us for helping make this evening the success it is.

Sincerely,

Rudy Marconi  
Chairman

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•••

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**Posthumous Award**

# *Hank Wilson helped bring serious hockey to Ridgefield*

Henry R. "Hank" Wilson graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland in 1946. As a naval

officer he served on both destroyers and submarines, but went on to command the USS Sea Lion and the USS Cubera.

After retiring from the Navy in 1967, Hank moved to Ridgefield with his wife Joan and their five sons Henry, Eric, Robert, Charles and Daniel all of whom participated in various youth and RHS sports. Hank was employed by Perkin-Elmer for a number of years and later worked at the Village Pontiac-Cadillac dealership in Ridgefield.

Hank was a co-founder of the Ridgefield Athletic Association Corp. The group included Chuck Dean, John Boyle, Phil Martin, Ray Bassette, Carl Scala and others. The organization built the Ridgefield Skating Rink on Prospect Ridge as a not-for-profit recreational facility and Hank served as its president. Hank was deeply involved in the Ridgefield Youth Hockey Association, the group that ran the youth hockey programs, as well as, the Red Raiders Football and the Little League organizations.

Hank was an excellent fund raiser and as president of the Ridgefield Lions Club, he made sure that the club supported all of the athletic opportunities and organizations made available to Ridgefield youths. Like the other posthumous awardee being honored tonight, Roy Cogswell, both Hank and Roy were Lion Club Presidents who were the recipients of the club's highest honor for humanitarian service, the Lions Melvin Joes Award.



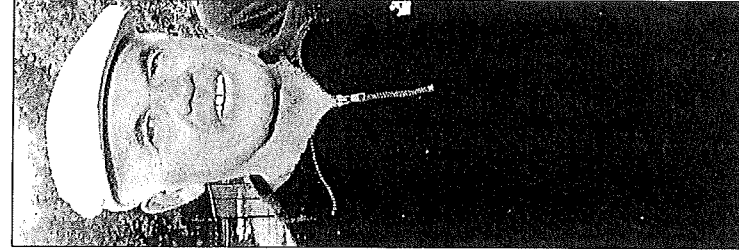
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Special Award

# There is no more appropriate recipient than Ed Helminski



"There couldn't be a more appropriate recipient for the Old Timers' Special Award," said Old Timers Chairman Rudy Marconi who as a lad belonged to the Boys Club during Ed Helminski's tenure as director, "For 40 years Ed contributed to the ethical and physical development of the youth of Ridgefield."

Ed Helminski was born and raised in West Virginia. While attending Barrackville High School he played football and baseball and was captain of both teams. In his senior year he was selected for the All State football team. Ed attended Potomac State College where he received a scholarship and graduated with an associate's degree in 1958. At Potomac he played half back on the football team and third base on the baseball team. With another scholarship Ed continued his studies at Fairmont State College and played on the football and baseball teams. The football team was undefeated in 1959 and Ed had the distinction of being selected to the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. In 1998 Ed was elected to Fairmont College's Hall of Fame for football and baseball. After graduating from college in 1960 Ed spent one summer playing baseball for a Chicago Cubs farm team.

Ed came to Ridgefield in December of 1960 to be interviewed for the position of assistant director of the Boys Club under Ralph B. Crouchley. Vivian Commons, chairman of the club's Board of Managers, offered Ed the position in January of 1961. He accepted the job not knowing at the time that he would spend the next 40 years of his life enriching the lives of so many of Ridgefield's youth.

Ed came to Ridgefield with no car and rented a room from Joe Hall on High Ridge. He became the director of the Boys

Club upon the retirement of Ralph Crouchley in 1970. Ed supervised the transition of the Boys Club to the Boys and Girls Club of Ridgefield in the 1970s. Under his directorship the club grew from 500 members to an organization with new facilities and a membership of more than 2000.

In addition to his work at the club Ed played in Ridgefield's fast pitch softball league with Ridgefield Sup-

ply and Nina's. His fellow team members included Gene Lavatori, Fibber Biagotti, Ed Conklin, Dante Ligi, Mort Rosenberg, Bob Tulipani and Lou Bellagamba. Ed also played for Towne Spirit in the slow pitch league with Julius (Snaky), Jules (Bugsy), Peter and Tommy Santini, Paul Carboni, Richie Mead, Joe and Tommy Egan, Mike Bedini and Brad Mortensen. During that time the team won 10 league championships. In 1998 Ed was nominated to the Connecticut Softball Hall of Fame. He also assisted Peter Yanity, coach of Ridgefield's Pop Warner team, in which both Rudy Marconi and Harry Pierandri were quarterbacks.

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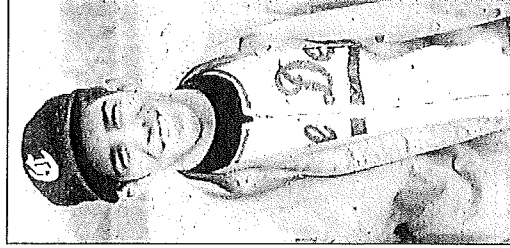
## Sports Award

# Frank Lancaster Jr., RHS star player, became an RHS star coach

As the Ridgefield Press noted in 2000 compilation of Ridgefield notables, "It's hard to imagine Ridgefield baseball without Frank Lancaster Jr. Or maybe it's the other way around. Mr. Lancaster has been involved in the town's version of the national pastime since the late 1950's, when he was a Little League pitcher. He went on to play the sport-and also football and basketball-at Ridgefield High, and (was) the Tigers' head baseball coach for he past 26 years. He (was) also the longtime coach of the RHS girls' volleyball team..."

Frank Lancaster is a townie from an old time Ridgefield family. He attended the Ridgefield Public schools from kindergarten to 12th grade. At RHS he was a member of the National Honor Society and in his senior year was the first Ridgefield recipient of the National Hall of Fame Foundation Award, as well as, the Most Outstanding Athlete and Top Scholar awards. As a junior Frank was named the Most Improved Athlete and was selected by the American Legion to represent RHS at Boys State. Frank was two times an All-Conference Baseball selection as a pitcher with a career 19-4 record and posting a school record 11-2 season in 1968, averaging 10 strikeouts per 7 innings and a 1.81 earned run average. He was also a three time letter winner and All-Conference safety, and a four year member of the RHS varsity basketball squad.

Playing American Legion baseball in the summer of 1969 he picked up a complete game victory in a one game playoff for the zone championship that summer. Frank attended Central Connecticut State College and played three seasons of baseball. He returned to Ridgefield to begin teaching and coaching I the fall of 1973. At RHS he coached three seasons



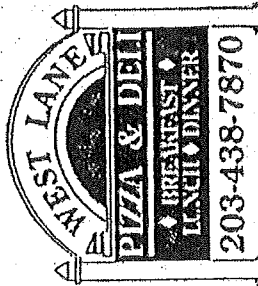
of boys JV basketball, one season of girls JV basketball and then served as the girls' varsity basketball coach for four seasons. He coached the boys' varsity baseball team from 1975 until 2001, receiving Coach of the Year honors in 1988 (giving him the opportunity to be honored as the winning coach in the Daily News

All-Star game at Yankee Stadium) and 2000. He coached the girls' varsity volleyball team for 21 seasons.

In 2001 Frank was selected by the University of Connecticut as one of the top math teachers in the state. He recently retired from coaching but continues to serve as scoreboard operator for football, basketball and wrestling events and officiates at girls and boys volleyball games.

Frank and his wife, Ann (also an RHS grad) recently celebrated their 29th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, Mike and Will, and a daughter, Jennifer who graduated this May Summa Cum Laude from Towson University with degrees both in dance ad finance.

To share time with is daughter Lancaster has been taking tap dancing lessons for the past five years and to stay in shape since retiring from coaching he has taken up biking, logging in 9,000 miles in the last four years.



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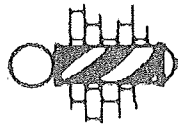
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Sports Award

# John Stolle, Class of '68, shocked Coach Allen twice in a game

John Stolle, star athlete from the RHS Class of 1968 was born and raised in Ridgefield and lettered at RHS in baseball, basketball and football. He started playing Townie basketball at an early age with his older brother, Bob, as coach. John also played Pop Warner football under Coach Peter Yanity. John's father, Charles, was one of his Little League coaches and John still remembers one of his earliest baseball experiences when he hit a line drive foul toward the opposing teams bench and knocked a cigar out of Walt Valentines's father's hand.



NFL including Lyle Alzado, as well as with former RHS star, Chip Salvestrini. John was named All Conference in his junior and senior years at Yankton and played in the Copper Bowl in Butte, Montana in his senior year. John also played college

baseball in his junior and senior years and was an All Conference outfielder.

After graduation from Yankton in 1972 John remained in South Dakota teaching and coaching football and boy's and girl's basketball and track, first on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation, and later in Britton, South Dakota. He returned to Connecticut in 1988 and took employment with Kimberly Clark in New Milford from which he retired two years ago.

His wife, Mary, is the athletic director at Wamogo High School in Litchfield and John is an assistant varsity girl's basketball coach and the junior varsity baseball coach at Wamogo.

The Stollles have five children. Their oldest, Tracy, graduated from the University of Hartford where she played baseball. She now teaches in New Britain. Their second child, Kelly, attended UConn where she played Division I field hockey. Their son, Travis, is a Special Olympian. Kristi, their fourth child, recently graduated from Southern Connecticut where she played basketball and their youngest child, Kerri, entered 7th grade this year and plays soccer, basketball and softball. Her AAU basketball team qualified for the national tournament this year.

At RHS John played junior varsity football as a freshman but in his last game as a freshman he was moved up to center long punts for the varsity squad. As a sophomore he played relief linebacker but was soon moved up to starting center linebacker. In his junior and senior years at RHS he played linebacker and offensive center. During those two years the Tigers lost only one game-the last game of his junior year to New Canaan. In John's senior year the Tigers went undefeated and he was named to the All State team.

John played baseball on the junior varsity squad in his freshman year and joined the varsity squad as a right fielder in his sophomore, junior and senior years. In one of his first varsity games John threw an opposing player out from right field, prompting Coach William Allen to say they weren't likely to see something like that again. Two innings later John did it again.

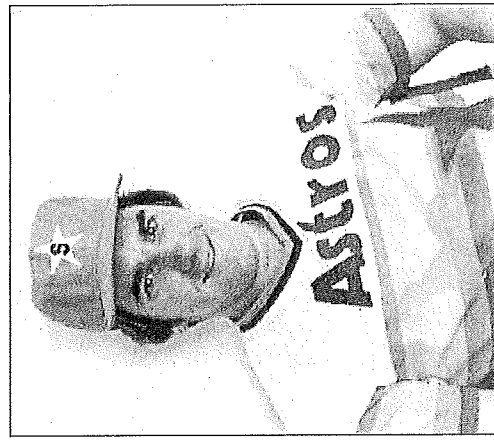
John also played RHS basketball both on the junior varsity squad and on the varsity team in his junior and senior years.

In 1968 John was recruited to play football at Yankton College in South Dakota. At Yankton he played with a number of teammates who later went on to the



**Sports Award**

# Southpaw Larry Bossidy Jr., '76, helped lead Tigers to a tournament



Larry Bossidy Jr., a member of the RHS Class of 1976, was a left-handed pitcher who led his team to a state tournament berth in his senior year.

He also pitched a no-hitter that same year against Rippowam High School, striking out 17 batters and driving in the winning run.

Bossidy played four years of varsity baseball and basketball at RHS before graduating and entering Fairfield University where he played four years of collegiate baseball. He captained the Fairfield Stags in his senior year and compiled a 5-1 record with a 2.5 ERA.

The highlight of his senior year was his 5-4 victory over the nationally ranked University of Connecticut team.

Upon graduation from Fairfield, Bossidy signed as a free agent with the Houston Astros organization. He played a season in the Gulf Coast league in Sarasota Florida where he compiled a 2-1 record with 6 saves and a 1.5 ERA. He was invited to the Houston Astros' 1981 spring training but concluded that a career in the major leagues was not in his future.

Larry joined General Electric in the spring of 1981 and progressed through several finance and sales assignments before being named as Vice President and General Manager of Asset Management for GE's Commercial Equipment Financing business.

In 1990 he was named Senior Vice President Sales for GE's Commercial Equipment Financing's Corporate Avia-

tion Financing business. In 1995 he was promoted to Senior Vice President Sales for Commercial Asset Financing and in 1999 was named General manager of that division. In 2001 Larry was named Senior Vice President and General Manager of GE's Trade Payables Services Business.

Larry lives in Ridgefield with his wife and former RHS 1976 classmate, Sharon Sabey Bossidy, and their children, Timothy, a senior at RHS, and Kendall, a freshman. He is an avid golfer with a 4 handicap and remains active in Ridgefield civic organizations, serving on the board of Sunrise Cottage and the fund raising board for the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club renovation project. He is also a member of the Board of Incorporators for Fairfield County Bank Corp.

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**Sports Award**

# *Isabel Caporale, Class of '76, was remarkable athlete from an early age*



Isabel Caporale grew up in Ridgefield and was one of the town's most remarkable female athletes. Her athletic accomplishments started at an early age. Shortly after her family moved to Ridgefield Isabel's father learned of an all girls softball league that played on Saturday mornings. Her dad took her for a try out but was told that the starting age was 7 and Isabel was only 6. After convincing the coach give her a chance to show her stuff Isabel was made the youngest member of the team and played in the outfield for the next five years.

At the age of 12 she became a member of the Ridgefield Rockettes and traveled with the team playing throughout Connecticut, Virginia and Maryland. The team won a number of tournaments and championship softball games. Throughout her years on the Rockettes she won a number of trophies for best batting average, most valuable player and best sportsmanship. She was later elected co-captain and then captain of the team.

From 1973 to 1976 Isabel played a number of sports at RHS. In her freshman year she made the varsity field hockey and softball teams. The teams made the state tournaments in her sophomore, junior and senior years. She also played varsity basketball in her junior and senior years. In field hockey Isabel set the record for most goals scored at RHS and in softball she set the school record with a 450-826 batting average.

After high school Isabel played softball with the Raybesto Brackettes, a Connecticut pro team and she coached the girl's softball team at Veterans Park. She also played for the Stamford Flames, a semi-pro team that played in numerous tournaments throughout the Northeast.

Isabel joined the United States Coast Guard in 1984 and while stationed at a U.S. Navy base in Guam was asked by Navy officials to try out for the All-Navy Softball team.

After obtaining clearances through the Coast Guard chain of command she was sent to Memphis and became the first Coast Guard member to make the All-Navy team.

During her time with the All-Navy team they won the Inter-Service Tournament and Isabel was chosen for the US national softball team. For several years thereafter she played on both the All-Navy and the USA team, as her command would allow.

After leaving the Coast Guard Isabel suffered back injury at work and was forced to temporarily retire from playing softball.

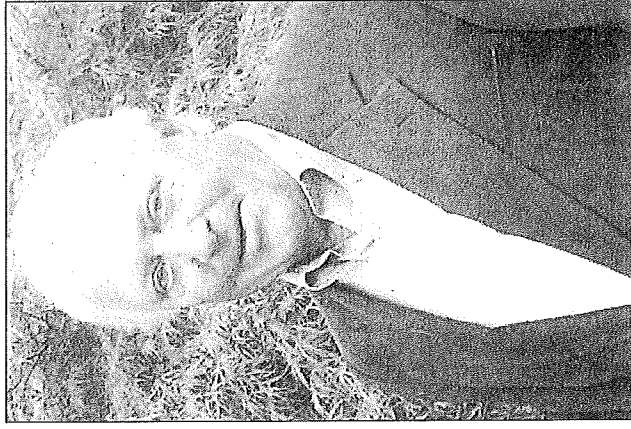
She continued her involvement in the sport, however, by coaching girls' softball teams in Florida and New Jersey.

Isabel has returned to her hometown and has accepted a position with the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club.

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ASSOCIATION**

Sports Award

# Carl Scala was a pioneer in bringing hockey to Ridgefield



Carl Scala grew up in Ridgefield with his three brothers, Mario, Richard and Bobby Scala and graduated from Ridgefield High School in 1949. His father, Gian Carlo Scala, was a master chef and worked at the Outpost Inn in the 1940's before buying the Elms Inn in 1951. Carl was a member of the 1948-49 Orange and Black six-man football team that included Fibber Biagotti, Joe Morganti, Glen Anderson and Renzo Falcinetti and others. The team narrowly missed an undefeated season when they lost a squeaker in their last game against Bedford Hills.

Long interested in hockey, he posed the question in the 1949 RHS Yearbook, "Will the New York Rangers ever win the Stanley Cup?" At the time it had been nine years since the Rangers had won the Cup and little did Carl know that it would take another 45 years for the Rangers to win another championship. After RHS Carl graduated from the University of Connecticut and was employed as a physical chemist at Schlumberger for 27 years.

In the 1970s Carl worked with Chuck Dean, Hank Wilson, John Boyle and Vin Mitchell to construct outdoor skating rinks on Prospect Ridge. Creating and maintaining the ice was done at night with a fire hose connected to the hydrant down the street. The same group organized to purchase the property and build the current skating rink on Prospect Ridge. The facility has had a major impact on the town's recreational opportunities and the growth of serious hockey programs for youngsters of all ages. In fact, Carl's two sons, Paul and John Scala and his grandson Jay all played high school hockey there, as did Carl's nephews, Tom and Greg Scala.

Carl played hockey in the Ridgefield men's league for many years but after

breaking his leg while making a check at the blue line during a game; he took his wife's advice and gave up playing. He continued his involvement in the sport, however, by coaching the "Martin Maulers", a youth team sponsored by Dr. Phillip Martin, and by becoming a referee.

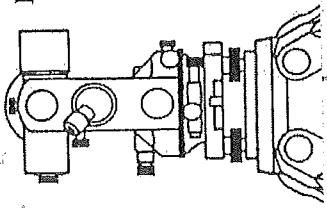
Carl served as president of the Southern Connecticut Hockey Referee's Association for five years. He was trained at the Olympic Training Center at Lake Placid to become an instructor for the USA Hockey Officiating Program in Connecticut. After 30 years of officiating, he retired three years ago due to aging knees.

Carl is still an active skier and plays tennis three times a week. He continues to reside in Ridgefield with his wife and high school classmate, Irene Baxter Scala.

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Posthumous Award

# Roy Cogswell, Class of '65, played host to countless old timers

Roy Cogswell, a native Ridgefielder and longtime owner of The Early Bird restaurant, was known for his kindness, modesty, self-deprecating humor and the quiet way he helped others throughout his life. "He was always there for everyone who needed help," said lifelong friend and fellow RHS classmate, Carol Casey.

Born in 1947 to Frederick and Ruth DeForest Cogswell, Roy grew up on Danbury Road. His mother died when he was 12 and Roy spent many hours at the Casey house across the street.

Roy played Little League and Babe Ruth baseball. After graduation from RHS, where he played catcher on the varsity baseball team, Roy attended Boston University. He worked summers during high school driving an ice cream truck and later worked in a variety of occupations ranging from carpentry to tree cutting for the Knapp Brothers.

He owned a deli in Vista and bartended at Galloway's Pub before opening The Early Bird, which he operated for 15 years. Under his ownership The Early Bird became the breakfast and lunch spot for townies and old timers, a place where people gathered for companionship as well as food. Roy would get up at 3 am each day to ready restaurant for the first wave of old timers who would begin arriving before 6 am each morning.

Roy was a member of the Ridgefield Lions Club, and served as its president and secretary in addition to being chairman for many of the club's civic committees. In 2002 he was honored with the Lions Melvin Joes Award for humanitarian service



and before shortly his death on May 25, 2005 Roy received the Lions Ambassador of Sight Award.

Having conquered alcohol and drug problems himself, Roy was very helpful to many who battled the same problems. A testimony to Roy's friendliness and penchant for helping other was the dinner and auction given on his behalf a month before he died that raised more than \$50,000 toward Roy's medical bills.

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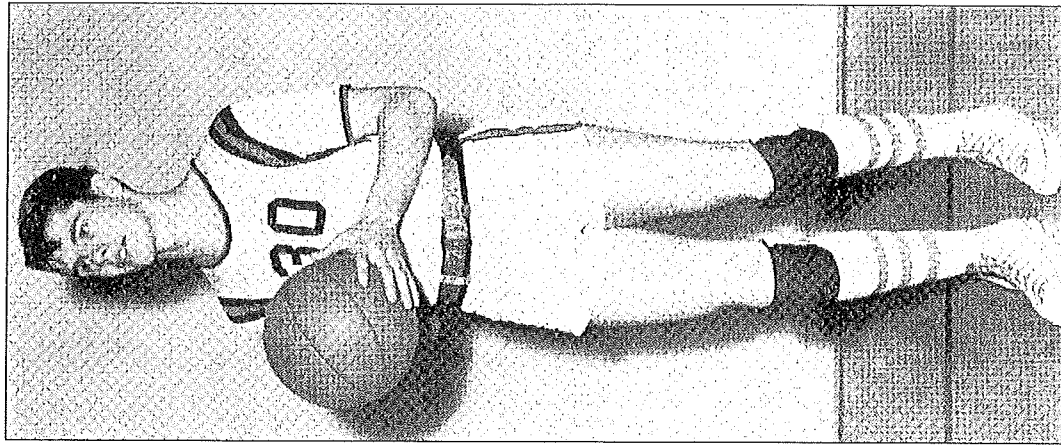
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Sports Award

Dave Sturges, '59, a Squash alumnus, began sports career at the Boys Club



Dave Sturges, one of the RHS finest athletes of the last years of the 1950's, lettered throughout high school in football, basketball and baseball and was co-captain of the basketball team in his senior.

Like many of his RHS teammates, including Walt Ryba, Fred Mazzi, John Fossi, Harry, John and Ned Carboni, Roger Warren and Bob Leary, Sturges started his athletic career in Ridgefield at the Ridgefield Boys Club under the tutelage of club director Ralph B. Crouchley. In addition to the guidance he received at the Boys Club, Dave was one of the select number of Ridgefield youths who worked for "Squash" at the Ridgefield News Store when it was a popular teenage hangout with a soda fountain, racks of comics and magazines and toys, as well as, the business and school supplies it carries today. Other "Squash Alumni" include our First Select-man, Rudy Marconi, Harry Pierandri and Pauli Carboni (all former Old Timers award recipients).

Following graduation in 1959 Dave joined the United States Navy and served until 1963 when he joined the Heli-Coil Corporation. In 1966 Sturges entered the National Security Agency (NSA), and Dave's community involvement after leaving RHS has included Little League baseball and soccer coaching. He has been certified as a high school track official.

In addition to holding a number of offices in the Greater Maryland Model "A" Ford Club he has been a member of two national Model "A" clubs. Dave has been recognized nationally for his research on Model "A" production numbers at the 32 Ford plants that produced the automobiles between 1928 and 1931.

Dave married Tammy Ryjkoff in 1963. They have one son, Steve, and the couple

has somewhat adopted Tammy's cousin whose daughter they treat as their grand daughter.

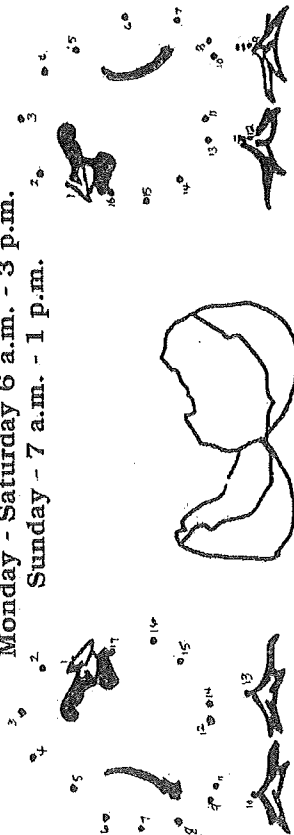
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**ROTA Scholarship Recipient**

# *Kerry Bollerman, a student of many interests and talents*



Kerry Bollerman, like her twin sister Nicole, was an obvious choice to be a 2006 ROTA scholarship recipient. Kerry was in the National Honors Society in her sophomore, junior and senior years and was a high honors student throughout her four years at RHS. She received the RHS Excellence in Social Studies H award and achievement awards in English II H, Spanish II and IV H. and was the recipient of the University of Richmond Book Award. Kerry was an RHS Scholar Athlete nominee and received the FCIAC Scholar Athlete Award.

In addition to her academic achievements Kerry was extremely active in extra-curricular activities at RHS. She was the 2006 Class Senator and a member of the Student Union in her junior and senior years. She was chairperson for Poinsettas, Class Rings, and the Junior Prom. In addition to being active on the Hurricane Katrina Relief Committee and the Best Buddies organization, which mentored intellectually disabled peers, Kerry was on the RHS Captain's Council and active in the Tigers' Den Pep Club. She was appointed as an ambassador in a Danbury exchange and assisted in eighth grade and freshman orientation and was a member of the Girl Scouts for ten years between 1996 and 2006. She tutored Spanish and was a member of Café Fare, a student run culinary club.

Kerry lettered in Swim and Dive during her four years at RHS and was captain of the team in her senior year. She played junior varsity lacrosse and lettered in varsity lacrosse during her sophomore, junior and senior years. In her junior year she was also on the Indoor Track and Field team.

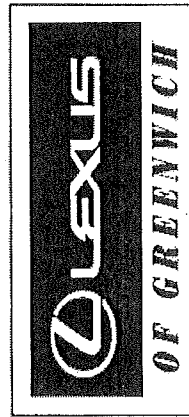
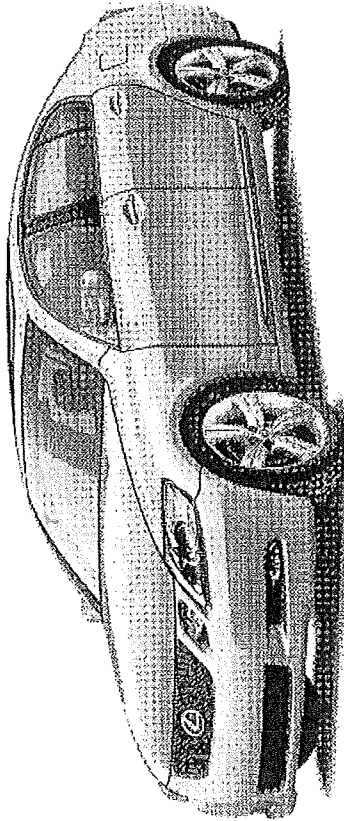
Like her twin sister and ROTA scholarship co-recipient, Nicole, Kerry made time

for community service despite an otherwise taxing schedule. Kerry participated in the National Charity League throughout her four years at RHS. She served that organization as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary during her tenure with the League. She was a Volunteer for the American Cancer Society in her sophomore, junior and senior years and participated in Relay for Life in her junior and senior years. Kerry also participated in the Appalachian Service Project during high school.

Lastly, in addition to her substantial commitment to academics, athletics and extra-curricular activities, Kerry was employed throughout high school earning money for college. Her employment included work as a lifeguard and swim coach, sales at the Candlelight Shoppe and work at Heavy Putter.

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**ROTA Scholarship Recipient**

*Nicole Bolleman, a standout  
in both school and community*

Nicole Bolleman was one of the stand-out applicants for the Old Timers 2006 scholarships.

She was a member of the National Honor Society in her junior and senior years. She received awards for excellence in child development in her sophomore and junior years.

As a junior Nicole received the Holy Cross Book Award and was an honors student throughout her four years at Ridgefield High and in her senior year she was nominated for the Scholar Athlete award.

Nicole played junior varsity girls soccer in her freshman year and junior varsity track in her sophomore year. But it was field hockey and girls ice hockey where Nicole really stood out.

She lettered in field hockey in her sophomore, junior and senior years and lettered in girls ice hockey during all four years at RHS. Nicole was the Captain of the girls' ice hockey team in her senior year and was named to the FCIAC Girls Ice Hockey All-Conference team in her senior and junior years.

In addition to maintaining a superb academic record Nicole was very active in extra-curricular activities. She received the ten-year pin from the Girl Scout of America (1996-2006).

Nicole was active in the RHS Student Union, the Captains' Council the Tigers' Den Sports Fan Club and the Junior Prom Committee.

She was the secretary and founding member of the Best Buddies program, an organization that mentors intellectually disabled peers, and she participated in an elementary school internship.

Nicole's community involvement included four years of work for the National Charity League for which she received the



Spirit Award in 2005 as well as the Yellow Rose Bud award.

She participated in the Appalachian Service Project in her freshman through senior years and was active in Emmaus throughout high school.

Despite an active and taxing schedule of academics, athletics and extra-curricular activities Nicole was actively employed throughout high school earning money for college and her high school activities.

She was employed as a skate guard and instructor at the Winter Garden Ice Arena; baby sat for newborns and children with special needs and was a summer intern during her junior and senior years with the Arctic Edge/ 66 Degrees North.

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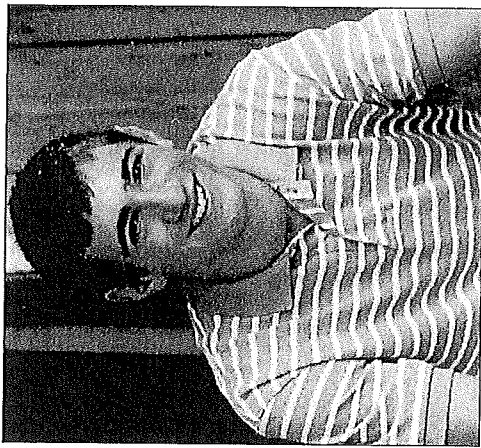
## ROTA Scholarship Recipient

### Kevin Herstein is 'a true gentleman and a scholar'

Kevin Herstein is one of the 2006 ROTA scholarship recipients. As described to us by his RHS varsity football coach, Kevin J. Callahan, "Kevin Herstein is a pretty special person...with a lot of characteristics that make people very successful." Coach Callahan went on to describe how Kevin rose to a starting position on an RHS varsity football squad that went 9-2 and earned a place in the state semi-finals despite the fact that Kevin was "undersized" compared to his teammates and was competing for a position on a team that Coach Callahan said had many experienced players with "a lot of size." Not only did Kevin make the starting lineup, he was also named Honorable All-F.C.I.A.C. "I'm a firm believer that hard work helps all of us attain our goals," said Coach Callahan, "Kevin is obviously a believer also, no one worked harder to earn a starting spot."

Kevin played freshman football at RHS and varsity football in his sophomore, junior and senior years. He participated in the Ridgefield Basketball Association during his last three years at RHS and was an RBA coach for seventh and eighth graders. He also played on the varsity tennis team in his senior year and was active in the Tigers' Den School Spirit Club.

Kevin had an excellent academic record throughout high school and received the RHS Achievement Award in Social Studies. He maintained an active interest in business related studies and activities a received a 4th place in the Future Business Leaders of America statewide competitions during sophomore year and a 1st place award in the FBLA State Competitions for multi-media presentation in his junior year. That same year he received an award for excellence and a 1st place in the FBLA State Competitions.



In addition to his activities in the FBLA Kevin was also active in the Distributive Education Club of America (marketing club) and participated in a number of community civic activities including habitat for Humanity, the Temple Shearith Israel Youth Group and the Laurel Ridge Nursing Home.

Kevin, like our other ROTA scholarship recipients, worked during school in a variety of jobs to earn money for his college education including babysitting, house and pet sitting, caddying at Silver Spring Country Club, cart maintenance at the Ridgefield Golf Course and teacher's aide at the Temple.

As his high school science teacher advised us in conjunction with Kevin's application for a ROTA stipend, "Your search will not reveal a kinder, more articulate or talented individual. Kevin is a future leader, Ridgefield High School has been enriched by his presence. He is a true gentleman and a scholar."

Kevin is attending Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania.



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**Special Award**

*Don Carboni, Class of 1956,  
a man who makes others happy*

Donald Francis Carboni, son of Reno and Laura Carboni, a native of Ridgefield and member of the Class of 1956, was a member of the RHS football, basketball and baseball squads throughout his junior and senior high school years.

He was known in high school as being "quite an artist...an ultra sharp dresser...always with the latest fad from shoes to haircut" and like his twin brother, Ron, Don Carboni came from an extended family of Ridgefield athletic greats.

Don played second base for the Orange and Black baseball team, right end on Ridgefield's six man football team, forward on our basketball squad and served on the RHS Athletic Association. His teammates included twin brother Ron, Dick Belagamba, Jim Carboni, John Bennett and Jack Cartin.

Like his father and twin brother, his nickname was "Bones."

Don also had a special talent, art, and he was a member of the art club throughout his high school tenure.

After graduation from Ridgefield High Don served in the United States Air Force for two years in Fort Worth, Texas. After serving his country he began civilian employment using his special talent in the arts to work at various art studios in New York City.

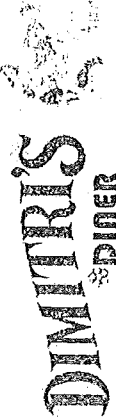
After ten years Don opened his own art studio in Manhattan and ran it for twenty-seven years until he retired and gave the operations over to his son and daughter.

The 1956 Yearbook said of him, "The way to be happy is to make others so," and he has achieved that goal. Don is not only being awarded tonight for his athletic achievements but his contributions to the Ridgefield Old Timers Association. His sustained contributions on behalf of the Old Timers, including the design of the front page of our annual banquet booklets, are deeply appreciated.



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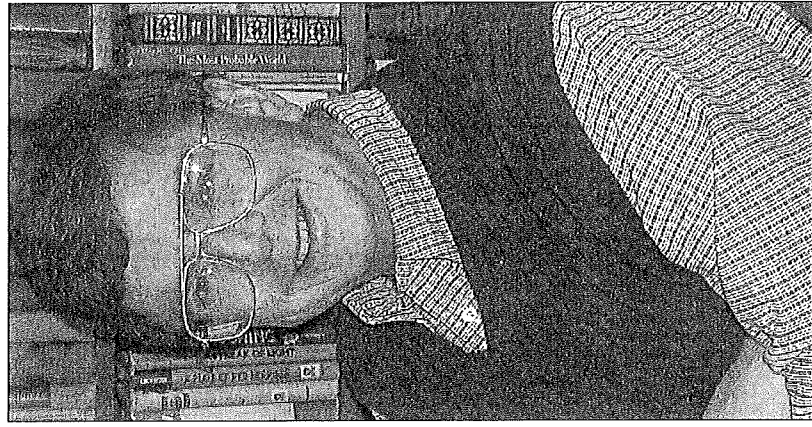


### SALUTES RIDGEFIELD'S OLD TIMERS

### FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

### Civic Award

## Jack Sanders, geezer from Danbury who loves Ridgefield and its history.



Jack Sanders, author, Ridgefield historian and Executive Editor of the Press, was unanimously selected by the Ridgefield Townies to receive the association's civic award.

A lifelong Connecticut resident and graduate of Holy Cross, Sanders grew up in Danbury and went to Fairfield Prep.

He has worked at the Press for nearly 40 years and is the author and editor of a number of books and publications about the town and its history including: Ridgefield 1900-1950, Notable Ridgefielders, Ridgefield Names, Five Village Walks and The Diary of Jared Nash. A serious scholar of Ridgefield's history, Sanders' writings are based on his extensive study of the town's archival records, primary source material from old time residents and his many years as a reporter for the Press.

"I feel he knows just about everything there is to know about the town's history and he has always been generous in sharing his knowledge with the Historical Society and the public," said Town Historian Kay Ables upon hearing of Mr. Sanders selection for the civic award. "Through Jack's writings the recorded history of Ridgefield is so much richer. This is a well deserved honor," added Mrs. Ables.

Tom Belote, former chairman of the Old Timers Association, who nominated Mr. Sanders for the award said, "Jack is one of the unsung heroes in the effort to preserve a record of Ridgefield's past. By nature modest and unassuming most people do not know the time and effort Jack has put into preserving the record of our town's history and its personalities. This award is a long time coming and a needed recognition of Jack's work."

Jack and his wife Sally, who is also an editor at the Press, have lived in their 18th Olmstead Lane colonial for many years. Their two sons, Ben and Michael, grew up in town and graduated from Ridgefield High School.

In addition to Ridgefield history Jack's interests include nature (he is a noted author and lecturer on wildflowers), bicycling, kayaking, classical music, old-time radio, and short wave and ham radio.

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## About the Ridgefield Old Timers Association

### Honoring Ridgefielders since 1992

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

The original purpose of the new organization was to honor great athletes who were unable to continue their education past their school days, and set up a scholarship to assist current athletes. The organizers held several meetings and drew in 18 other supporters. They elected a board of officers with Paul Baker as the first chairman. Walt Evans was elected treasurer, a position he still holds, and Julie Petrini was the first secretary.

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

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

The guest speaker at the first banquet was Spec Shea, a pitcher for the New York Yankees. The advertisement book for that first gathering was only 20 pages, cover to cover. The event was a success and money was put into a scholarship fund.

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

Charles Bliss and Kerry Bennett.

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

In the association's second year, it introduced the Civic Award, and the first recipient was Bob Tulipani, who is a very active club member to this day. The next year, Beth Yanity became the first female recipient of the Civic Award.

In 1999, Sandy Pierandri Warner became the first female member the board of directors; she was also the association's third secretary.

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

The Ridgefield Old Timers Association has continued to meet annually in October to honor athletes and others, and to award scholarship. In 2006, the bylaws were updated to allow Ridgefield residents who have lived here at least 25 years to become members. Before this, members had to be natives and-or graduates of Ridgefield High School.

And to paraphrase the United States Marine Corps, "we are always looking for a few, very good, hard-working new members."