



RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS ASSOCIATION



18th Annual Dinner
Oct. 2, 2009



A message from the president

First I would like to begin by thanking our sponsors, members and friends. Next I would like to congratulate tonight's honorees and scholarship recipients.

It is with pride that we honor a number of Ridgefield citizens for their unselfish and tireless efforts and volunteering to assist others in our community. We also recognize a number of Ridgefield High School graduates from years past whose contributions have allowed us to continue to offer an exceptional academic and athletic experience to Ridgefield High School students.

In addition to this evening's awardees, we honor our 2009 scholarship recipients Heather Devane and Michael Pierandri. Both recipients were scholar/athletes throughout their four years at Ridgefield High School and are deserving of our financial assistance. Both will each receive a one thousand dollar scholarship for four years. Our previous and first four year scholarship fund recipients, Meaghan Windeisch and Peter Schieke, continue their success in their education pursuits.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Ridgefield Bank for their generous contribution in sponsoring tonight's program. In addition, we thank the Ridgefield Press for the contributions made each week to our scholarship fund, and to Tom Belote, for writing the Press history columns. Finally, a special thanks to Jack Sanders for his work in producing our annual program book.

Due to the current economic climate we were forced to cancel our annual golf outing and porchetta dinner when we lost our long time sponsor the Union Savings Bank. We would like to thank the bank for their past support and hope we can reinstate the dinner and outing in the near future.

The Old Timers Association was established in 1992 to honor past scholar athletes and individuals who have significantly contributed to preserving Ridgefield's heritage and culture. This is made possible each year by the efforts of our membership and we hope to continue our tradition for years to come. Thanks to all of you. On behalf of the organization we would like to extend a special thanks to members Tom Belote, Fred Whipple, Doug Clewell, George Besse, Jim Mullin and Carl Scala for their sustained assistance throughout the year.

George Hanlon
President, Ridgefield Old Timers Association

The 18th annual
Ridgefield Old Timers dinner
 Friday, Oct. 2, 2009

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Who's in charge of the Old Timers?

The officers

George Hanlon, chairman; Steve Carboni, vice chairman; Carl Scala, secretary and Chip Bliss, treasurer.

2009 Committees

Awards Dinner Committee: Andy Montanari, Sr., George Besse, Bob Tulipani;
 Ticket Committee: Jim Mullen; Publicity/Program and Press Biographies: Tom Belote;
 Scholarship Committee: Dick Scala, Barbara Serfilippi, Sandy Mosiello and Jay Montanari; Awards Committee: Andy Montanari Sr., Paul Baker, Carl Scala, Jim Mullen, Barbara Serfilippi, Sandy Pierandri Mosiello, Jim Belote, Tom Belote, Chip Bliss, John Pierandri, Jay Montanari, Guy Rossini, Pat Ligos; Arrangements Committee: Fabio Paul Biagiotti, Cynthia Biagiotti, Pat Ligos; Program Book design: Jack Sanders; Program Book Cover: Don Carboni; Monthly Meeting Food and Entertainment: Andy Montanari Sr., Fred Whipple Sr., Doug Clewell, Tom Belote.

Former Chairmen

Paul Baker, James Belote, Thomas Belote, Frank Lancaster Sr., Rudy Marconi, Andy Montanari Sr., Jay Montanari, and John Pierandri.

Civic Award to Jeanne Cook

A longtime town treasure

“Some of the best things about our town are the result of volunteerism and philanthropy by people like Jeanne Cook. Tonight Jeanne joins a short list of civic honorees who we all recognize as individuals who have contributed greatly in order to make Ridgefield a better place. On behalf of the Town of Ridgefield, I wish to congratulate Jeanne and thank her for her many years of service to our community.”

Rudy Marconi, First Selectman

“Jeannie Cook has made, and continues to make, extraordinary contributions to the arts in Ridgefield. A dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of the Ridgefield Symphony, she has served as its President and volunteers a great deal of time and effort towards its success. We are so thrilled to have her in our midst!”

Jerry Steichen, Music Director, RSO



Jeanne Cook

“Jeanne Cook is one of Ridgefield’s treasures. Her generosity to the town is legend and her skill at building The Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra to the quality it is today has benefitted each of us in Ridgefield and in the surrounding communities of Fairfield and Westchester Counties.”

Sabina Slavin, former board chairman of the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra

During the 1980s and 1990s when the Ridgefield Symphony was growing and maturing into an orchestra with a widespread reputation for excellence, the woman behind much of the success was Jeanne Cook. When the Ridgefield Press honored Jeanne as one of the prominent figures in Ridgefield’s history it noted that she was, “a modest woman who eschews publicity about her extensive community service.”

Jeanne was born in Libertyville, Illinois and received a bachelor of science degree from Purdue University. She came to Ridgefield in 1971, opening the Jeanne Cook Travel Service on Main Street. After more than 40 years in the travel business, which began before she moved to Ridgefield, Jeanne retired in 1997.

Jeanne joined the Ridgefield Symphony Board of Directors in 1973. For many years she held fund raisers, most notably “Derby Night”, for the Symphony’s benefit at her home. As president and as a board member she devoted thousands of hours to the orchestra and helped lead its growth from a small symphony to an orchestra.

Jeanne is an advocate of volunteerism and, in fact, the Ridgefield Press wrote that she was a “model volunteer.” In addition to serving as RSO president from 1991 to 2000 she was one of the four founders of the Ridgefield

Playhouse and still serves on its advisory board. She has served on the board of the Ridgefield Visiting Nurses Association and is on the advisory boards of the Ridgefield Historical Society and the Community Center. Jeanne was a member of the Board of Directors of the Village Bank and was active in the Chamber of Commerce, Mid-Fairfield County Hospice, the Housatonic Valley Tourism Commission, the Ridgefield 1976 Bicentennial Celebration and many of the town’s Fourth of July fireworks programs. Jeanne still serves as a trustee for the Ridgefield Orchestra Foundation. Her daughter Suzanne resides in Oregon and her son Steven resides in Montana.

Jeanne’s unanimous selection as our 2009 Civic honoree needs no further elaboration. She has been and continues to be a town treasure.

Special Award to Vincent Panno**Exemplary contributions to youth**

Vinnie Panno is a native of Ridgefield who graduated from RHS in 1969. During high school he played varsity football for four years and was a member of the undefeated Tiger football team. Vinnie received his bachelor of arts degree in psychology in 1973 from Franklin College in Indiana. During college he was a member of the sport parachute team. He returned to his home town after college and resides here with his wife, Lucretia, and son, VJ. Vin is the owner of Wilridge Distributing.

The Old Timers unanimously voted to honor Vinnie with its special award because of his exemplary contributions to the youth of Ridgefield. It is no wonder why he is so deserving of this award. His activities in town include: coaching Pop Warner football from 1974 to 1977; from 1994 to 2002 he was a Pop Warner coach and also served on its board of directors, including service as the board's vice president and president; from 1993 to 2000 Vinnie coached Ridgefield Youth Lacrosse and was a coach for the RBA between 1993 and 2000; from 2001 to 2004 he served as the co-developer and lead administrator for the Ridgefield High School summer fitness program and now serves as a coach for Ridgefield High's varsity football.

Most significantly, between the period of 1998 and 2008, Vinnie served as an

**Vinnie Panno**

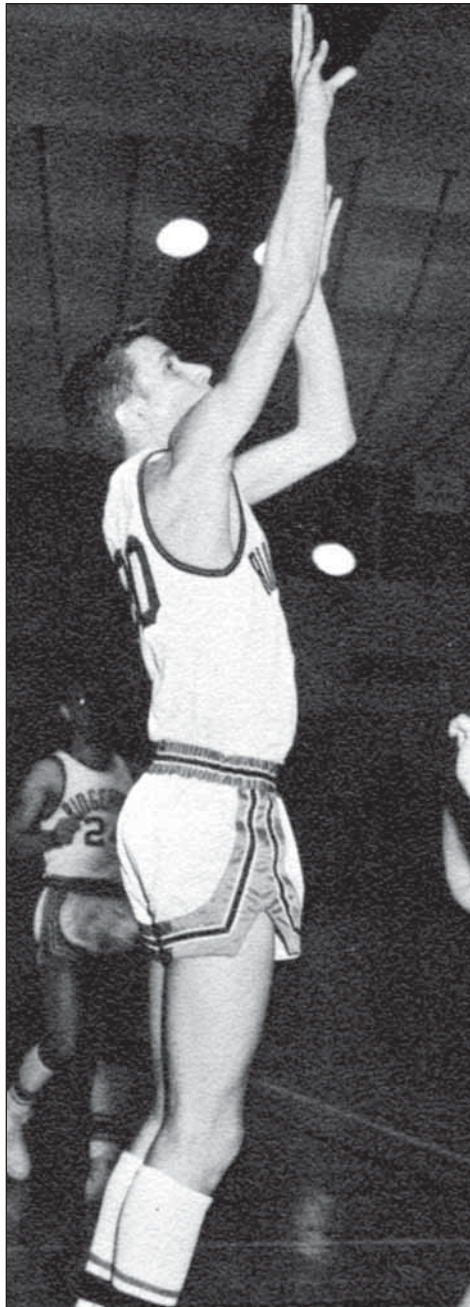
incorporator, president and co-chairman of Tiger Hollow Inc. It is generally agreed that without his effort and support, Tiger Hollow might not be a reality and the success it is today.

Thank you!

The Ridgefield Old Timers wishes to thank all of its many kind and generous supporters, and especially
RIDGEFIELD BANK and CARNALL INSURANCE
 which this year sponsored our banquet.

**Bradford Paul Mortensen, posthumous award**

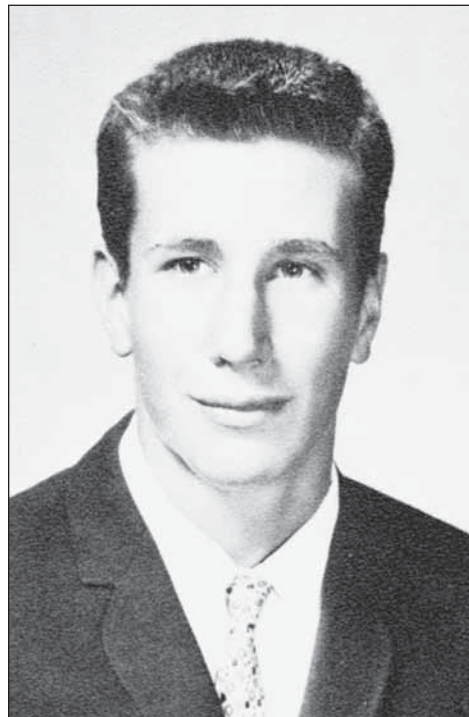
An All-Conference star



Brad Mortensen, Class of 1965, grew up in Ridgefield immersed in sports.

He was a member of the Little League and Ridgefield Boys Club teams. Brad played varsity baseball and basketball, where he excelled as a forward.

Taller than most of his contemporaries, Brad was an important member of the 1963-65 basketball teams and was voted All-Conference.



**Brad Mortensen,
on and off the court**



Edward Zandri, Posthumous Award**Most athletic male, Class of 1954**

Ed Zandri, Class of 1954, came from a Ridgefield family of athletes.

He played four years of varsity football at RHS and three years of baseball and basketball.

Along with Patti Ligos, he was voted the "most athletic" member of the senior class.

In addition to the varsity teams, Ed was a member of the RHS Athletic Committee, the gym association, the band, the dramatics club, the Hilltop Dispatch and the yearbook editorial staff.

**Edward Zandri****The 1953-54 football team that included Ed Zandri, #6.**

Bob Leary, Sports Award

Football, in leather helmet days

Bob Leary graduated from Ridgefield High School in 1957 with 36 other classmates. An all around athlete, he played basketball 4 years, baseball 4 years (maintained a batting average of .425) and played center on the football team for 2 years. He distinctly remembers playing football the last year in which the team wore leather helmets.

Bob states the reason for his athletic abilities is because he grew up in the Titicus section of Ridgefield where he learned from his neighbors', the toughest and best ball players in Ridgefield. He cites the likes of past honorees Fibber Biagiotti, Fred Romeo and Jack Coffey to name a few who taught him the game. Growing up in Ridgefield in the 1950's meant that you were never in the house, always outdoors playing ball, swimming, hunting, trapping or fishing. In the winter months, it was ice skating on Mamanasco Lake. In those days if you stayed indoors your Mother would put you to work.

Bob was raised by his widowed Mom, but had a lot of mentors during his formative years, Jack Jones, former honoree and State



**Bob Earle and Bob Leary,
both outfielders**



Bob Leary's team included, from left, standing:: B Dingee, Bob Leary, Bob Earle, Fred Mazzi, Ned Carboni, D. Sturges, John Fossi; kneeling: Booker Jackson, J. Kaiser, Tim Thomas, John Carboni, D. Coleman, B. Wyatt, and Walt Ryba.



Policeman, attended every baseball game Bob played in Ridgefield, many times watching from his police cruiser. Ralph Crouchley, director of the Boys Club coached him in 7th & 8th grade with basketball and baseball. He praises High School coaches, Bill Allen, Paul Fako and Melvin Makowicki for their guidance.

After High School Bob joined the Army and served two years the DMZ over in Korea. Returning home he stayed active in sports by

playing in the Ridgefield Townies Softball league. He has enjoyed a career as journeyman photoengraver. His work included doing all the color photoengraving for publications such as: Life Magazine, National Geographic, Sports Illustrated to name a few. Bob and his wife Kathy, are spending their retired life in sunny Palm Coast, FL. He is looking forward to the Old Times Dinner where he hopes to see a lot of his old fellow classman and teammates.

Dr. Richard Scala, Sports Award

Father of three greats

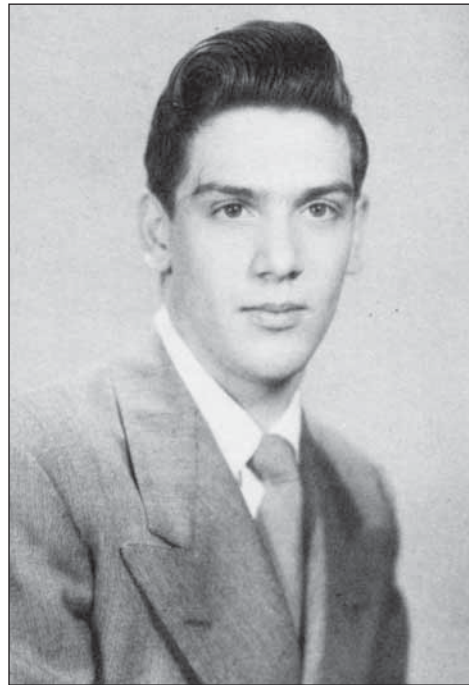
Dr. Richard Scala, Class of 1950, follows his brothers, Mario and Carl Scala, and his brother-in-law, Tony Del Biondo, as a Ridgefield Old Timer honoree.

Although he says his greatest contribution to Ridgefield athletics was being the father of three of RHS's great hockey players, David, Tom and Greg, his modesty belies the significant contributions he has made to the town. Dick Scala, as he is known by old timers, played three years of RHS varsity football. In his senior year the high school played only three games. That shortened season, however, was because his junior year six-man football squad was so successful that RHS couldn't find enough teams willing to play Ridgefield.

Dick was a member of the Student Council, the RHS band, the Glee Club, the orchestra and the Opera Guild. His classmates noted in the yearbook that "he said little, but to the purpose."

After graduation from RHS, Dick attended the University of Connecticut but was drafted into the Army during the Korean conflict. After his return from military service Dick attended St. Louis University and then Georgetown University School of Dentistry. He returned to his home town and established a dental practice in Branchville, where his wife, Lucy Del Biondo, grew up.

Dick served on the Ridgefield Board of

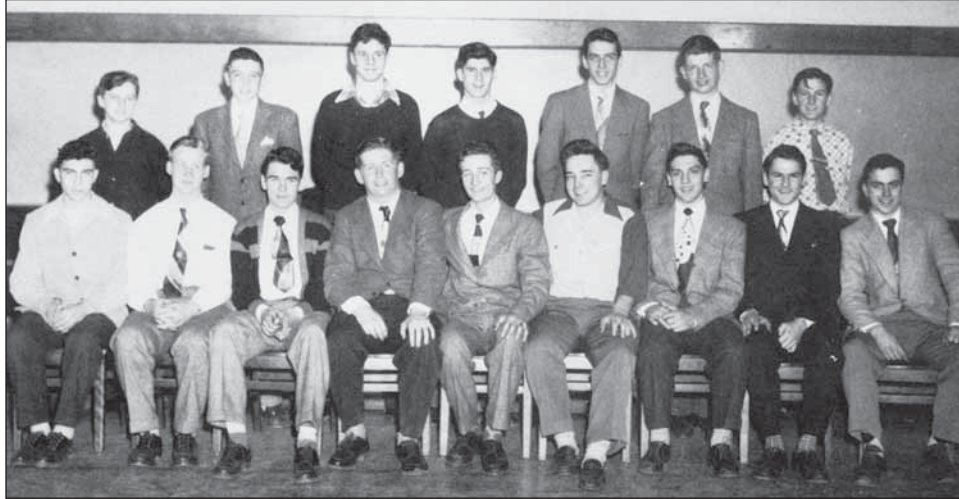


Dick Scala

Education for twelve years and, as chairman of the board, staunchly supported the school system's athletic program. In addition to his work on the Board of Education, Dick served on the Ridgefield Symphony



Board of Directors for eight years and the Ridgefield Library board for six years. He was a member of the Republican Town Committee for six years and continues to serve on the Ridgefield Symphony Foundation Board, where he has been a member for twelve years.



The football team, ca 1949: B. Kehoe, B. Stolle, B. Elliott, J. Cairns, C. Ritch, B. Coles, Dick Scala, R. Deeks, B. Roets Standing: P. Vaughn, F. Ferry, F. Bardiere, S. Delijoux, A. Moses, D. Cairns, R. Keeler.

Richard G. Miller, Sports Award

All-conference half-back

Rick Miller, Class of 1967, played four years of varsity football, basketball and baseball at RHS. He was both a starting offensive and defensive halfback on the Tigers' football squad.

Rick played guard on the RHS basketball team and was a centerfielder for the baseball team. In his senior year he was voted All-Conference in football.

Following his graduation from RHS, Rick attended Norwich University and graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

Rick received his Juris Doctorate from North Carolina Central University and has been a practicing attorney since 1975. In



Rick Miller

2002 he was appointed a capital public defender and currently represents inmates facing the death penalty. Rick lives in Wilmington, North Carolina with his wife Judy. They have a son Michael.



The 1966-67 football team that featured Rick Miller, #20 in front row. Note the old tower at Holy Ghost Novitiate in background.

Patricia Girolmetti Ligos, Sports Award

Best athlete and personality of '54

Her senior class voted Pat Ligos the "best athlete" of 1954 (along with Ed Zandri who we honor posthumously tonight).

She was also voted "best personality," "most admired senior," and along with her classmate, Bob Scala, the "best dancer."

She was also voted the senior who had done the most for Ridgefield High.

During her high school years Pat was captain of the Orange and Black cheerleading squad and Vice President of the Athletic Committee.

In addition to athletics,



Pat Girolmetti Ligos

while maintaining a stellar academic average, she was the class secretary, co-editor of the yearbook, a member of the Opera Guild, the Thespians, the dramatics club, "A Cappella", the glee club, the RHS band and the Hilltop Dispatch.

After RHS Pat attended St. Joseph's College in West Hartford, Connecticut on an academic scholarship where she received a bachelors degree in nursing.

On September 19, 1959, Pat married Donald Ligos, then the President of the Ridgefield Townies athletic



The cheerleading squad, captained by Pat Girolmetti Ligos: from left, Pat Girolmetti Ligos, H. Rife, C. Hoyt, P. Chapin, N. Hussin, J. DeNike, R. Nash, P. O'Keeffe, C. Hapke, M. Eppolito, and J. Martin

association (we honored Don posthumously in 1999). Pat and Don had four children, Kathleen, James, Kevin and Karen.

In addition to her employment as a nurse, Pat was active in the Ridgefield Girl Scouts and religious education at St. Mary's. Like her husband, who was a chief in the Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department, Pat was active in the Ladies Auxiliary Fire Department. Pat has been employed by

Ridgefield Pediatrics since 1988.

Patricia Ligos is yet another example of Ridgefield women scholar/athletes who grew up in town during the 1940s and 1950s when athletics for women was not a priority in our homes or schools. However, looking at our 2009 scholarship recipient, Heather DeVane, we can see that this has changed dramatically, Pat was one of the Ridgefield women who set the stage for that change.

How can you help future students?

Contribute to the Old Timers scholarship fund.
See Page 16

Robert L. Lewis, Sports Award

Two years of All-Conference

Bob Lewis, Class of 1965, played varsity football during his four years at RHS and was a two-way starter playing both offensive and defensive halfback. He was voted All-Conference in his senior year.

Among his senior year football teammates were Old Timers Rudy Marconi, George Hanlon, Chip Landon and Tom Belote, his brother-in-law, Rick Karwoski, past Old Timers honorees Richard Polverari and Alan Wallace and tonight's honoree, Rick Miller.

Bob was voted All-Conference football in his junior and senior years. In addition to football, Bob also starred on the track and baseball teams.

Bob was class vice president, co-editor of the Chieftain and a member of the school ski club. The 1965 yearbook dubbed him "Sleepy" and his yearbook quote was



Bob Lewis

"speak but little and well" His classmates said Bob's ambition was to "avoid entangling alliances."

While extremely successful in RHS athletics and in his academic studies, Bob didn't necessarily succeed in avoiding entangling alliances.

Bob married Gerri Karwoski, a member of the RHS Class of 1966 and captain of the cheer-leading squad that often rooted Bob on.

After graduation from RHS, Bob attended the University of Colorado. Following a stint in the U.S. Army, he completed

graduate work at Boston University, earning an MBA. Bob returned to his home town and started a career with G.E., retiring not long ago as senior vice-president for G.E. Capital.

Bob and Gerri reside on West Mountain. They have three children, Tyson, Christian and Gillian.



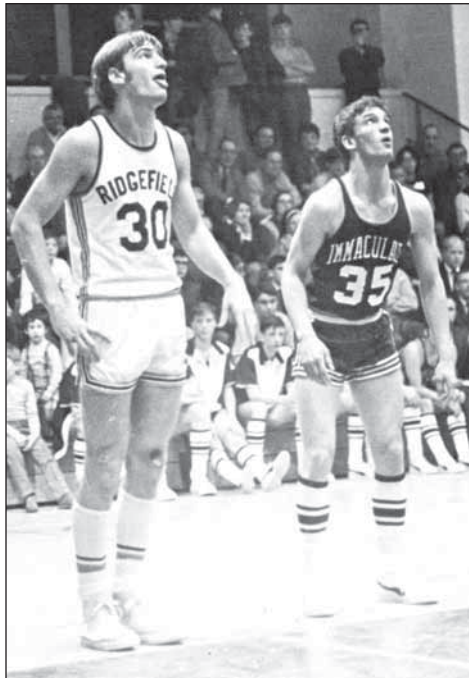
First Row: Rick Miller, ROTA honoree second from left; George Hanlon, ROTA chairman, third from left; Rudy Marconi, former ROTA chairman, fourth from left, Bob Lewis seventh from left, Chip Landon, ROTA member, eighth from left; Second Row: Tom Belote, former ROTA chairman, third from left; Third row: First from left Rick Karwoski, Bob Lewis' brother in law.

Peter Santini, Sports Award

Two-sport All-Conference star

Peter Santini, Class of 1970 and a native of Ridgefield, comes from a family known for its athletic prowess. Peter's aunt, Gloria Sharkany was the first woman to be honored by the Ridgefield Old Timers with a sports award. Peter's oldest brother, Julius "Bugsy" Santini was honored by this organization in 1998 and another brother, Tom Santini, was honored in 2005.

Peter played three years of varsity football at RHS and was a starter each year. He played fullback and defensive tight end. He was All-Conference and All-Area in foot-



Peter Santini

ball for two years. Peter was a starter on the RHS basketball team and was voted All-Conference for two years in a row. He also started on the Tigers' baseball team.

After RHS Peter attended Trinidad Junior College where he started on the school's football team as a running back. He was then recruited by Colorado State University. Peter was known for his strength.

During high school he pulled the isometric training stand out of the concrete wall where it had been bolted.

Peter owns and operates the Santini Septic Company. He is married to Tammie and has two daughters, Ashley and Lauren.

Where are all the ads?

Thanks to Ridgefield Bank and Carnall Insurance, our banquet sponsors, we again did not need to ask all our loyal advertisers from years past to support us again this year. However, we still appreciate their years of help.

Heather Devane and Michael Pierandri

The ROTA Scholarship Winners

When the Ridgefield Old Timers Association was organized in 1992 one of its primary goals was to honor athletes, scholars and notable Ridgefielders of the past by establishing a scholarship endowment for RHS graduates of the future. One year after our first Old Timers' banquet at the Italian American Club Thomas Gareau was awarded the first ROTA stipend for college study.

In 1997 the association began awarding two stipends, one to a senior girl and another to a senior boy. Since then a number of deserving RHS graduating seniors received the association's annual scholarship awards.

In awarding our stipends to Heather Devane and Michael Pierandri, the Old Timers continue their tradition in honoring scholar athletes who are deserving and have contributed greatly to our community.

• • •

Heather Devane is one of our two 2009 scholarship recipients. A Ridgefield native, Heather was unanimously selected because of her excellence in academic and athletics and her outstanding extra-curricular activities.

At the time of her selection as a scholarship recipient, Heather had a 4.6 weighted grade point average and had been selected as the RHS 2009 senior scholar athlete.

Heather was a member of the RHS Ski team from grade 9 to 12. She was the team captain in her senior year. Her team won the Class L Division Championships in 2007 and 2008 and the State Championship in 2008. Heather was also a member of the RHS volleyball team from her freshman year through her senior year and was manager of the Boys' volleyball team in her sophomore year.

In addition to sports, her extracurricular activities at RHS and in the town included

the H.O.M.E. Mission; Safe Rides; National Charity League 9, grades 7 to 12 (she became president of the organization in her senior year); Young Life, grades 9-12; Saint Elizabeth Seton Church Alter server, grades 4 to 12; and she was a member of Hot Shoes Dance Studio Senior Company.

Heather is equally adept in both the arts and sciences, as demonstrated by A+ grades in calculus, physics, English, history and foreign languages. Jean Gaumer, Chairman of Ridgefield High's English Department described Heather as an outstanding student in many ways saying, "She is decidedly intelligent, inquisitive and creative. She is articulate and confident...patient and fair minded. She is grounded but whimsical... Teachers and students, alike, find her reliable, trustworthy and honest."

After receiving notice of her award, Heather told the Old Timers that, as a Ridgefield native, it has always been important to her to be involved in athletics and organizations in town and that she would take her experiences and what she learned in Ridgefield with her as she commences her University studies.

Heather is in her freshman year at Northwestern University in the Medill School of Journalism.

• • •

Michael Pierandri is a Ridgefield Native and the son of Mary and John Pierandri. Michael attended Farmingville School and participated in youth soccer, football and lacrosse. He was a running back and linebacker on the Junior Midget and Midget Football Teams that won the Candlewood Valley League and Connecticut State Championships. In eight grade, Michael's Senior A lacrosse team finished with an undefeated record and won the Connecticut-New York Youth Lacrosse Association tournament. Teammates for football and lacrosse included Mike McKnight, Jon Mirra, Peter Vren-denburgh, Brendan Walsh, Matt Baker and

Matt White.

At RHS Michael played football and lacrosse for 4 years. Michael was a starting linebacker in foot his junior and senior years. Senior year the team was 8-3, with major wins over perennial FCIAC powers Greenwich and Staples. He was named all FCIAC honorable mention his Senior Year. Michael played Defensive Midfield on the varsity lacrosse team. His senior year the team finished with a record of 20-2, and won the FCIAC championship for the first time. The 2009 Varsity team was the first ever RHS lacrosse team to beat Darien, New Canaan and Wilton. Teammates included the aforementioned group from above as well as Tommy Baird and Colin Scott.

Michael received the first ever "Leatherman Award" which goes to a varsity lacrosse player who exhibits the ability to adapt and

play multiple positions. First year Coach Roy Colsey fashioned this award from one given annually at his alma mater, Syracuse University.

Off the field Michael was a consistent honor role student, worked part time at Tiger Sports and was a member of Safe Rides.

In addition to his parents, Michael has an older brother David, a senior at the University of Mary Washington and younger sister Julianne a sophomore at RHS.

Michael is currently a freshman at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, where he is majoring in environmental studies.

Michael has been recruited to try out for the Varsity Lacrosse team.

Michael joins his uncle Harry Pierandri and Aunt Sandy Mosiello as an Old Timers Award recipient.

Help the Old Timers help our students

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

•••

Send your tax-deductible gift to:
ROTA Scholarship Fund
c/o Chip Bliss, ROTA treasurer,
246 Federal Road
Brookfield CT 06804

•••

Thank you!

This advertisement is sponsored by Tom and Jane Belote



Michael Principi, Sports Award

Captain and All-Conference

“Mickie” Principi, Class of 1971, is a native of Ridgefield and still resides in his hometown on Bobby’s Court.

He played three years of RHS football both as a safety and corner back. In his senior year he was team captain and All-Conference.

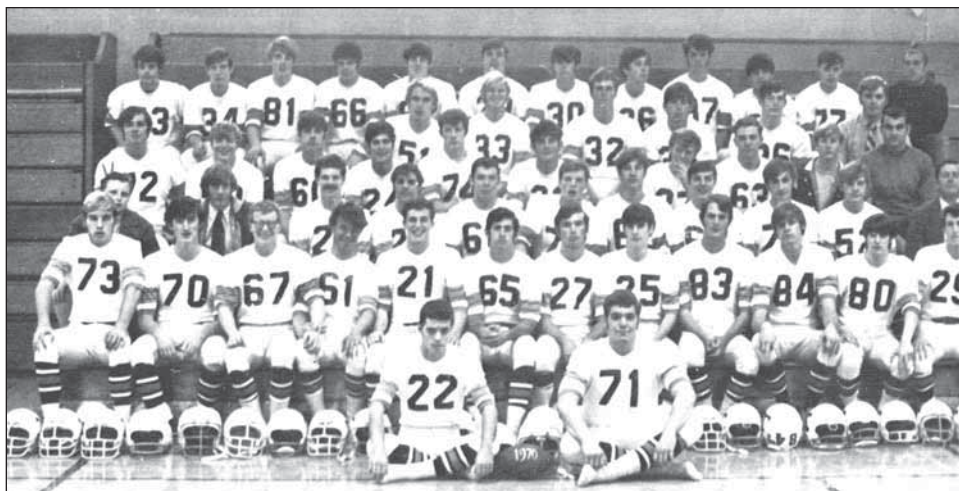
Mickie also played guard during three years of Tiger basketball and was center-fielder and a second baseman during his four years on the RHS baseball team.

After high school he attended trade school and became a licensed electrician. He has been an area building contractor for many years.

Mickie has a son, Michael, and a daughter, Julie. Mickie is actively involved in “Manna” Missionary work. For two weeks each year he travels to different countries and helps build playgrounds and parks. He travelled to Haiti in 2008 and to the Ukraine this past August.



Michael Principi



Michael Principi is number 21, second row, fifth from left



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

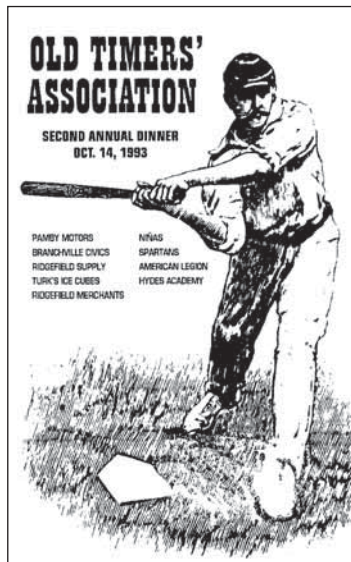
and female recipients, and the winners in 1997 were Charles Bliss and Kerry Bennett. The amount of the scholarships has grown over the years as a result of the advertising placed in this book, as well as other fund-raising efforts — especially the annual golf outing and pig roast, which takes place in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

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

often founder Paul Baker, who had a long career as a radio and television broadcaster.

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



Cover from 1992 Old Timers banquet

Past Sports Awards

1992

Tabby Carnobi, Lynce Carboni, Leo Pambianchi, Tom Clark, Charlie Frantini, 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 Cicolani, Joe Brunetti, Ray Eppoliti, Bud Mahoney, Reno Severini

1996

Ben Bedini, Fabio Biagiotti, Jack Leary, Harold Mead, Romeo Petroni, Janalie Severini

1997

Primo Baldaserini, Dante Brunetti, Frank Lancaster, Sr., Walt Evans, Navio Ligi, Fred Mazzi

1998

Gino "Jinx" Baldaserini, Dr. Phil Martin, Dr. Joe Moylan, Andy Montanari, Julius "Bugsy" Santini

1999

Dick Bellagamba, Si Bellagamba, Gene Lavatori, John Lavatori, Gene McMahon, Harry Pierandi

2000

Glen Anderson, Bill Elliot, Booker Jackson, Tom Mitchell

2001

Ned Carboni, Paul Carboni, Jim Costanzi, John Fossi, Artie Frattini, Nick Reid, Gloria Sharkany

2002

Ed Dowling, Jack Jones, Jack O'Keefe, Jim O'Keefe, Mike Ryba, Aldo Travaglini, Harry Zandri

2003

Aldo Biagotti, Chip Bliss, Bob Carboni, John Forcelli, Jim Mullen, Vince Paccadolmi, Fred Romeo

2004

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

2005

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

2006

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

2007

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

2008

Richard Lavatori, Judy Laslo, Craig Saltzgeber, Frank Serfilippi, Paul Vaughn, Chip Wilson

Past Posthumous Awards

1994

Ralph Crouchley, Kip Holleran, Francis Martin

1995

Chuck Walter, Charlie Ashbee, Frank Minnerly

1996

Lou Girolmetti, John Sullivan, John Bacchiochi

1997

Lick Santini, Red Delugo, Bill Allen

1998

Joseph Venus, Art Sfondrini, Bob Stolle

1999

Alan Crowley, Don Ligos, Harold Hilton

2000

Art Bellagamba, Stubb Cummings, Margaret O'Sullivan

2001

Tony Deluca, Walt Ryba, Bob Seymour

2002

John Sturges, Jimmy Warner

2003

Scott Nye, Fred J. Romeo, Sr., Mario Scala

2004

Steve Lancaster, Bernie Leighton, Pete Carboni

2005

Charlie Ritch

2006

Roy Cogswell, Hank Wilson

2007

Tony Del Biondo

2008

James Principi, Jeanne Timpanelli

Past Civic 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 Meffly

2003

Kay Ables

2004

Chuck Dean

2005

Doug Main, Renee Franks

2006

Jack Sanders

2007

The Ancona Family

2008

Maureen Kiernan, Dave Scott



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.





Best Wishes!



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

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