



# RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS ASSOCIATION



19th Annual Dinner  
Oct. 9, 2010



## A message from the president

First I would like to begin by thanking our sponsor's, 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 2010 scholarship recipients Mary Shaw and Duncan Morrissey. 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.

This year we have added an award for lifetime achievement. This is an honor bestowed on a Ridgefield High School past graduate who has achieved recognition in his chosen career since leaving RHS.

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.

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, George Besse, Chip Bliss, Doug Clewell, Pat Ligos, Sandy Mosiello, Carl Scala, Dick Scala, Barbara Serfilippi, Bob Tulipani, and Fred Whipple Sr. for their sustained assistance throughout the year. New members who have joined since our past dinner are Greg Hutchins, Mark Fitzgerald and Mike Rogers.

*George Hanlon*  
President, Ridgefield Old Timers  
Association

The 19th annual  
*Ridgefield Old Timers dinner*  
 Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010

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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.

### 2010 Committees

Awards Dinner Committee: George Besse, Pat Ligos, Publicity/Program and Press Biographies: Tom Belote, Scholarship Committee: Dick Scala, Barbara Serfilippi, Sandy Mosiello Awards Committee, Sandy Mosiello, Tom Belote, Chip Bliss, Greg Hutchins and Mark Fitzgerald

### Former Chairmen

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

## **Civic Award**

**Christine Lodewick**  
Speech pathologist,  
philanthropist,  
and community activist

Christine Lodewick was born and raised on a farm in Columbus, Wisconsin where early in life she learned two fundamental essentials that would help shape her life—have great work habits and a deep-seated commitment to share.

Ms. Lodewick holds a BS in Education and Speech Pathology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her Masters in Speech Pathology from the University of Connecticut. She commenced her working career within the California public school systems and later worked in public health nursing for the VNS programs in Chicago, IL and New York City. She was a part-time consultant and speech therapist in the Southbury, CT school system.

Christine's volunteer and philanthropic activities run deep. She is a past Board member and current advisor to The Women's Philanthropy Institute at the University of Indiana and a member of the WPI's speaker Bureau. She is chair of the University of Wisconsin's Women's Philanthropy Council in which capacity she serves as an emeriti Board member of the UW Foundation. She is a past member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Wisconsin's School of Education; the University of Connecticut's Alumni Association and its Women's Learning Council. She and her husband,

**Continued on next page**

**Philip Lodewick**  
Entrepreneur,  
philanthropist,  
and volunteer

Philip Lodewick, along with his four brothers, grew up in the Town of Huntington, on the north shore of Long Island, where he learned the value of competition, industry, and organization in a sometimes disorganized family.

Mr. Lodewick is President and CEO of The Tradewell Corporation, a "middle-market" equipment leasing company that he founded in 1980 that has provided capital and operating lease financing to a wide range of corporations and businesses throughout the United States and Canada. He is also chairman of Project Graphics Incorporated, a graphic arts production company headquartered in Burlington, VT. Prior to founding The Tradewell

Corporation, Mr. Lodewick was an officer and part of the senior management team of Boothe Financial Corporation—now two companies known as Robert Half International, Inc. and BF Enterprises. He started his business career with the IBM Corporation.

A BS and MBA graduate of the University of Connecticut, Philip has served as past Chairman of both The University of Connecticut Foundation Board and the Board of Advisors for the University's School of Business Administration. Currently he is President and Chairman

**Continued on next page**



**Christine and Philip Lodewick**



## Christine Lodewick... Philip Lodewick...

Philip, have set up endowments at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Connecticut in support of graduate fellowships for minority candidates pursuing careers in education, in support of faculty excellence, and in support of University diversity initiatives. They have built the Lodewick Visitor Center at the University of Connecticut as a gift to the University and a place of warm welcome and a front door to the University.

Ms. Lodewick is a current Board member of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment. She served for 10 years on the State of Connecticut's League of Women's Voters Board of Directors and is immediate past-president of the Ridgefield LWV where she was served in many capacities since 1979.

She is a past board member of the Ridgefield chapter of AAUW, and maintains an active interest in the Ridgefield Garden Club, Keeler Tavern Historical Society and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.

For many years Christine has served on the board and is a past President of A Better Chance in Ridgefield. She also serves on advisory boards of Danbury Hospital, the Ridgefield VNA, and the Ridgefield Playhouse. Through their Foundation, Philip and Christine support a range of educational, social service, performing arts, and community service organizations.

Christine and Philip Lodewick have two daughters, Alyssa, who with her partner Robyn live and work in Portland, ME and Kendra, who with her husband Nico, and their three children, Maeve, Asher, and Silas, live and work in Eugene, OR.

of the Board of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership- a partnership of the University of Connecticut, the Town of Mansfield and the partnership's development partner, Leyland Alliance, LLC- formed to create a vibrant mixed use residential, retail, and commercial town center- Storrs Center- in the town of Mansfield. He and his wife Christine, have set up endowments at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Connecticut in support of graduate fellowships for minority candidates pursuing careers in education, in support of faculty excellence, and in support of University of Connecticut as a gift to the University and a place of warm welcome and a front door to the University.

Mr. Lodewick and his wife Christine are philanthropists and activists in a number of organizations. He is one of the founding Board of Directors of both A Better Chance in Ridgefield, and The Discovery Center, a nature science for youth program based in Ridgefield. He is also a founding Board member of the International Forgiveness Institute, based in Madison, Wisconsin, an organization focusing on the inter-disciplinary study and practical application of forgiveness as a way of bringing healing and understanding to troubled areas. He is a member of the Ridgefield Library Board and the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra and RSO Foundation boards. He also serves on advisory boards of Danbury Hospital, the Ridgefield VNA, and the Ridgefield Playhouse. Through their Foundation, Philip and Christine support a range of educational, social service, performing arts, and community service organization.

*Thank you!*

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



## **Charles 'Chuck' Camp, Lifetime Achievement**

# Award-winning journalist

For some years the Old Timers recognized that some of our most prominent alumni had not been honored by the organization because they had moved from town and made significant achievements in their lives after graduating from Ridgefield High. Last year we voted to rectify that problem and voted to honor deserving Ridgefield alumni with Life Time Achievement Awards. Native Ridgefielder, Chuck Camp, was unanimously selected as our first such honoree.

Chuck grew up on South Olmstead Road in the small pre-Revolutionary home that is now the home of former ROTA honoree and Ridgefield Press executive editor Jack Sanders and his wife Sally. In his high school year book Chuck said his ambition was to become a journalist. True to his ambition Chuck became a nationally renowned reporter and editor.

In fact, Chuck started his career in journalism in Ridgefield. As a youngster Chuck published a neighborhood paper that included the goings-on in the Olmstead area including the neighborhood box car racing results. In high school Chuck furthered his ambition by writing for the Hilltop Dispatch and editing the 1960 Caudatowan Yearbook. Chuck excelled in academics at RHS. He was a member of the National Honor Society and was the school's National Merit Scholar. Chuck was also a member of the Student Council and served as Vice-President of his class.

In addition to his intellectual and social successes, Chuck was an athlete. He played four years of varsity football at RHS on both the offense and defensive teams. (Chuck's

freshman year was the first year Ridgefield had an eleven man squad.) Chuck's team mates included last year's ROTA honoree, John "Cannonball" Devondorf, Chuck's good friend and childhood neighbor, Jack O'Keefe, Willy Warner, Vinny Carboni, George Mulvaney, Jim Caiola, George Schuster, Derek Warren, neighbor Joe Pirri, Kayo Kolaski, Steve Gutherie, Gary Boyce, Jim Belote, Harlan Brooks, John Drake and others.

Chuck attributes the fact that RHS's developing eleven-man football program was short in the win column to the fact that he, like other team mates, had to play both offense and defense and by half time they were exhausted. ("I was so worn out from playing every minute of offense and defense that second halves inevitably were disasters. We either needed more kids or 30-minute games. If you count first halves only, we won a lot of the time.") Chuck takes some consolation in the fact that his squad did beat Wilton 8-6.

After graduation Chuck attended Syracuse University on scholarship. Chuck decided to forego NCAA college football and directed his attention to scholarship and his ambition. He graduated from Syracuse in 1964-Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa!

Following Syracuse, Chuck began a 44-year career as a reporter and editor. He retired in 2006 after having served the Wall Street Journal as a reporter, bureau chief and several editing positions including Senior Editor, Acting National News Editor, and he was the WSJ's Page One Staff Editor. Chuck worked for the journal in New York, Cleveland, Detroit and Houston. In addi-



**Chuck Camp, RHS 1960**



tion to the Wall Street Journal Chuck was also employed as a reporter, editor and business editor at the Dallas Morning News. His career before the Wall Street Journal also included work at the Syracuse Post-Standard, the Buffalo Courier Express and the Lexington, Kentucky Herald Leader.

Chuck was an honoree at the UCLA Anderson School of Management, Gerald Loeb Awards. The Loeb Awards honor journalists who make significant contributions to the understanding of business, finance and the economy. Recognizing Chuck's work at the Wall Street Journal, the committee also recognized his work for the Lexington Herald Leader where he investigated the systematic failures behind Appalachian Kentucky's worsening prescription drug abuse problem. In 2003 the Herald-Leader published its prize-winning

series, "Prescription for Pain." That reporting also led Chuck to outline the corporate sales strategy that helped make the narcotic OxyContin so abundant in rural Kentucky that it became known as "Hillbilly Heroin."

Chuck's thoughts about growing up in Ridgefield: "Being a kid in Ridgefield in the 1950's was an almost magical experience. My friends and I grew up feeling secure, carefree and confident. Not just our friends and families but the entire community encouraged us to stretch to the limits of our abilities. Most important, we were schooled by remarkable educators, who sent us out into the world with an understanding that knowing the right answer is often less important than asking the right question."

Chuck lives in Georgetown, Kentucky with his wife June. The Camps have three children: Donna, Bill and Debbie.

## **Reed Whipple, Special Award**

# A Tiger Hollow leader

Each year the Ridgefield Old Timers honor a member of our community who has through extraordinary efforts contributed to athletic programs in town. Past honorees are listed in the last pages of our program book. This year the Old Timers selected RHS alumni, Reed Whipple, for their Special Award. Reed is one of the individuals who have contributed his time, efforts and money to make Tiger Hollow a reality. He is a former member of the Tiger Hollow board and also worked gratis in constructing the Parks & Rec. building at Ridgefield High School. He also built Tyler's Court, the basketball court at RHS honoring of Tyler Ugolin.

Reed's connections to Ridgefield ath-



**Reed Whipple, RHS 1976**

letics go back to his days as a hockey star at RHS. He played right wing on the varsity hockey team throughout high school. In his sophomore year he was named most improved player and in his senior year he was team co-captain along with former ROTA honoree Greg Hutchings. In his senior year Reed was on the All Star FCIAC 1st team and played in the FCIAC finals and the state tournament. In his senior year his ice hockey team broke New Canaan's 69 game winning streak. In that 3-2 game Reed scored one of Ridgefield goals and had an

assist in another.

After RHS Reed attended Roger Williams University and played on that school's ice



hockey team. After returning to town, Reed opened his home building company, Heritage Home Construction.

He recently established Total Care, a Ridgefield property management business.

In addition to work Reed took time to be the RHS Assistant Ice Hockey Coach. He coached the team for five years. In 1987 the team won the FCIAC Championship.

Reed has served Ridgefield as a member of the Economic Development Committee and as a member of the Zoning Board of

Appeals.

He lives on West Lane with his wife, Jennifer. Reed and Jennifer two daughters: Kate and Kelly.

Reed's remarks about growing up in Ridgefield: "Moving from Norwalk to Ridgefield changed my life and my experiences at RHS and the friendships I made there are the greatest of gifts. My roots and bonds here, and most importantly my wife and family, are a direct result of growing up in this great community."

### **Abe Morelli, Sports Award**

## **Basketball star and first selectman**

Abe Morelli played football and basketball for RHS throughout his high school years. Abe played on the last RHS 6-man football team then for the first two years of RHS eleven-man football. His primary position was linebacker but he filled in as an offensive tackle when needed. His teammates included Chuck Camp, who is receiving our first Life Time achievement award at tonight's dinner; former ROTA award recipients, Fred Mazzi, John Fossi, Walt Ryba and John Devondorf, as well as, Jack O'Keefe, George Mulvaney, Joe Pirri, Dave Sturges, Barry Peckham, Andy Brady, George Schuster, Joe Sossei, Vinny Carboni and Al Janesky.

Abe played center for the RHS cagers. As a relatively small school many of Abe's football team mates also played on his basketball squad with the significant additions of Lee Pasquarella, Bob Brown and Willie Warner. In his senior year the team advanced to the second round in the State Championships finishing with a 14-3. One of the regular season's losses was to New Canaan who's center, playing opposite Abe, went on to play both college and pro bas-

ketball. Abe held him to under 25 points, an accomplishment that Abe refers to as a "moral victory".

In addition to sports, Abe worked on the Yearbook, the Hilltop Dispatch and was the stage manager for the school's "Thespians". He was also on the Student Council and the Opera Guild.

Following RHS Abe went to Bucknell and received a B.A. in Mathematics and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. While in college Abe participated in cross country, volleyball, soccer, softball and tennis and continued his interest in stage craft.

After graduation Abe returned to Ridgefield to work at the family business, D.F. Bedient., and then opened his own company, Morelli's Fine Floorings, before retiring and moving to Baldwinsville, N.Y.

After college Abe was also very active in town matters, first participating in the Central Business District Study, then becoming Assistant Town Treasurer, Treasurer, and lastly, First Selectman. In total Abe served the town for almost 30 years.

In addition to participating in town govern-



**Abe Morelli, RHS 1958**





**Abe's team in 1958. He's #31 at the front left.**

ment Abe was active in many civic organizations. He joined the Rotary in 1969 and served as the club president in 1973-74. Along with Ed Allen, he was one of the founders of the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce.

Abe was a founder and first president of the Ridgefield Family Y and co-chaired the Scotland School PTSA.

He was active in the Visiting Nurses

Association, served as vice-chair of HRRRA and was a member and director of GIS Research for HVCEO.

Abe is married to Leslie Loan Morelli and has two children, James and Jeanne. He has continued his civic volunteer work in Baldwinsville and has served as president of the local Rotary Club and its foundation board of trustees.

## **Tom Fossi, Sports Award**

# Hoop star with true townie roots

Tom Fossi is a true native of Ridgefield. Born and raised in Ridgefield, he played sports since he was 10 years old. Graduating in 1961, he married his high school sweetheart, Jinny Jones, daughter of a past Ridgefield Old Timers honoree Jack Jones. Tom has had a successful career in the healthcare industry living and working mostly in the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Notable other family members include his older brother and past selectman Lou Fossi, his brother-in-law, Norman and sisters Elsie Craig, and Norm Contessa. Tom brother, John was also an Old Times award



**Tom Fossi, RHS 1961**

recipient. Tom's father, Dominic "Carusso" Fossi was a prominent member of the Italian American Mutual Aid Society and was well known for his beautiful singing (hence nickname "Carusso") and his superb preparation of porchetta, Italian roast pig that has been so popular among first, second and third generation Italian Americans in town.

His memories of Ridgefield sports started when he was about ten years old just when the Little League teams were first organized. Tom spent a great deal of time at the Boy's Club (now the Boy's and Girls Club) playing bas-

ketball and baseball under the guidance of Ralph Crouchley. He remembers Ralph Crouchley as the kindest and most considerate of mentors any young boy could have. In high school he played football his freshmen and sophomore years but saw little use to continue as a 135 lb. end after discovering he was basically a pacifist. Tom played basketball his sophomore, junior and senior years, first under Coach Paul Fako and then later under Coach Bob Mark.

His most vivid memories were playing Abbott Tech and Wilton, "both whom cleaned our clocks with relative ease even though we had a good team made up of fellows like Jack O'Keefe, Peter Casagrande, Rick Lavatori, Bob Howe, Harlan Brooks and Bjorn Larson to name a few." Tom also enjoyed every game against New Milford and found that these teams seemed to be evenly matched and always competitive. While to RHS Tom was his class Vice-President served on the student council; was a member of the Opera Guild and Glee Club (an interest he must have acquired from his father "Caruso") and played gold for the school team.



**Tom Fossi, left, co-captain with Dick Lavatori.**

## **Michael Severin Bowman, Sports Award**

# The 'winningest' coach

Mike played varsity athletics throughout school at RHS. He played varsity football for four years starting as the varsity center in ninth grade. Mike played on both the offensive and defensive teams. His high school yearbook made note of the "John Jay tackle" when Mike tackled the John Jay ball carrier in the end zone for a safety allowing RHS to win the game 2-0. It was the first time RHS had beaten John Jay High School. Mike teammates included former ROTA awardees: Buggy Santini, Harry Pierandri, Pal Carboni,



**Mike Bowman, RHS 1963**

Bob Lewis, Rudy Marconi and Mike Ryba, in addition to Bruce Robertson, Bob Wilder, George Jacobsen, the Beaudine brothers, Bob Howe, Dave Hodson, Jim Mitchell, Grant Drake, Craig Welch and Terry McManamy. Mike senior year team had a 5-2 record, then the best in Ridgefield's eleven-man football history.

Mike also played baseball at RHS for four years and basketball for three years. Sporting a fashionable flattop hair cut in school, Mike, nicknamed



**Mike is in the back row, second from right, in this team picture.**

“The Rebel” according to his year book, also played in the RHS band for four years.

After graduating from RHS Mike attended Kansas State Teachers College where he played both football and baseball. Upon graduation Mike began a 33-year teaching career. The last 23 years of that career were at Taconic Hills High School where Mike recently retired as the school “winningest” baseball and football coach in the school’s history.

Mike came to Taconic Hills in 1986 and inherited a football program, which had not had a winning season since 1973. In 1988 Coach Bowman led the Taconic Hills “Titans” to not only its first winning season in 15 years, but also to an undefeated 11-0 win/loss season that captured the New York State Class “C” State Championship. In the finals of the championships Coach Bowman’s Titans defeated the defending state champions, Walton High, who had won 22 straight games.

In 1988 Mike was awarded the New York State Coach of the Year honor and he also captured a national honor for high school football coaches, which was awarded to him

at the prestigious Binghamton, New York Football Clinic Banquet.

In 1994 Coach Bowman’s baseball team also left its mark in school history coming within one win of the state baseball championship.

Affectionately called “Coach Bow” by his players, Mike now subs 2 to 3 days a week at Taconic Hills and is the school’s golf coach. (By the way, his golf team is favored to win the conference this year for the first time since 1998.)

Mike resides in Hudson, New York with his wife, Vinessa, and his fourteen year old child, Severin M. Bowman.

Reminiscing about his time at RHS Mike has said, “I loved my time growing up in Ridgefield and going to RHS. Coach Allen was my

baseball coach and Coach Marks was my football coach. I gained lasting memories from both of these men. I had great Little League coaches while I was in Ridgefield too. I remember Bob Tulipani as my basketball coach and Mr. Baldaserini as my coach on the Little League Comets Team. I wouldn’t trade my time growing up and being part of Ridgefield for anything.”



**The Bowman tackle.**

## **Amy Fredericks, Sports Award**

# Town, college & national track star

Amy went to Ridgefield High School from 1980 until she graduated in 1984. At RHS she ran all four years on the school cross-country team and played indoor and outdoor track for the school. At RHS she ran the 800, the 1,500, the 3000 and the 4 x 800 relay. During this period Amy held the school records for all those events. Amy was the team captain in her senior year and finished 2nd overall in the FCIAC Cross Country Championships.



**Amy Fredericks, RHS 1984**

She also set several cross country records. During high school Amy made the 1st team ALL FCIAC and All STATE team. She was the recipient of the Wolfpit Running Club Award and was the Burger King Athlete of the Year.

Amy was recruited by the University of Connecticut in Storrs to run cross-country and outdoor track. She was competitive in all four years at UConn and ran on the first team as one of their top three runners in the mile, the two mile and the three-mile events. She was also team captain in her senior year.

After graduating from UConn with a

degree in psychology Amy moved to Manhattan where she continues to pursue her running career and consistently ran and won races in New York. She joined the ELITE sponsored women's running team called "Atlanta" and was nominated the New York Athlete of the Year in 2002 and 2005. In 2002 Amy finished first female overall in ten road races in Manhattan. One of her first jobs out of school was working in the membership department of the

New York Road Runners Club, while Fred Lebow was alive.

When Amy moved back to Connecticut she entered the hedge fund business and commuted into the city. She acknowledges she was very competitive in the New York and Connecticut road racing scene and is still recognized as a competitive and good runner in her age group. For the last ten years Amy has competed in the famous Empire Building Run-Up. This past February she finished 3rd overall. Amy had finished 3rd on two other occasions and 4th and 5th the other times she competed. She promises to do better next year.



**Amy is in the middle row, fourth from the left.**

During the last few years Amy has started to focus on jobs that bring her a feeling of enjoyment and accomplishment. She got her coaching permit and is employed as a distance coach for cross-country and indoor & outdoor track for the varsity girls at New Canaan High.

Last year she graduated from a one-year intense sport physiology program at the National Personal Training Institute in Norwalk, Connecticut.

A few weeks ago she was granted her personal trainer certificate through the International Sports Sciences Association—having scored a 92.3% on a most difficult certification exam.

Amy is currently a personal trainer and works at the Saugatuck Rowing Club in Westport. She coaches an adult running program at the club and is always looking for serious clients who wish to be trained by the best!

### **Christopher Winnes, Sports Award**

## **Pro-hockey player from RHS**

Chris Winnes, a native Ridgefielder, played ice hockey for RHS from his freshman year to senior year. He was 1st Team All State from an unbeaten RHS hockey team. Chris also played on the RHS baseball, football, and soccer teams. Following his graduation from RHS Chris attended Northwood Prep School in Lake Placid, NY where he was selected by the Boston Bruins in the 1987 entry draft (9th choice, 161 overall).

Chris played four year (1987-1991) at the University of New Hampshire. During the 1987-88



**Chris Winnes, RHS 1986**

to lead his team in scoring, resulting in his nomination to the Hockey East All-Freshman team.

At the conclusion of his senior year with the Wildcats in 1990-91 Chris joined the Maine Mariners of the American Hockey League before making his NHL debut with the Bruins during the 1991 playoffs. He spent most of the 1991-92 season with the Mariners, but would go on to play 24 games with the Bruins that season and later competed at the World Championships as a member of the 1992 U.S. National team. After playing NHL



**Chris is second from the right, standing. At least, we think that's he.**



games in 1992-93, and spending most of the season with the Providence Bruins, Chris signed as a free agent with the Philadelphia Flyers in 1993. The following season saw Chris play in four games with the Flyers, playing most of the season and following in the minors as a member of the Hershey Bears.

Chris retired from hockey following the

1999-2000 seasons, ending a career which saw him play 34 NHL games, tallying one goal and six assists for seven points.

Following his retirement from pro hockey Chris became a firefighter in Warwick, Rhode Island. Chris lives in Bristol, Rhode Island, with his wife Elizabeth. The Winnes' have five children Zack, Lexi, Josh, Bella and Noah.

## **Janel Jorgensen, Sports Award**

# Olympic medalist swimmer

Janel Jorgensen rose to national prominence while still in high school when she won two gold medals at the Pan American Games. That momentum catapulted her to qualify the next year for the US Olympic team that traveled to Seoul, South Korea in 1988. The then 17 year old Jorgensen won a silver medal in the women's 400 medley relay and finished 5th overall in the 100 Butterfly. Jorgensen then went home to Ridgefield, CT to begin her senior year in high school. Her swimming and academic success took her to Stanford University where she graduated in 1993 with a degree in Psychology. Jorgensen held four American records, was a 27 time All American, won 15 NCAA championship titles, and is currently a member of the Stanford Hall of Fame. Jorgensen parlayed her athletic and academic success into a fast rising 12 year career at Oracle where she worked in strategic development. After participating in and working as a volunteer and a board member of Swim Across America for 18 years, Jorgensen decided to dedicate her life to enduring the success of the program and growing SAA's impact on communities, families, individuals and cancer research.

In October 2005 she took over the Executive Director duties of SAA and through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and a dedicated board of directors, oversaw a 2006 campaign that raised over \$2.2 million for cancer research, treatment and prevention. The 2007 campaign increased those results to \$2.5 million. Jorgensen travels the country raising charitable funding and corporate support. She delivers



**Janel Jorgensen, RHS 1989**

many motivational speeches while working with hundreds of community groups on swimming programs and charitable fundraising.

As Executive Director currently residing in Boston, MA, Jorgensen has successfully raised the profile of Swim Across America, increased charitable contributions and grown corporate support to assist in the expansion of SAA programs. Her experience in competing at the highest level in a sport that is both individual and team oriented provided her with the skill set to lead a large group of volunteers and donors. She feels blessed to be able to merge her passion with swimming with her job!



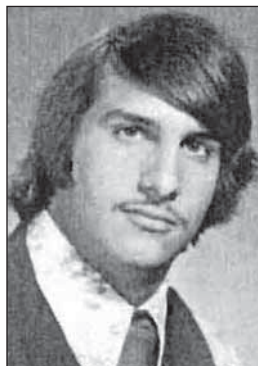


Mike is in the middle of the back row, with the shadow on him.

**Michael Dell'Aquila, Sports Award**

**All-American, All-State, All-Conference**

In some cases a few words can sum up an extraordinary athletic career. In Mike's case those words are All American, All State and All Conference.



**Mike Dell'Aquila  
RHS 1977**

Mike is a member of the RHS class of 1977. He competed for the RHS track team hurling the shot put, the discus and the javelin and broke school records in his mastery of those events. In both his junior and senior years he was named to the All American Team for shot put.

As if one All American nomination were not enough, Mike also made the All American, All State and All Conference teams in high school football. Mike played on the offense and defense lines during his four years of varsity play at RHS.

After graduating Mike went to Boston College on a full athletic scholarship. He played center and nose guard at BC for four years. Although he was scouted by the professional teams at Pro Day during his senior year, Mike decided to forego football for a business career. He joined AllState Insurance Company (an appropriate name for his employer) and has worked with them since 1981.



**On the field...**

Mike lives in Rocky Hill, Connecticut with his wife Katherine. They have three children: Michael Jr.( 23), Kaitlyn (20) and Anthony (17).

**How can you help future students?**  
 Contribute to the Old Timers scholarship fund.  
 See Page 18.



Tony is third from the left in the back row.

### **Tony Wilmot, Sports Award**

## All-State star and RHS coach

In the first half of the 20th Century Ridgefield was a baseball town. It played and beat many of the area's best teams despite its relatively small size. Ridgefield High has had many spectacular baseball stars in its history. Most of them have been honored by the Old Timers for their great performances at RHS during the 1930's, 40's and 50's, as well as, during their many seasons with the Ridgefield Townies league and the inter-town municipal leagues of the 1930's and 40's. RHS Baseball Coach Tony Wilmont joins their ranks tonight. It is an honor he truly deserves.

Tony played varsity baseball at RHS in his sophomore, junior and senior years. As a teen he was a long-time member of the Ridgefield Boys Club and worked at the Toy Caboose. But, as Tony says, "It was all about baseball, so not a lot about other stuff."

Tony was an ALL FCIAC player and FCIAC Player of the Year in his junior year at RHS. As a senior he was ALL STATE pitcher and was twice the captain of his RHS baseball team.

After RHS Tony went to Northeastern Oklahoma A & M, a junior college in Miami, Oklahoma, where he was a two-time all conference player and captain of



**Tony Wilmot**  
**RHS 1982**

his team. He set the school record for home runs, extra base hits and RBI's. In his last year Tony was named the Northern Oklahoma college athlete of the year. From there Tony went to Texas Christian University to play his final two years of college baseball. He was a two-year starter and was named captain in his senior year. Tony set the school single season record for total hits and extra base hits. These accomplishments were achieved when TCU was part of the Southwest Conference, a conference considered by many to be the best college baseball conference in the country.

After TCU Tony went to work for Anheuser Busch in New York City. Tony later joined up with his sister, Jessica, and learned the restaurant business at her Ancient Mariner Restaurant. Tony and his wife, Kristina, recently opened their own restaurant, the Bar & Grille on Route 7. Kristina is a life-long Ridgefielder.

Tony began coaching the Ridgefield High varsity baseball team four years ago and has been imparting his knowledge of the game to our town's aspiring players since then.

Tony and Kristina have two children, Travis and Hayden.





**Richard Ligi being sworn in as police chief in 1999 by Barbara Serfilippi, town clerk (and Old Timers secretary). —Scott Mullin photo**

### **Richard Ligi, Posthumous Award**

## **Both a chief and a coach**

The Ridgefield Old Timers post humously honor former Police Chief Richard Ligi for his dedication to the Ridgefield Police Department and his work as a coach of many of Ridgefield's young Little Leaguers. Chief Ligi died on September 12, 2008.

"Rich" as he was affectionately known by his many friends was born at Danbury Hospital on December 10, 1947 to Ridea (Fuligni) Ligi of Ridgefield and the late Navio Ligi. He graduated from Ridgefield High School in the Class of 1965 where he was a member of its golf team and Post University of Waterbury. He was a Little League Baseball coach as well as a coach of the Ridgefield Summer League Nighthawks Baseball Team.

He enjoyed the outdoors; most especially hunting with Tom Belote and another of our posthumous awardees, Richard Serfilippi. He also enjoyed owning and driving his Corvette and Thunderbird.

A member of the Italian American Mutual Aid Society, he was also a member of St. Mary's Church.

Chief Ligi joined the Ridgefield Police Department in 1967 as a clerk. In 1968, he became a "supernumerary," a person trained in police procedures who had the power to make arrests. He became a full-time officer in 1969 and ranked first in his class of 30 at the Connecticut Police Academy. He was promoted to sergeant in 1977, lieutenant in 1980, captain in 1990, major in 1996 and chief in 1999.

In 1969 and 1970, the Officer Ligi received the department's exceptional service award and was named the department's officer of the year in 1977.

He was member of the Fairfield County, Connecticut and New England Police Chief's Association.

Chief Ligi was predeceased by a son, Rick Ligi in 1955

In addition to his wife, Dale Tulipani, of 39 years and mother, Chief Ligi is survived by his daughter and son in law, Rebecca and Case Braskamp of Westport, and an uncle, Dante Ligi and his wife Joyce of Ridgefield.

**Richard T. McGlynn, Posthumous Award**

## Our first professional fire chief

Like Police Chief Richard Ligi, who we are honoring tonight, Fire Chief McGlynn was a native Ridgefielder. He grew up in the family home across Catoonah Street from the fire house. As a youngster and young man Dick McGlynn had an interest in stock cars and built them in the barn behind his family's house. The barn was the first Roman Catholic in town and now houses the Thrift Shop.

He joined the Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department and began fighting fires while a high school student at RHS, before he joined the US Navy during the WWII and served in the Pacific aboard the USS Hugh Purvis. Upon his return, Chief McGlynn joined the force, as well as assisting his father in the operation of the family plumbing business. A member of the Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department, in addition to being a member of the paid firefighters, he was elected chief of the volunteer department from 1964 to 1968. In 1973, he became the paid department's first chief, a post he held until his retirement in 1989.

He had early hobbies of fishing, hunting, and race car driving at the former Danbury Fair grounds. A member of the Connecticut and Fairfield County Fire Chiefs' Association, he was also a member of St. Mary's Church, Ridgefield.



**Chief Richard T. McGlynn**

Chief McGlynn is survived by two daughters, Nancy Fazekas and her husband, Frank, of Newtown, and Cathleen Sabia and her husband, William, of Ridgefield; a sister; four grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

### 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

## **Richard Serfilippi, Posthumous Award**

# Constable, conservationist, contractor

Richard Serfilippi was a native of Ridgefield, growing up on South Olmstead Lane in the family complex. He attended Ridgefield schools from kindergarten through high school. He joined the Marine Corp in 1957 and served until 1960 when he was honorably discharged.

In 1964, he married Barbara Torcellini, and they had two boys, Andrew and Mark. Richard ran his own contracting/landscaping business for many years and was also sexton for St. Mary's Cemetery. He employed many high school students during the summer months. He enjoyed hunting with his friends Rich Ligi and Tom Belote during the fall and winter months. He was very active in the Marine Corp league, serving as commandant and working for the Toys for Tots program. He received much satisfaction delivering toys to Danbury Hospital and various facilities at Christmas and couldn't stop talking about it for weeks.

In the later part of his life, he accompanied his friend Andy Montanari to various car shows in the area and enjoyed the vintage cars and cooking porchetta with Andy for friends and family. He served as the longest serving constable for the



**Richard Serfilippi**

Town of Ridgefield, was a member of the Conservation Commission, member and President of the Ridgefield Contractors Association, and a member of the Old Timer's Association.

We can't forget that he was also a member of the "Early Bird Breakfast Club."

While his sons were growing up, he became very active in Ridgefield Little League. He served on the board, and the greatest accomplishment of his life was in 1981 & 1982 when he and other Little League fathers decided it was time to build another baseball field at Lake Windwing off

of Bennett's Farm Rd. for the Little League program. He worked night and weekends for over a year planning, and actually clearing the land, and building the new field. His hard work on the new field was rewarded when the League decided to name the field after him. No one could have been prouder that he was to receive this honor. He also coached and sponsored many Little League teams.

There were also many times when he volunteered to umpire games, much to the dismay of his sons and wife. (As a note, his umpiring skills needed much improvement or he needed a new pair of glasses.)

## **The old days in Ridgefield**

on *Facebook*

Look for the 'Old Ridgefield' group

## **Duncan Morrissey and Mary Shaw**

# The ROTA Scholarship Winners

When the Ridgefield Old Timers Association was organized in 1992 one of its primary goals was to honor athletes, scholars and notable Ridgefielders of the past by establishing a scholarship endowment for RHS graduates of the future. One year after our first Old Timer's banquet at the Italian American 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 2008 we began awarding our new four-year-scholarships. This year recipients are Mary Shaw and Duncan Morrissey. In granting these scholarships the Old Timers continue their tradition in honoring scholar athletes who are deserving and have contributed to our community.

### **Mary Shaw**

Mary Shaw was a member of the National Honor Society and received the high school's Excellency awards in Functions, U.S. History, geometry and Achievement awards in chemistry, english, trigonometry, algebra, geometry and social studies. She had a weighted GPA of 4.061 and an unweighted GPA of 3.915

Mary's school activities included Student Government (Secretary) in 9th grade and Student Government (Senator) in her sophomore, junior and senior years. She was a member of the Tigers Den during all four years of high school. She also competed in DECA.

Mary was a two sport competitor at RHS. She played varsity field hockey in her junior and senior years and junior varsity in her freshman and sophomore years. She was Honorable Mention and ALL FCIAC West. Mary was co-captain of her field hockey team in her senior year at RHS.

Mary also played junior varsity softball

in her freshman year and varsity softball in her sophomore, junior and senior years.

Her community activities included the National Charity League from 7th grade to her senior year (Safe Rides, Founders Hall, Meals on Wheels and Save the Sound); the Scotland Elementary School Homework Club; coaching youth field hockey; Relay for Life; Run Like a Mother Race; Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camp (fund raising) and H.O.M.E. (repairing and rebuilding homes in Orland, Maine).

Mary was employed during high school as an assistant secretary in Norman Voog's law firm and as an assistant secretary for realtor Lonnie Shapiro.

Judy Silver of the RHS English Department said of Mary: "I have known Mary since August 2008 when she became a student in my eleventh grade American Literature class. Mary made extraordinary strides in her reading and writing abilities and earned an A each quarter. Her integrity and work ethic are exceptional...Beyond the classroom, I have the pleasure of watching Mary coach the youth field hockey program every Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Mary is a role model, both on the athletic field and in the classroom. She is mature, dedicated and organized".

### **Duncan Morrissey**

Mary Shaw's classmate, Duncan Morrissey was also selected for one of our four-year college scholarship. Duncan is attending Amherst College and playing lacrosse there.

Duncan had a 4.344 weighted average at RHS and a 3.985 unweighted average. He was the RHS 2010 FCIAC Scholar Athlete, and received RHS Excellence Awards in business, pre-calculus and physical education. He was also awarded the Junior Book Award and received Achievement awards in honor geometry, spanish, social studies and music technology.

Duncan played varsity hockey during all



four years at RHS. He was captain of the team in his senior year. Duncan also played varsity lacrosse from his sophomore to senior year.

His extra-curricular activities during high school included: Tigers Den; the World Language Club and Future Business Leaders of America. Duncan was a volunteer coach for youth lacrosse. He volunteered for Safe Rides and Relay for Life and fund raised for the RHS Hockey Booster Club Fundraisers.

In addition to his studies, athletics and extra-curricular activities, Duncan worked hard during high school as a skate guard, a babysitter and a try-out coordinator for Ridgefield Youth Hockey.

Katherine Gabbay of the RHS English Department said of Duncan: “Duncan is a senior in my Honors Political Issues in Literature class this semester, and he also

was in my first semester course Honors Rhetoric and Composition . Recently I had to choose one English student from my class who will receive the Excellence Award in English. In his class of 26 students, I chose Duncan because he is consistently the finest writer, class leader and most passionate student about the subject...On a personal level, Duncan is a pleasure in class. He comes prepared every day, and likes to include contemporary connections to the texts being discussed. Duncan is energetic and politically ware. His interests about the world beyond high school is refreshing, and his enthusiasm is contagious. His presence has created a more intellectual and vibrant classroom dynamic...I know he will be a success in his future studies, and his influence will continue to impact his peers for the better”.



## 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.



## 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  
**2009:** Bradford Mortensen and Edward Zandri

## 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 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 and Jeanne Cook

## Past 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 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 Travagliani, 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 Saltzgaber, Frank Serfilippi, Paul Vaughn, Chip Wilson  
**2009:** Robert Leary, Robert Lewis, Patricia Girolametti, Richard Miller, Peter Santini, Michael Principi and Dr. Richard Scala

## 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

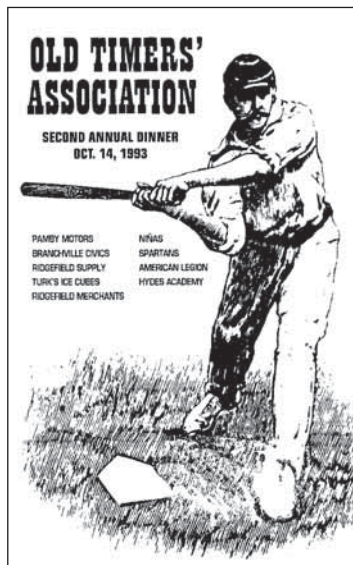
and female recipients, and the winners in 1997 were Charles Bliss and Kerry Bennett. The amount of the scholarships has grown over the years as a result of the advertising placed in this book, as well as other fundraising efforts — especially the annual golf outing and pig roast, which takes place in 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



*Best Wishes!*



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

We are proud to support  
The Ridgefield Old Timer Association



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