

RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS
ASSOCIATION



28TH ANNUAL DINNER
OCTOBER 19, 2019



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A Message from Our Chairman

With another year gone by, I would like to thank all of the ROTA committee members for all of their efforts to make this night possible.

Congratulations to tonight's four Ridgefield High School 2019 graduates Braedon McSpedon, Emma Brody, Kevin Davis, and James St. Pierre! Each will be receiving a 4 year college scholarship totaling \$4,000! Thank you all for helping with your generous donations!

These 4-year scholarships each year would not be possible without the support of so many people and local businesses over the past 28 years and also those that contributed to the Silent Auction has also been very helpful. Please do what you can to help.

Tonight's annual recognition dinner is being catered by Ridgefield Prime as it has for several years and we would like to again thank St. Mary's Parish for allowing us to use their beautiful hall once again.

The purpose of tonight's dinner is to honor Ridgefielders for their past accomplishments on the athletic field and in the classroom along with honoring those who have dedicated countless hours for the benefit of our town and neighboring areas. This dinner also helps us raise money to fund our scholarships. We are one of the few organizations which give our scholarship recipients a check for each of their four years of undergraduate studies.

I would like to thank all of the members of ROTA for their continued hard work throughout the year by coming to meetings, organizing this wonderful event, writing the bios for each of the recipients, organizing/collecting the ads and bios and putting them into the program, setting up the ticket sales, running tonight's silent auction and so much more! Those members are: Gregg and Manette Hutchings, Mark Fitzgerald, Mark Lionetti, John Pierandri, Dave Kiley, Trish Larosa, Darla Shaw, Linda Hutchings, Terry Hughes, Harry Hughes, Tim Hastings, Trish Grenert, and Mia Heissan.

I would like encourage anyone that is reading this to get involved with this wonderful organization tonight or in the near future. Find out more about us at Ridgefieldoldtimers.org and thanks so much for coming and enjoy the evening!

Peter Nichols

The 28th annual
 Ridgefield Old Timers Dinner
 Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019

INDEX

Abrash Galleries, 23	Pamby Motors, IBC
Bedini, Mike, 12	Past Award Winners, 30
Briody, Kevin, 14	Reynolds & Rowella, 11
Brody, Emma, 27	RHS Hockey Booster Club, 20
BMW of Ridgefield, 33	RHS Cheerleading Booster Club, 25
Carboni, Steve, 9	RHS Ski Team, 35
Casey Energy, 36	RHS Swimming & Diving, 26
Chairman's message, 3	RHS Tiger Football, 26
Davis, Kevin, 27	Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club, 13
Fairfield County Bank, BC	Ridgefield Playhouse, 17
Hanlon, Carol, 32	Ridgefield Power Equipment, 34
Hanlon, George, 32	Ridgefield Supply Company, 34
Hastings, Cohen & Walsh, 31	ROTA history, 33
Hughes, John, 21	ROTA officers, 4
Kiley Painting, 29	St. Pierre, James, 27
McDonald, Bob, 7	Scholarship winners, 27
McSpedon, Braedon, 27	Seirup, Peter, 5
Montanari Fuel, 10	Silent Auction donors, 28
Morris, Kevin, 24	Stearns, Bridget, 18
Mulvaney, J., plumbing, 32	Union Savings Bank, IFC

Who's in charge of the Old Timers?

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

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

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



Peter Seirup provides ramps for the handicapped.

CIVIC AWARD

Peter Seirup

Making lives a little better

Mr. Peter Seirup is being recognized by ROTA in 2019 for all that he has done to help the less fortunate in our area and in Appalachia. For over twenty four years Mr. Seirup has devoted most of his free time to building handicap ramps, free of charge, to wheelchair ridden patients, and teaching young people how to do simple construction projects to help low income families repair their homes in Appalachia.

In both cases, home repair and ramp building, Mr. Seirup is providing a life changing experience for the volunteers who are learning new skills as well as learning the value of volunteering. For those receiving the help, their overwhelming lives become a little better.

A 36 year resident of Ridgefield, Mr. Seirup graduated with a civil engineering degree from SUNY and got his MBA from Harvard. Most recently Mr. Seirup established his own home inspection and consultation business locally, but his heart

lies with his projects which are mostly housed out of Jesse Lee Memorial Methodist Church.

Not only does Mr. Seirup design the plans for each of the hundreds of handicapped ramps that he has constructed in Ridgefield and surrounding areas, he also makes up the lumber list and delivers the building materials on Thursday. Then on Saturday he puts the ramp together, with the family and a volunteer working crew for the day. In most cases, Mr. Seirup has also trained the volunteers working on the project and serves as a role model for them.

The 250 Jesse Lee students who travel to Appalachia to work during the summer, will learn construction techniques though building portion of the ramps that will be utilized in town. Once a family is no longer in need of a ramp, Mr. Seirup forms another group to take down the ramp and recycle the materials to use in a new ramp.

There are three components to the ramp building program. Students learn their construction skills through working on the prefab portion of the ramps, ramps are then put together by other volunteers in one day, and finally the ramps are recycled so others can take advantage of this valuable program.

One of his most challenging projects has been to design and construct with volunteers, called the Spirit Builders, a blended bridge annex from Jesse Lee's main church to the church house. With a high pitched roof, tile, and stucco walls, the addition has taken over a year to complete, but is a true masterpiece. No architectural challenge is too great for Mr. Seirup.

Mr. Seirup also likes to sing and play various instruments. He is a part of the Jesse Lee church choir and a dedicated parishioner. His wife, Maria Pia, is assistant minister of the church and also totally devoted to the community. Peter and Maria Pia have three adult children and one grandchild.

According to Mr. Seirup, "If you feel that something is missing from your life, it might be helping others. Look for a project where you can apply your skills and then reach out to find helpers."

Mr. Seirup was inspired by his father, John Seirup, to help others through his expertise in construction and design. His father spent over forty years working on projects similar to the ones that Peter has now developed.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR:**Bob McDonald****A loved and revered principal**

No principal in Ridgefield has ever been more respected, loved and revered than Bob McDonald, Farmingville's first principal. Staying in the position for 26 years made Bob Ridgefield's longest serving principal except for Clifford Holloran.



Bob McDonald made his students feel good about themselves.

Bob was always known for his warm smile, relaxed manner, strong leadership, and knowing and caring about every student, every teacher and staff member, and every parent in his school.

Growing up in Danbury, Ct. and graduating from Danbury High School, Bob was known for being an outstanding second/ third baseman on the varsity baseball team. During high school he also played American Legion Baseball and was on the All-Star Baseball Team for the greater Danbury area. From high school, Bob went on to play baseball for four years at Danbury College, now

known as Western Ct. State University. Even when Bob was in the Army, stationed at Fort McNair in WDC, he played on the Army Team as well as playing tennis for his company. After graduation from college, Bob went on to teach for six years in the Stamford, Ct. School System. Here he had old number 42, Jackie Robinson, as one of his parents. From

Stamford, Bob moved onto the Ridgefield School System as an administrative intern at Ridgebury and then on to Farmingville. Bob received both of his graduate degrees from Fairfield University. While teaching in Ridgefield, Bob became a resident and has lived in Ridgefield for 58 years.

While teaching, Bob met his wife, Joanne, who was a Vermonter, had been a stewardess and was a teacher in Darien. Bob says that meeting Joanne was the best thing that ever happened to him. With Joanne, he had six girls and one boy. Today Bob talks proudly about his thirteen grandchildren and his one great grandchild. He is extremely proud of all of them and thinks of them as his greatest accomplishment. Bob is going on his 61st year of marriage.

Times at Farmingville were not always easy for Bob with severe budget cuts and much overcrowding, but Bob always managed to keep a very positive attitude. In fact, he spent so much time at school, one kindergartener, who thought he just lived at the school and had fun there, asked him what he did for a job.

When asked what advice he would give to young teachers today Bob replied, "Be prepared to work hard." When asked about his greatest accomplishment at Farmingville, Bob replied, "I think I made my students feel good about themselves."

After retiring as principal of Farmingville Elementary School in 1989, Bob went on to be a principal of two different Catholic schools, one in Brookfield and one in Trumbull. His final job would be as the Career Center director at Ridgefield High School. The love of teaching and educational leadership was in Bob's blood and he found it hard to give it up.

Today Bob has met and achieved all the goals that he set for himself and is now reaping the rewards of being a father, grandfather and great grandfather. He still loves sports of all kinds and learning as much as possible about history. Bob is such a humble human being. It is hard for him to believe what an impact he has had on the lives of so many and what an icon he has become in the community.

Farmingville is still the school of Bob McDonald, the man who could get to the heart of any problem while touching the hearts of those around him.



Steve Carboni, respected and loved

POSTHUMOUS AWARD

Steve Carboni, '66

He helped many young athletes

The ROTA Posthumous Award is being given to Stephen D. Carboni, also known as T-Bone, for his extensive work with athletics over the years. A lifetime area resident, Mr. Carboni was a past president and coach of the Ridgefield Pop Warner Football League. He was also a Ridgefield Little League coach and a boys' basketball coach.

Mr. Carboni was never happier than when he was on the field helping to improve the skills of young athletes.

Born in Danbury in 1948 to Octavius and Katherine Carboni, Mr. Carboni graduated from Ridgefield High School, becoming an outstanding athlete in several sports. He then went on to attend Western Connecticut State University and become a warranty administrator for Pamby Motors in Ridgefield.

Always very religious and willing to serve others, Mr. Carboni was an active member of St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Ridgefield and volunteered regularly with the American

Cancer Society and with the Food Pantry at the New Hope Baptist Church in Danbury.

For recreation Mr. Carboni loved to play golf and was a member of the Ridgefield Golf Club. He like to consider himself the best of the worst, in regards to golf. He also liked to ride his motorcycle, and watch NASCAR races. In the end he wanted people to be able to say about him. "Steve Carboni wasn't such a bad guy." He did not realize how respected and loved he was by many.

Above all else, Mr. Carboni enjoyed spending time with his family; his wife, Alice, with 44 years of marriage, his son, Daniel, and wife, CaraMarie of Seymour, Ct., and his daughter, Jessica Carboni, of San Diego, California. Mr. Carboni was also very close to his two brothers, Ned and David Carboni and his other two siblings, Robert and Joan, who passed prior to the death of Stephen.

When we lost Stephen we lost a valuable member of Ridgefield's athletic community.



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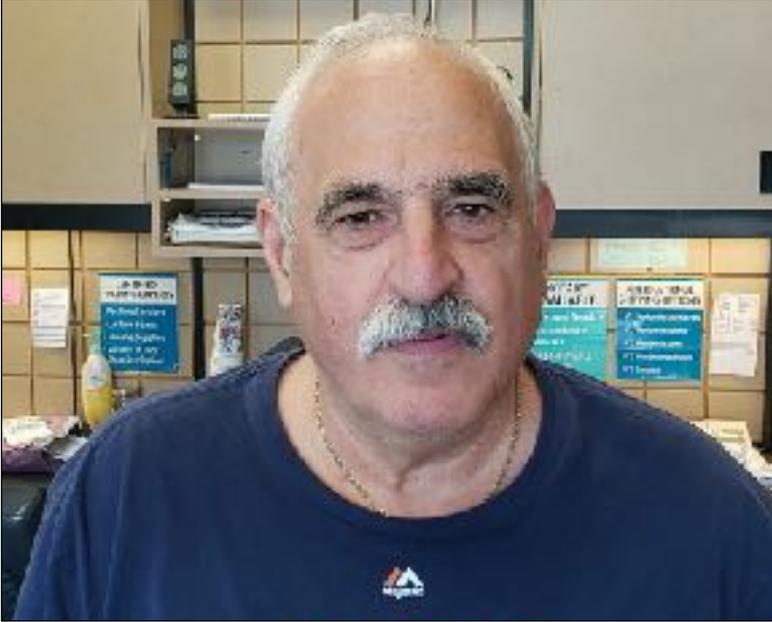
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Mike Bedini is retired but still active in athletics.

SPECIAL AWARD

Mike Bedini, '66

The icon and mentor known as Buddha

Commonly known as Buddha, due to the fact that he would like to sit Buddha fashion at the Ridgefield Boy's Club, Mike Bedini has had a huge impact on Ridgefield youth for over thirty years.

Coming to Ridgefield in 1960, Mike was the oldest of three siblings and his father worked construction. Always liking sports, Mike played Pop Warner football, and both soccer and football. He was also on the travel basketball team for the Boy's Club, way before it included girls.

After graduating from Ridgefield High School and the University of Oklahoma, Mike returned home to work, first part time and then full time, at the Ridgefield Boy's Club. He then worked for the club for 32 years before retiring to Woodbury, Ct. where he now lives.

Ed Helminski, director of the Boy's/Girl's club, was an inspirational leader for Mike. The two worked well together

and initiated many new programs that are still favorites of students today. Both Mike and Ed believed that girls should be included in the club and they were after 1996, following a trial summer camp period.

While at the Boy's and Girl's Club, Mike changed the lives of so many of our youth. Mike became like the father figure or big brother that so many children did not have. He was there for everyone and really cared. He was a wonderful role model for all.

From 1976 to 2018, Mike ran the Men's Softball League in Ridgefield. Who continues with the same program for 42 years? Whatever job Mike took, he dedicated himself entirely and was a good friend to all. Today, he continues to umpire and referee softball and basketball, mostly for girls, plays basketball, and is a league bridge player at the Ridgefield Community Center. In addition to these activities, Mike also runs an airport driving service which is very popular due to his outgoing personality.

Mike, or the Buddha, is a community icon that is often mentioned when retelling stories from the past. Just the mention of his name brings a smile to one's face.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF RIDGEFIELD**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, and most importantly,
the members of the Boys & Girls Club,

we thank and congratulate

Mike Bedini

on his years of dedicated service to the Club

and on his induction into the Old Timer's Hall of Fame.

Thanks, Mike. Your impact on the lives of many will never be forgotten
and your efforts helped lay the foundation of this great organization.

Congratulations!

From the BGCR Family

ARTS AWARD

Kevin Briody, '81

An athlete and musician

The first ever ROTA award for the arts is being awarded to Kevin Briody, Ridgefield's Emmy winning singer, songwriter and recording artist. A 1981 RHS graduate and athlete, Kevin played baseball, football, basketball (captain), ran track, and played pond hockey with the kids on Mamasasco.

In high school Kevin was the vice president of his class, started VALUE, a service club, was on the National Honor Society, and was prom king. His senior superlative was being the loudest boy in the class and he never disappointed.

Kevin has lived in Ridgefield since age nine and was born into a musical Mimosa family with six siblings. Each family member was designated an instrument at birth. The family played mostly Dixieland, with his father, Pat, on the trombone and Kevin on the trumpet. There was always music in the house and Kevin was greatly influenced by Van Morrison and Bob Dylan.



Briody at Colgate.

After graduating from RHS, Kevin went on to graduate from Colgate University in 1985 with a history degree. Out of college, Kevin took a conventional job with the Prudential Company for three years and then traveled to Israel and worked in a kibbutz. When he returned from his travels he wrote for the local newspaper and coached American Legion baseball, high school basketball, and RHS baseball with Tony Wilmot. Tony also loved music and

taught Kevin to not be afraid to say what he believed and also not be afraid to share his feelings.

Chris Scalzo encouraged Kevin to marry Lynne, a Ridgefielder, who is immortalized in some of his songs. When they were first married, Lynne gave Kevin his first guitar and he was hooked. He began writing lyrics, going to Nashville and taking composition courses at the New School in Greenwich Village.

Kevin began by writing songs for others but then after traveling to Tennessee several times, he decided to sing his own songs. He considers his songs to be a mix of pop, country, and folk. In order to pay the bills in the beginning, Kevin had a job as a caretaker on an estate in town.

Once Kevin began performing his own songs, he started playing venues like the Ives Center in Danbury, the Town Crier in Pawling, N.Y., the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas, the Kennedy Center, Fenway Park, the Newport, R.I. Folk Festival, the North American Folk Alliance Festival, Ridgefield Theater Barn, the Ridgefield

Library, Keeler Tavern etc. Then from 2000 to 2002, Kevin traveled around the state as the Ct. State Troubadour for the Ct. Commission of the Arts. One of his favorite gigs, however, was playing for Brendon Carney's wedding in town.

Listeners liken Kevin's sound to that of James Taylor and Randy Travis. They like the way he is able to write about a range of emotions, going from quiet, quaint, to chaos, and about all the things in life he loves. Kevin often writes about family relationships which include his five children; Terra, Casey, Cavan, Mae, and Johnny (still in RHS)

At this point, Kevin has completed over sixty songs and his album with ten songs for the soap opera, *One Life to Live*, *When No One is Watching*, won an Emmy in 2009. A



Briody with the layup.

year previous in 2008, Kevin also won an Emmy for his song, Little Starr. Kevin tries to complete one song a month, starting with a creative idea, then coming up with lyrics, and then adding the music. As a composer, his music has been compared to John Hiatt and John Lennon.

Kevin has also written a Christmas Album called the Gathering and songs for special situations such as autism and the Special Olympics. In 2010 Kevin debuted his song, We Are All Heroes, for the Connecticut Special Olympics and the song is still played at each event. His song for the Autism Association is called Bring Them Back and has also become an anthem for the cause.

Today Kevin has appeared on stage with Aimee Mann and Art Garfunkel. He is still composing and recording and teaching others to become song writers. Kevin teaches song writing at the Ridgefield Playhouse, in the schools, and for various other organizations. For many years now, he has been the Artist in Residence at Branchville Elementary School. Kevin tells his students that you don't have to play a musical instrument to be a song writer, but you do have to have a dream, the ability to stay with a project, the necessary drive and the guts to make it all work.

There are so many people that Kevin attributes his success to. There are his parents who said to work hard and dream big, his professor, Fred Busch, at Colgate and Bob Cox that helped him to utilize the written word, his family that has always supported him, and George Wurzback who encouraged him not only to write, but to perform.

Kevin believes that songs can fuel desire, inspire hope, break hearts, unite people, shake booties, rock the world, and make people happy. His songs help to achieve these elements by telling a story that is best told through the venue of music. Ridgefield is fortunate to have an internationally known song writer/singer as a Ridgefield High School graduate and local resident.

Kevin would also like to thank ROTA for giving a deserving award to Tony Wilmot and giving scholarships to two of his children who went on to teach and work in the field of business. He is greatly honored to be receiving the first arts award from ROTA for being an outstanding artist/athlete.

—*Dr. Darla Shaw*



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Congratulations, Kevin Briody!

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Stearns, third from right, with some teammates.

SPORTS AWARD

Bridget Stearns, '81

A star at hockey and more

Bridget Stearns is a woman of many sports including swimming, baseball, softball, hockey, volleyball, hiking and cycling. She moved with her family to Ridgefield from Massachusetts in 1966. While in Ridgefield the family lived on Great Hill Rd. and Mill View Terrace. She fondly remembers attending Farmingville School and swimming at Great Pond.

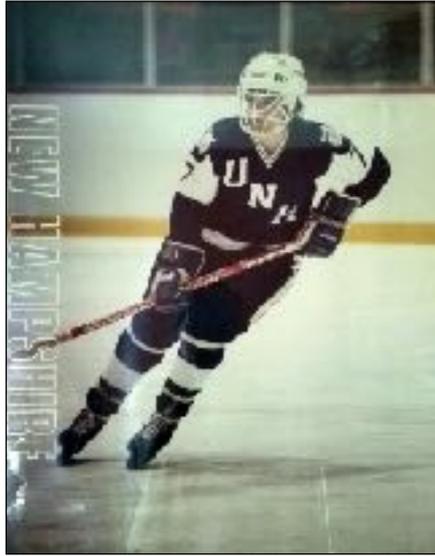
Bridget also prides herself in the fact that her father coached her in baseball, softball and hockey; her family was always on the road taking her to various sporting events. Starting as a Wilton YMCA swimmer at age 7, Bridget was strongest in the breast stroke and on a championship swim team until age 11.

As she got older Bridget switched to youth softball, Babe Ruth baseball, and playing ice hockey with the Conlon's All Stars Team out of West Haven, Connecticut. Conlon's was the first women hockey team in the Northeast and Bridget played on the team for three years. She remembers traveling with the team to

Sweden to play internationally.

At Ridgefield High School, Bridget played varsity softball for four years and was the captain in her senior year. There was no women's hockey team at the high school at the time so Bridget had to go outside of school to play. She even took a post graduate year at Taft School in Watertown, Ct. to prepare herself to play college ice hockey.

At the University of New Hampshire, Bridget majored in political science and history and played four years of varsity hockey. In 1983 and 84, her team won the championships for the Eastern



Bridget Stearns at UNH.

Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and this time around she traveled to Germany to play hockey.

Since college Bridget has been participating in women's adult ice hockey, cycling, and hiking. She especially enjoys traveling in the Netherlands, taking part in pond hockey tournaments in Rangley, Maine and participating in logging festival competitions.

Bridget has lived in Dover, N.H. for the past twenty years with her partner, Astrid and her golden retriever, Olive.

**Congratulations
Bridget Stearns!**



Thank You!

Ridgefield Old Timers Assoc.
for recognizing one of our
own and for the continued
support of our athletes
through scholarship.

**Ridgefield-Danbury
Girls Varsity Ice Hockey**

Since college she has been working in product management and is presently an export product manager and data systems manager for the Harvey Company which does a great deal of exporting to both Germany and Japan. She is happy her mother, Charlotte, recently moved to Dover.

To give back to the community, Bridget works with special needs individuals, helping them to play hockey. She also loves playing hockey internationally and in 2013 played a tournament in Iceland. Bridget will always proudly consider Ridgefield her hometown. She feels fortunate to have had so many people in town support her educationally and athletically, including Denise Charboneau and Gerry Matteo. She also knows that without the support of her family she would not be the athlete that she is today. Bridget is very happy to be accepting the ROTA award.



THE RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS HOCKEY BOOSTER CLUB

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John Hughes was an early soccer star at RHS.

SPORTS AWARD

John Hughes, '79

A native son with many firsts

John Hughes covered many firsts in a local family with deep Ridgefield roots that has seen four generations of kids come through the school system and helped pave the way and set standards for others to follow. He was the first of nine children born to Joan and Jack Hughes; the first to play and excel in sports and in the classroom; the first to graduate college, serve as an officer in the Armed Forces; the first to help deliver his child on the kitchen floor. As the oldest and leading the way, he's proud to see and hear of so many of his siblings, nieces and nephews who have taken similar steps on the field and in life.

He participated in most youth sports of his era, football, basketball, baseball and eventually soccer. He was part of a small group of pioneering players who made up the first youth soccer team in town in the early 1970's when the sport was not nearly as popular as it is today. It was on the soccer pitch where John found his first real success as a budding star during his Jr. High School years. He was often invited to practice with the High School's varsity soccer team with Mr. Diniz as the coach. He had been recruited to play soccer a few years earlier when he played Little League baseball on the same team with Darrell Diniz along

with a few other players, and their younger brothers. By the time John got to the High School in the fall of 1975, there was a core group of young players who combined their talent with a couple of the team's older athletic players. That was the first time in the school's history they would qualify for the state tournament and they made it all the way to the CT State



Cadet Hughes.

quarterfinals. In the 44 years since, the RHS Soccer teams have won four state titles and only missed states a couple of times. John was one of the programs early leaders. He would captain the team his senior year, and earn All-FCIAC and ALL-State honors.

During the winters and spring he ran track as a sprinter and claims one of the fastest times in school history of 50.01 seconds for 440 yards before the event was replaced with the 400 meter race. John was also a very strong student. He was in the top 10 of his class, a National Honor Society member and was highly recruited to many top schools

but ultimately chose to attend the Naval Academy where he earned an engineering degree before serving as an officer in the Supply Corps for the United States Navy for a dozen years.

He started on the Navy soccer team as a freshman but suffered a career ending injury in a collision with the opposing team's goalie in a mid-season game. He would spend the better part of the next 18 months in casts from the tip of his foot to the top of his hip rehabbing his knee and leg. The injury and lack of mobility excused him from many of the plebes rigorous duties their freshman year at the academy which earned him a reputation around campus, but it also effectively ended his competitive playing career. Instead of walking away from the sport, he remained with the team for all four years in different capacities and he was able rejoin the team as a reserve his senior year.

Through John's hard work in perseverance he laid a foundation and created a legacy of friendly competition amongst his siblings. They all tell great stories of being carted to his games and events as younger siblings and being inspired by his

success. Phil was the Class President for the class of 1980 at RHS, Harry and Terry had strong soccer career themselves at RHS, Harry would follow his brother to Navy. His five younger sisters would all play soccer with three of them serving in the army. Liz, the oldest, was a top player at RHS before moving to Missouri with the family and continuing her playing career there. Heather would go onto become a fitness and life coach, Hilary served as an Army Officer after college, and Holly would play four years of soccer at West Point. The youngest sister Hope was a swimmer and the President of her Class in Brick NJ. She passed before graduating from HS in a tragic auto-accident in 1998. Several of John's nieces and nephews would also play soccer and serve in the military.

Today John works as International Sales Director for a Fragrance company based in India and has been in the industry since 1991. John married his wife Karen Reddington in 1985 (RHS 1981), they reside in Woodbury CT with their son John Christian and are active in their church and community.

His father Jack Hughes was honored by ROTA for his contributions with starting the Soccer Club of Ridgefield in 2015.

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SPORTS AWARD**Kevin Morris, '69****Golfing from boyhood into retirement**

Before Kevin Morris moved to Ridgefield from the Bronx at age 11, he was hitting golf balls into a net in his backyard with his father as soon as he could swing a club. His father, who retired from the NYC fire department when he came to Ridgefield, was Kevin's one and only golf teacher.

To be able to play as much golf as possible Kevin became a very young caddie at Silver Spring Country Club, where he also played his very first round of golf.

Graduating from Ridgefield High School in 1969, Kevin played on the varsity golf team for four years under Paul Fako. For four years, Kevin was undefeated, part of the team that won the Western High School Conference Championship at Rolling Hills C.C. in Wilton. Other notables on the team during Kevin's four years were Harry Bennett, Chipper Bliss, Pete Javery, Phil Santini, and Dennis Moylan.

Due to his success in high school, Kevin was recruited by the Univ. of Florida to play golf on their varsity team for four years. His team won two consecutive South Eastern Golf Championships from 1970 to 74 and wound up winning third place in the NCAA Championships. Notables on this team were: Andy Bean, Andy North, Gary Koch, and Fred Ridley.

After graduation from college, Kevin went to California to play in professional mini tournaments for two years. In 1975 he took on the job as assistant golf pro at Mt. Kisco Country Club working for Bob Johnson. Also in 1975 Kevin was awarded the MET PGA Assistant Player of the Year.

In 1977 Kevin became the head pro at Westchester Hills CC in White Plains, N.Y. There were only two other pros

**Kevin Morris**

before him and at age 26 they had never had a pro so young, Kevin has very fond memories of Westchester Hills, the members, the tournaments, and the friendships. He treasures these days. While at Westchester Hills, Kevin won the 1984, 1986, and 1996 MET PGA



Winning a college classic in '74.

championship as well as the 1984 Michelob Classis and the 1984 MET PGA Championship at Bethpage CC. He won this Bethpage tournament with a birdie on the 17th hole. Also in 1984 and 1985, Kevin qualified for the US Open at Oakmont, became the 1984-85 MET PGA player of the year and was PGA Player of the Year for 1964 and 1984, twenty years apart. Kevin also served as the vice president of the PGA Tour Committee for several years. If that is not enough, Kevin qualified and played in six major PGA tournaments, five national PGA championships, the US Open in Cherry Hills, Colorado, and represented the USA in PGA Pro Am Cup matches against Great Britain and Ireland (similar to Ryder Cup) in 1984 and 1986. In addition to these two foreign countries, Kevin also played tournaments in Bermuda, Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

In 2006 Kevin retired to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida with his wife and two older stepchildren, and was involved in three PGA



*The Ridgefield High School
Cheerleading Booster Club
Congratulates*

***Bridget Stearns
Kevin Morris
and
John Hughes***

*For being recognized by the
Ridgefield Old Timers Association for
their many athletic achievements!*

National Senior-Junior Championships. He was on a winning team in 2006, 2008 and 2012. His work as PGA vice president for junior golfers and becoming the 2006 MET PGA Jr. Golf Leader has led him to a legacy of working with young players the way his father worked with him.

Few people can say they have continued the passion that they had as a young child through to being a senior citizen, but Kevin did just that. He has to have a trophy room that is beyond compare. Ridgefield is proud to be home to a golfer like Kevin Morris.



**Ridgefield High School
Boys Swimming and Diving**

R I D G E F I E L D
T I G E R S
F O O T B A L L

This Year's Scholarship Winners



Each year the Ridgefield Old Timers awards four scholarships. This year's winners are, from left, Braedon McSpedon, Emma Brody, Kevin Davis, and James St. Pierre.

The Ridgefield Old Timers Association is proud to name our 52nd to 55th scholarships winners. The four recipients from the Ridgefield High School class of 2019 are James St. Pierre, Emma Brody, Braedon Mc Spedon and Kevin Davis. This group of young adults will continue the ROTA tradition supporting exceptional student athletes who are also civic minded with dynamic personalities.

James is an exceptional student with a weighted GPA over 4.0 with several honors and AP classes on his transcript. James was also a standout on the basketball court, leading the Tigers as one of the team captains in his senior year. He was the MVP of the FCIAC championship team and was selected All-FCIAC as well as All State. James is currently attending the prep school for the United States Air Force Academy in hopes of becoming a cadet in the class of 2024.

Emma Brody is currently a freshman at James Madison University in Virginia. While growing up in Ridgefield Emma spent many hours in or around pools. She was a member of the RHS swim and diving team all four

years of her high school career. She competed in the FCIAC and state champions during her time at RHS. Emma also worked as a life guard at few of the pools in town and earned her CPR, First Aid and AED certificates. She also was an outstanding student and was able to find time to help mentor young students in Ridgefield elementary schools.

Braedon (Brady) was a two sport standout at RHS. He was an All-FCIAC defenseman for the Tigers ice hockey team and was also a regular on the boys lacrosse team. Brady was a key cog on both of these exceptional teams which were both ranked in the top 5 in the state throughout his senior year. Being a versatile enough athlete to excel on both teams indicates not only ability but a work ethic that has served him well. Brady is currently attending the University of Indiana in Bloomington.

Kevin is a very hardworking young man with a bright future. Despite having to overcome some challenges, Kevin held several jobs while in high school, sometimes two at the same time. Kevin is currently attending the Clemson Life program at Clemson University in South Carolina. Kevin has a love for sports and participated on the cross country team at RHS and played town basketball for several years. He excelled in his classes and was very popular with his classmates.



ROTA gratefully acknowledges the following businesses and members of our community who contributed to our Silent Auction in 2018. Please patronize these businesses when you have a choice as their generosity helps our community in many ways.

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Past Old Timers' Awards

Posthumous Awards

1994: Ralph Crouchley, Kip Holleran, Francis Martin; 1995: Chuck Walter, Charlie Ashbee, Frank Minnerly; 1996: Lou Girolmetti, John Sullivan, John Bacchiochi; 1997: Lick Santini, Red Delugo, Bill Allen; 1998: Joseph Venus, Art Sfondrini, Bob Stolle; 1999: Alan Crowley, Don Ligos, Harold Hilton; 2000: Art Bellagamba, Stubb Cummings, Margaret O'Sullivan; 2001: Tony Deluca, Walt Ryba, Bob Seymour; 2002: John Sturges, Jimmy Warner 2003: Scott Nye, Fred J. Romeo, Sr., Mario Scala; 2004: Steve Lancaster Bernie Leighton, Pete Carboni; 2005: Charlie Ritch; 2006: Roy Cogswell, Hank Wilson; 2007: Tony Del Biondo; 2008: James Principi, Jeanne Timpanelli; 2009: Bradford Mortensen and Edward Zandri; 2010: Richard Ligi, Richard McGlynn, Richard Serfilippi; 2011: Robert J. Morganti, Erik Hoag, Andrew Lecher; 2013: Gary Beaudine; 2014: Harold Finch, Percy Marshall Bouton; 2015: Stephanie Boles-Kavanagh; 2016, Tom Belote; 2017, Doris Ventres; 2018, Jack Herr.

Civic and Special Awards

1992: Richard Venus; 1993: Bob Tulipani; 1994: Beth Yanity; 1995: Aldo Tulipani; 1996: Ferdinand Bedini; 1997: Matty Pambianchi Family; 1998: Dr. Peter Yanity; 1999: Charles Coles; 2000: Kitty Rosa; 2001: Lewis Finch; 2002: Edith Meffley; 2003: Kay Ables; 2004: Chuck Dean; 2005: Doug Main, Renee Franks; 2006: Jack Sanders; 2007: Ancona Family; 2008: Maureen Kiernan, Dave Scott; 2009: Vincent Pannozzo, Jeanne Cook; 2010: Christine and Philip Lodewick; Chuck Camp; Reed Whipple; 2011: Mary and Nelson Gelfman; Terry Hastings. 2012: Martha and Dave Campbell; Joseph Consentino. 2013: Richard and Deirdre Aarons; George Besse 2014: Darla and Ben Shaw; Joy and Hank Kutcha; Joyce Ligi; 2015: Liz & Steven Goldstone, Bill Craig; 2016, John and Elaine Couri; 2017, Janice Pauly; 2018, Barbara Manners and Eugene Healy.



Educator Awards

2013: Dr. Harold E. Healy and Dirk Bollenback; 2014: Dr. Philip Pitruzzello; 2015: Bob Cox; 2016, James Muraski; 2017, Joan Voss; 2018, Bill Monti.

Sports Awards

1992: Tabby Carboni, Lynce Carboni, Leo Pambianchi, Tom Clark, Charlie Frattini, Joe Forcelli, John Carboni; 1993: Gene Casagrande, Bob Mulvaney, Vin Petrini, Charly Stolle, Joe Tulipani; 1994: Lyman Anderson, Harry Bennett, Aldo Girolmetti, Evo Principi, John Tulipani; 1995: Peter Casagrande, Dino Cincolani, Joe Brunetti, Ray Eppoliti, Bud Mahoney, Reno Severini; 1996: Ben Bedini, Fabio Biagiotti, Jack Leary, Harold Mead, Romeo Petroni, Janalie Severini; 1997: Primo Baldaserini, Dante Brunetti, Frank Lancaster, Sr., Walt Evans, Navio Ligi, Fred Mazzi; 1998: Gino "Jinx" Baldaserini, Dr. Phil Martin, Dr. Joe Moylan, Andy Montanari, Julius "Bugsy" Santini; 1999: Dick Bellagamba, Si Bellagamba, Gene Lavatori, John Lavatori, Gene McMahon, Harry Pierandri; 2000: Glen Anderson, Bill Elliot, Booker Jackson, Tom Mitchell; 2001: Ned Carboni, Paul Carboni, Jim Costanzi, John Fossi, Artie Frattini, Nick Reid, Gloria Sharkany; 2002: Ed Dowling, Jack Jones, Jack O'Keefe, Jim O'Keefe, Mike Ryba, Aldo Travaglini, Harry Zandri; 2003: Aldo Biagiotti, Chip Bliss, Bob Carboni, John Forcelli, Jim Mullen, Vince Paccadolmi, Fred Romeo; 2004: Faust Verna, Lou Bellagamba, Chip Salvestrini, Alley Frulla, Rudy Marconi, Jim Tulipani and the CYO Girls Championship Basketball Team; 2005: Tom Cesca, Tom Santini, Richard Polverari, Bob Pambianchi, Gregg Hutchings, Carol Torcellini, Dave Campbell, Bill Polverari, Renzo Falcinelli, Jimmy Bacchiochi; 2006: Larry Bossidy, Jr., Isabel Caporale, Frank Lancaster, Jr., Carl Scala, John Stolle, Dave Sturges; 2007: Dave Landers, Jay Contessa, Chip Dean, John Devendorf, Marie Frulla, Steve Martin, Alan Wallace; 2008: Richard Lavatori, Judy Laslo, Craig Saltzgeber, Frank Serfilippi, Paul Vaughn, Chip Wilson; 2009: Robert Leary, Robert Lewis, Patricia Girolametti, Richard Miller, Peter Santini, Michael Principi, and Dr. Richard Scala; 2010: Abe Morelli, Tom Fossi, Michael Bowman, Amy Fredericks, Christopher Winnes, Janel Jorgensen, Michael Dell'Aquila, Tony Wilmot; 2011: Lee Pasquarella, Harland

**CONGRATULATIONS
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Brooks, Janet Yanity, Harry Geary, Thomas McDonald, Joseph Korczynski, Lea Ann Schmidt, Gary Bellagamba; 2012: Michael Conroy, Anthony James Forcelli, Beth Ondrick Gattey, Terence Hughes, George R. Mulvaney, Phil O'Brien, Walt Valentine; 2013: William 'Sandy' Allen, Paul Bossidy, Dorene Almgren DeCecco, Mike Harris, Mike Maiolo, Ed Stone, Nicole Colanari Twomey; 2014: John Lorenzini, Peter Stuart Jongbloed, Brian Sullivan, Thomas Scala, Sandy Beal Carpenter, Nicole Muschett DiAntonio, Neil Ringers; 2015: Don Innamorato, Richard Dingee, Susi Mang McDonald, Guy Welton, Karen Dingee Leibowitz; 2016, Al Diniz, John Kreisher, Jack Hughes, Jim Croce, 1967-68 Football Team, Chip Wood, William Van Orman, Cliff Onolfo, Kate McMorran Leavey, Sue Ellis; 2017, Dr. Joseph Connelly, Nancy Ruhl Hurley, Bo Beatty, Danny Geary, Amy Walter Hillenbrand, Dr. Theodore Librizzi; 2018, Stan Engelhardt, Bob Phalen, Mike Bossidy, Lena Onyshkewych..



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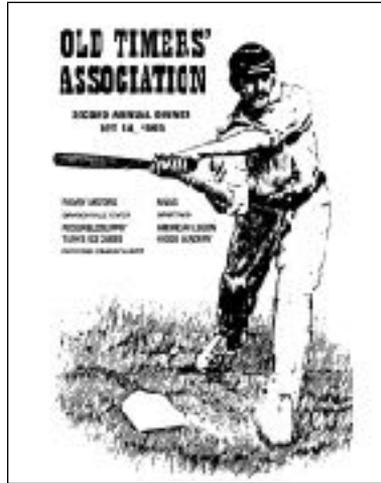


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Ridgefield Old Timers Association: *Honoring Ridgefielders since 1992*

About 27 years ago, a group of friends got together with the idea of forming an old timers group for Ridgefield. Paul Baker, Julie Petrini, John Tulipani, and Joe Brunetti met at a dinner and decided to model the new organization after old timers groups in Danbury and Norwalk, which had honored several Ridgefield athletes over the years.

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



The 1993 dinner program's cover.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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*See any of
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