



ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

A History of Sports Excellence

2016

FOUNDED IN 1974

🎀 Celebrating our 43rd Year 🎀

Honoring

Virgilio Hernandez

Buster Keyes, Jr

Joe McGuinness *(posthumous)*

Ronnie Morgan *(posthumous)*

Katherine Nowell

Steve Silverberg

Linda Soto

John Stephens

Michael Coffey



4.16.16



Congratulations to the
McGuinness Family

on Joe's induction into the Rockland County Hall of Fame. Joe is remembered as a vastly respected Coach, Athletic Director, and a gentleman of many gifts and abilities.

Best wishes also to Joe's fellow Hall of Fame inductees for their selection as well:

Virgilio Hernandez
Buster Keyes, Jr.
Ronnie Morgan
Katherine Nowell
Steve Silverberg
Linda Soto
John Stephens
Michael Coffey

Coach McGuinness's character and devotion in following his faith and his heart and always striving to do his very best has brought his family and all who love and respect him to this very special moment.

**The Rockland County Catholic Youth Organization (CYO),
Archdiocese of New York**

Chairman's Message



We celebrate our 43rd Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame induction with a star-studded group of athletes and coaches. The North Rockland Red Raiders present to us two outstanding athletes: John Stephens, a four-time New York State shot-put champion and first-team All-State football defensive tackle who continued to excel in the shot put at Syracuse; and Linda Soto, who starred in softball as a player with numerous State and County awards in the early 1980s, and later as a coach for the Red Raiders. Steve Silberberg, a 1975 Ramapo graduate, was a State champion wrestler who dominated the County for four years and went on to shine at the University of Virginia, twice qualifying for the NCAA Division I tournament.

Katherine Nowell, a Clarkstown South swimming standout, won three State titles, was undefeated in all her dual, County and Section 9 competitions, and later coached a Clarkstown South team ranked 12th nationally. She was able to coach against her mom, which was quite unique in Rockland county sports lore. Roosevelt "Buster" Keyes Jr., who played for the Clarkstown Rams from 1968-72, was an explosive halfback who garnered All-County 1st team honors in 1970 and '71, an All-County track and field performer who placed third in New York State in the long jump, and a ball-hawking guard and solid contributor to two RCPSAL championship basketball teams under Coach Ed McGrath. Keyes went on to serve honorably in the U.S. Army for 38-plus years.

Joe McGuinness was a basketball standout scholastically for Clarkstown South and collegiately for Army and Manhattan College. He excelled as a coach and athletic director for Albertus Magnus and Tappan Zee and has the rare distinction of winning sectional titles in both girls' and boys' basketball, both while at Albertus. Joe was always there to lend a helping hand and was described by his Army coach and dear friend, legendary Mike Krzyzewski, as "top notch in every way." The Hall of Fame committee was truly saddened by Joe's recent passing and is privileged to honor his name alongside the many other great athletes that he competed against, knew and worked with.

Virgilio "Chico" Hernandez, who distinguished himself in football, basketball and baseball for the Tigers of Spring Valley, was Rockland County Athlete of the Year in 1958. Thanks to Chico's sister, who copied many of Journal-News sports writer Sam Basson's news clips and box scores, we get to see how gifted an athlete and teammate Chico was. Ron Morgan of Congers High School was an outstanding multi-sport athlete who was recognized as both a great athlete and team leader based on having been selected team captain in several sports. He served in the U.S. Air Force and stayed active in sports throughout his lifetime. Michael Coffey was an assistant to Pearl River boys' basketball coach Jerry Houston

and is currently assistant basketball coach and assistant to the sports information director at Dominican College. Mike deals with physical challenges on a daily basis and epitomizes what true service and community is all about, and we are pleased to honor him with the Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame is doing its part to honor Rockland's athletes, coaches and others who have contributed in some meaningful way to sports. We work closely with all the other school's halls of fame and are doing our share to keep sports relevant. We are currently helping to fund scholar-athletes and those less fortunate. As such, we will be holding our Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame night on July 14 at a Rockland Boulders game, raising funds for Mike Rogan, a former Clarkstown North track star who is recovering from a traumatic brain injury. We hope that many of you might join us in a worthy cause while having a fun night, in the Sunset Deck, at the ballgame at Provident Bank Park in Pomona.

In the past year we experienced the loss of two of our past inductees. Al Witt, a 2014 inductee, was a wonderful sports photographer who was noted for capturing the moment for the Journal-News. Ralph Cordisco, a 1984 honoree, was a great athlete and legendary football coach and athletic director for Haverstraw/North Rockland (1956-1979). Many of us enjoyed celebrating Ralph's birthday each year at Kennelly's Grille House in Congers, when his family would drive him down from Rhode Island. In addition to Mr. Witt and Mr. Cordisco, John Hanlon, a longtime board member on our committee and voice of North Rockland sports for the Rockland County Times, also passed away this past year. They will all be missed.

The Hall of Fame has a website that serves as a rich repository of Hall of Fame information, including bios and photos on all 256 inductees. Visit the web site at www.rcshf.org.

I wish to thank the people who keep our organization a vital force in the community: Gibby Sweet, dinner arrangements; Jamie Kempton, secretary and program editor; Pete Castellano, treasurer and ticket chairman; Bob Veltidi, master of ceremonies and screening committee chair; Vince Sciortino, vice chairman and fund-raising; Chuck Maze, for community relations; Dan White and Tom Doherty, for their behind-the-scenes support; Bruce and Phyllis Schweizer of Quality Graphics and the entire Board of Directors for contributing to the support of the organization throughout the year.

Regards,

Pete Scheibner
Chairman



*The Rockland County
Sports Hall of Fame*

wishes to thank the following businesses for their
generous support of our organization:

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Cocktail Hour

(6–7 pm)

is being sponsored by

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Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame 2016 List of Inductees

INDUCTEE: RON MORGAN – CONGERS (*Posthumous*)

INTRODUCED BY: Bob Veltidi, Hall of Fame Committee
ACCEPTED BY: Glen Morgan (Son)
TROPHY SPONSOR: Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame
PLAQUE SPONSOR: Clarkstown Athletic Foundation

INDUCTEE: MICHAEL COFFEY – Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

INTRODUCED BY: Jerry Houston, Sr. (Coach)
TROPHY SPONSOR: Pearl River Coaches
PLAQUE SPONSOR: Tom Collins & Tom Doherty Families

INDUCTEE: VIRGILIO HERNANDEZ – SPRING VALLEY

INTRODUCED BY: Debbie Migliorato (Daughter)
TROPHY SPONSOR: Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame
PLAQUE SPONSOR: The Spring Valley Athletic Department

**INDUCTEE: JOE MCGUINNESS – CLARKSTOWN SOUTH,
ALBERTUS MAGNUS, TAPPAN ZEE** (*Posthumous*)

INTRODUCED BY: Ed McGuinness (Brother)
ACCEPTED BY: Joe's Children – Megan, Patrick & Conor
TROPHY SPONSOR: Rockland County Athletic Directors
PLAQUE SPONSOR: Albertus Magnus High School

INDUCTEE: KATHERINE NOWELL – CLARKSTOWN SOUTH

INTRODUCED BY: Terence Burke (Husband)
TROPHY SPONSOR: Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame
PLAQUE SPONSOR: Clarkstown South Athletic Department

INDUCTEE: STEVE SILVERBERG – RAMAPO

INTRODUCED BY: Tom Cauty (Coach)
TROPHY SPONSOR: Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame
PLAQUE SPONSOR: Ramapo High School Athletic Department

INDUCTEE: LINDA SOTO – NORTH ROCKLAND

INTRODUCED BY: Papo Cancel
TROPHY SPONSOR: Howard Phillips, Supervisor, Town of Haverstraw
PLAQUE SPONSOR: The Rockland County YMCA

INDUCTEE: JOHN STEPHENS – NORTH ROCKLAND

INTRODUCED BY: Vickie Stephens (Wife)
TROPHY SPONSOR: Gene & Lonnie Dall
PLAQUE SPONSOR: North Rockland Boys Track Team

INDUCTEE: ROOSEVELT "BUSTER" KEYES, JR – CLARKSTOWN

INTRODUCED BY: Paul Toscano (Coach)
TROPHY SPONSOR: Classmates, Family & Friends of Buster Keyes
PLAQUE SPONSOR: Clarkstown North High School



Dinner Program

Pledge of Allegiance.....Gene Erickson

Invocation

Master of Ceremonies

Bob Veltidi

Committees

Dinner.....Gibby Sweet

Program Book.....Peter Scheibner

Screening.....Bob Veltidi

Tickets.....Pete Castellano

2016 INDUCTEES

Virgilio Hernandez – Spring Valley

Buster Keyes, Jr – Clarkstown North

Joe McGuinness – Clarkstown South, Albertus Magnus,
Tappan Zee (posthumous)

Ron Morgan – Congers (posthumous)

Katherine Nowell – Clarkstown South

Steve Silverberg – Ramapo

Linda Soto – North Rockland

John Stephens – North Rockland

Michael Coffey – Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

ENSHRINEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame was established to honor outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen, living and deceased, who have gained prominence while residing or competing in, or have brought recognition to Rockland County. To be considered for nomination to the Hall of Fame, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- A. Attain prominence in sports as an athlete, coach, manager, official, owner, writer, broadcaster or supporter.
- B. Reside or have resided in Rockland County, competed here at the time of their prominence, or brought fame to Rockland County as a result of their accomplishments.
- C. Be a person of integrity and good character.
- D. Candidates cannot be considered until 10 years after their high school class graduation, except in special cases.

Our committee encourages the public to send athletic resumes/nominations of prospective candidates to Screening Committee chairman Bob Veltidi, 35 Van Orden Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901. Nominees are reviewed by this committee and, if accepted, voted upon for enshrinement by the committee as a whole.

The Hall of Fame Committee holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of the month from October to May. Anyone wishing to join the organization should write to Chairman Pete Scheibner, 1 Captain McGovern Drive, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980, or e-mail him at scheibnp@msn.com.

Each inductee in the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame receives a commemorative trophy and is further honored with an individual plaque, which is given to the inductee's high school for public display.

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame is more than awards and trophies and dinners, however. It is really about people – Rockland County people who have had an impact in the world of sports. A total of 256 such individuals have been honored since the hall's inception in 1974.

The Hall of Fame has evolved from those early beginnings to become a recognized presence in Rockland County athletics. In addition to its annual dinner, where it honors new inductees, the hall makes sizable donations to worthwhile local organizations and charities. Included among these donations have been cash gifts to:

- ARC • Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse • Salvation Army
- Haverstraw Little League Save the Fields Fund • American Cancer Society • Special Olympics
- Venture • Big Brothers-Big Sisters • Challenger Little League • YMCA Youth Programs • Homes for Heroes

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Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Form

Nominee: _____
(Last) (First) (M)

Current Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date Submitted: _____

** If deceased, please give name, address and phone number of family member.*

H.S. and Year of Graduation: _____

College and Year of Graduation: _____

On a separate typewritten page, list all of the significant accomplishments of the nominee, both as a Rockland County resident and otherwise. Please be as specific as possible. Include varsity sports played in high school and college, dates, letters earned, honors won, records set, post-collegiate achievements, etc.

** Please submit a clear black-and-white or color photo of the nominee.*

Nominating Person:

Last name: _____ First: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please Submit to:

Bob Veltidi
Chairman, Selection Committee
Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame
35 Van Orden Avenue
Suffern, NY 10901

Rockland County Hall of Fame Inductees

1974

Chuck Aleno*
Henry "Peck" Artopee*
Dr. Daniel "Danny" Fortmann*
Joseph "JoJo" Mackey
Howard "Howie" Pierson

1975

Roger Brown
Joe D'Auria
Bill Drescher*
Billy Hogan*
Donald "Pop" Sherwood*

1976

Howard Parker Talman*
John Koster*
Jim Ridlon
Pete D'Auria*
Gloria Callan Jones

1977

Augusta Bradley Chapman*
Nick Gamboli*
Ed Greene*
Harry Jackson*
Paul Toscano
Richard "Gus" Shankey*

1978

Jim Brown
Harold "Hale" DeChelfin*
Jim Faulk*
Ira Shuttleworth*
Jim Schnaars
Nick Mottola*

1979

Bob Bacheller*
Frank Cosentino*
Harry "Dee" Dembnicki
Jerry Hollahan*
Bob Grossman*
E.J. Maurer*
Bruno Ablondi*

1980

Dr. Jeffrey Munson
Art Orlando*
Brit Paterson*
Nick Ryder
Horace Tyrus
Emil Willis*
Mickey Wittman

1981

Art Hopper*
Frank Horan
Howard Johnson
Lester Lepori*
Walter Ostrom
Victor Shankey*
Bill Yuda*

1982

Frank DePatto*
Tony Gamboli, Jr.
Bill Perry*
George Jakowenko
Ed McGrath

1983

Warren Austin*
Jim Brechbiel
Frank Dawson*
Jeanette Paddock
Walter Sickles*

1984

Jim Ashcroft
Marvin Branche*
Ralph Cordisco*
Bryan Hassett
Bob Tierney*

1985

Wil Arietta*
Joseph "Josh" Bolack*
Gene Erickson
Tony Gemma*
Joe St. Lawrence*

1986

Joe Alleva
John Jemison
Harold Lederman
Bob Mathias*
Sylvester "Molly" McGee*

1987

Fred Hahn*
Charles Holbrook
Chuck Scarpulla
Jim Stamos
Bob Strack*

1988

Ron Becraft*
Darryl Brown
Tom Canty
Pat D'Auria*
James "Sham" Feeney*

1989

Ralph Consiglio*
Patty Dillon Solliday
Vincent "Dugan" Kovalsky*
Frank Nelson*
Bob Wolff

1990

Denise McGuire
Guy Guccione
Abe Schuster
Robert "Red" Schassler*
Don Clancy*

1991

Steve Drummond*
Lew Brundage
Johnny Burns*
Pete Haubner
Ethel Doller*
Dominic Gamboli*

1992

Murray Olderman
Jerome Bonomolo
Joseph "Biscuit" Picarello
Dale Lydecker
John Mercurio

1993

Jim Kane
Kathy Miller Dapolito
Jay Bohnel
Mike Deane
Don Driscoll

1994

Hubert Nealy*
Martin "Hawk" Jacobs*
Joe Goldsmith
Tom Collins
Ron Tellefsen*

1995

Ron Edwards
Walter "Red" Levy
Max Talaska*
Joe Klopchin*
Joe McDowell*
Paul Urban*

1996

Harry Babcock*
Gerald Kapusinsky
John Orlando
Al Simonds
George Garrecht*
Marty Springstead*

1997

Mike Hagon
Hank Kapusinsky
Tom Mounkhal
Dennis Pozsar
Steve Wanamaker

1998

Kevin Kane
Lou Kliewe*
Rocco Marano*
Howie McNiff
Blaise Winter

1999

Jim Cann
Joe Casarella
Ervan Levine*
Gibby Sweet
Dick Yerg*

2000

Rich Conklin
Kevin Houston
Dawn Royster
Sarah Will
Alex Zilko*

2001

George Dalzell
Gerald D'Auria*
Seth Joyner
Tod Giles*
Debbie Grant
Bill White

2002

Ken Harniman*
Derrick Lassic
Norinne Powers
Kris Snider
Dick Teetsel*
Walt Weiss

2003

Genny Mulderig Allard
Jeff Bryant
Peter Hackett*
David Hirsch
Bill Kurisko
†† Joe Grasso*
† Charles "Jumbo" Strack*

2004

Jim Gallo
Dave Hanson
Joan Neuendorf
Nancy Rosenfeld Lewis
Ed Rubbert
Frank Samoylo

2005

Jane Ronner-Beckley
Mike Carroll*
Tom Doherty
Jamie Kempton
Lee Klepper
†† Leon Pesner*
Rudolph Rejholec*

2006

Tony Harlin
Jon Hess
Jim Pollard
John Scanlan
Jeff Van Wie
John Van Wyck*

2007

Julius D'Agostino*
John Flaherty
Barbara Hebel
Robert Neuendorf
Richard "Dixie" Reilly*
†† Dan White

2008

Noreen Annunziata Apicella
Charles Dittmer
Reid Hoffer
Randy Nelson
Paul Pietropaolo
Tim St. Lawrence
† Elizabeth "Pat" Ryan*

2009

Joe Bidy
Jeff Brown
Jim Horvath
Mike Longuil*
Janice Olszewski
John Sottile

2010

Joe Conace*
T. J. Ford
Sol "Spike" Israel*
Barbara Mellen-Speerin
Margie Sahlstrom-Jaxel
Mike Sparago
Robbie Woods

2011

Jeff Becker
Dan Keeley
Gene Martin
Kristen Conklin-Sullivan
Shulton Whitley
† Wilbur "Web" Wanamaker*

2012

Marcel Cooper
John Diffley
Tom McTaggart
Dennis O'Sullivan
Dawn Sugrue
Victor Veltidi
Dan Sullivan*

2013

Keith Bulluck
Khyl Farrison
Gary Gray
Bud Kast*
Mike Rotundo
Jodi Schlesinger Salsberg
Ed Wanamaker
†† Vic Alfieri Sr.*
Ernie Capobianco*
Vic Alfieri Jr.
Deer Head Inn & Softball
Tournament

2014

Rick Carey
Don Fischer
Ed Kolakowski
Lorraine Moylan
Richard Schumacher*
Thaddeus Wilson
†† Al Witt*

2015

Joe Clinton
Bob Corvino
Jennifer Feeney Lovell
Ed Matott
Bob Nadal*
Lintz Rivera Adams
Homer Wanamaker
†† Nick Picarello*

* Denotes Deceased

† Old-Timers' Special Award

†† Joe Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

VIRGILIO "CHICO" HERNANDEZ

Spring Valley High School
Class of 1958

If Virgilio Hernandez had played only baseball at Spring Valley High School in the 1950s, he likely still would be a Hall of Famer.

But baseball wasn't enough for the player who preferred to be known as Chico.

Almost 60 years after some of his high school exploits, Chico Hernandez jokes about his stature, but it didn't keep him from excelling in both varsity basketball and football – two sports where, even back then, size mattered.

Playing three sports for Spring Valley (he also placed second in the 1955 Rockland County Novice Wrestling Tournament), he earned enough varsity letters to have a different sweater for each month of the year.

And he earned All-County honors 10 times of a possible 12 opportunities – three times each in football and basketball and all four years in baseball.

His arrival on the Spring Valley baseball squad coincided with the start of a string of four straight county championships.

At just 16, Chico hit a solid .316 in his freshman year while starting in the infield. He upped that to an even .400 as a sophomore. That year's announcement of the All-PSAL baseball team praised him as "a steady performer of the workhorse type." It also noted that he is "only 5'5" tall and weighs 135 pounds wringing wet."

Chico's stock rose again in his junior year, with an all-around outstanding season that sportswriter Sam Basson of the Sherwood Newspapers summarized in writing about the 1957 All-County team.

"The Spring Valley shortstop is fast and has a good arm. He is a team player and the sparkplug of the Tigers. He hits the ball hard, batted at .416 and accounted for a homer, two triples and eight doubles in league competition. An aggressive type player, Hernandez would be an asset to anyone's ball club."

Basson was equally effusive in his praise of Chico on the 1958 All-PSAL team, saying he "covers short like a gazelle. Troubles pitchers when he gets on the base paths ... Knows how to make the DP and has the arm to do it." That year, Chico's senior season, he hit an even .450 and was Rockland County Athlete of the Year.

It capped a wonderful three-sport career.

Hernandez won All-County honors three times in basketball and had one of his best games against the original Tappan Zee



High School, then located in Piermont. Chico recalls playing in the tiny gym there, where players were hampered by two walls bordering the court. "The ceiling was so low you couldn't shoot jump shots," he says, pointing out that he shot them two-handed – the style back then.

Spring Valley managed a win on the bandbox court, but later in the season, in a home game, Chico lit up the scoreboard, turning loose his jumper for 29 points. "The third quarter was all Hernandez," Sam Basson reported, with Chico scoring "from all sides and from the keyhole. In this quarter, he tallied 13 points."

But when you ask Chico Hernandez which sport brought him the most satisfaction, he turns to football.

He takes pride in the level of competition when facing what he called Spring Valley's archrivals, Nyack, and Haverstraw. Facing those teams, he played against future National Football League standouts Roger Brown and Nick Ryder, eventual teammates on the Detroit Lions.

"I was fortunate," Chico says, "to come up at the right time, because I had great teammates. We had a good group." In football, he says, "We had a lot of good linemen opening holes. You don't run by yourself."

Actually, Chico ran and passed and caught and kicked. In his junior season, he scored 25 points. In a senior season cut short by a flu epidemic, Chico scored 40 points and was a unanimous choice for the All-PSAL team, his third selection to the team. In his 1955 season, he was a large part of Spring Valley's 6-1 Rockland County championship season. They held five opponents scoreless, gave up just six points to another and their only loss was to regional power Pompton Lakes of New Jersey.

His football career ended in Spring Valley. After all, he says, "Not too many colleges were looking for a 5'6", 140-pound running back."

He thinks back about the nature of the PSAL, and Rockland, in the mid-1950s. "We only had Suffern, Haverstraw, Clarkstown, Nyack, Pearl River and Tappan Zee (high schools) back then. All were nice little towns back then." After a pause, he evaluates more than a half-century of change. "It's so grown up now, you can't tell where one town ends and another begins."

Graduating from Spring Valley was a crucial milestone for Chico Hernandez. His parents had divorced when he was 6. With his father in the Merchant Marine, Chico grew up at the Lakeside School in what's now Chestnut Ridge.

Leaving Spring Valley High School meant leaving there, too, and Chico's next destination was the State Teachers College at New Paltz, now SUNY New Paltz.

Just like at Spring Valley, Chico was a standout on the hardwood and on the baseball diamond, again teaming up with Spring Valley alum Tony Gamboli, who was two years older.

Chico won two varsity letters in both sports before deciding that teaching wasn't his career goal.

He left school, but not New Paltz, where he began a 25-year banking career and met his wife of 47 years, Ann. They raised two daughters, Dawn and Debbie, in the home where they have lived for 42 years. They also have three grandchildren. Chico's sister, Loanis O'Neill, lives in Suffern, and his brother, Jerry, lives in Texas.

"My sister made me a scrapbook and gave it to me after my four years at Spring Valley," Chico Hernandez says.

It captures a slice of history for a player, a family and a community.

High school baseball teammate Christopher Jennison, who also covered Spring Valley teams for the Rockland County Leader newspaper, summarizes Chico's skills "that do not show up on summaries and box scores. He had an instinct for the games he played; he always looked for the open man, he was a sure tackler and adept at finding openings as a running back, and in baseball he was always positioned strategically. These are talents only the most accomplished athletes possess."



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JOE McGUINNESS

Clarkstown South High School
Class of 1978

Coach & Athletic Director
Albertus Magnus High School,
Tappan Zee High School (*Posthumous*)

In his short life, Joe McGuinness made a lasting impact on the people of Rockland County. He was an athlete, educator, coach, administrator, husband and father, and in all areas Joe was outstanding. Joe was a starting guard on the varsity basketball team at Clarkstown South for three years. In 1978 he was a first-team All-County and All-Section 9 selection who led South into the Sectional championship game against state-ranked Mount Vernon. His coach, Marty Piccinich, who had coached basketball for 29 years, stated, "Joe is a once-in-a-lifetime player with outstanding skills. However, what sets him apart is his basketball IQ, his leadership, and his intensity. His love for the game and his teammates, and his determination to win on the court and in life are unmatched." Because of his accomplishments in high school, Joe was inducted into the Clarkstown South Hall of Fame in 2012.

Joe went on to play college basketball under legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski at West Point in the 1978-1979 season, Krzyzewski's last year at the U.S. Military Academy. Joe then transferred to Manhattan College and played for Coach Gordon Chiesa, graduating in 1982. Coach Chiesa said of McGuinness, "Joe was a very competitive player; he was the ultimate 'gamer.' He played to win for all the right reasons!" Joe maintained close relationships with both coaches until his death, and "Coach K" knew and regarded Joe as a loyal friend.

After graduation Joe started his basketball coaching career as an assistant at Loyola of Chicago, a Division I program. Locally, he came to Albertus Magnus as athletic director in 1992. Joe also coached varsity boys' basketball there for seven years. He later became athletic director at Tappan Zee and coached varsity girls' basketball for three years. He circled back to Albertus as athletic director, and also coached varsity girls' basketball for four years. In all, Joe totaled 14 years of coaching in Rockland County.

As a coach at Albertus, Joe won both League and Section 1 championships in 1993 and 1994 in boys' basketball. The boys' team finished as the New York State runner-up in 1993. Later, coaching girls' basketball in 2007, 2008 and 2009, Joe won the Sectional and Regional championships all three years. He was the first Rockland County high school coach to win Sectional titles in both boys' and girls' basketball, and won more than 175 games in his coaching career. On the international level, he received coaching honors as a coach/player at the Crossover Club in Ireland, leading his basketball team to prominence in the Irish National League.



As an athletic director, Joe was always looking for ways to get more students involved. A prime example of this philosophy was his implementation of the girls' swimming program at Albertus. It has become one of the school's most popular programs, with dozens of girls participating. Joe was the athletic director at Tappan Zee from 1999 to 2003 and coached the Dutchies' varsity girls' basketball team for three seasons. He encouraged the growth of the youth basketball programs in South Orangetown and opened up Tappan Zee High School to CYO groups. His most successful hiring was of George Gaine as a physical education teacher and varsity boys' basketball coach. (Gaine has brought the Flying Dutchmen boys' hoops team to state-level prominence.) Joe also played a large role in finishing Tappan Zee's extensive field renovation project, which included a beautiful turf football field and stadium lights.

Rockland Hall of Famer Tom Collins describes Joe in the following way: "As a friend, I admire Joe's sense of humor and his straightforwardness. I rely heavily on his opinions. He's an 'athletic encyclopedia,' but more importantly, he speaks honestly from his heart. As both a coach and individual, Joe is the quintessential nominee for the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame." Tom further stated, "As an athletic director he would always try to do what was in the best interest of the kids. In Joe's case it's not so much about wins and losses or championships, but how many lives he touched with his knowledge and personality."

Jim McLaughlin, who was a 1,000-point scorer for Clarkstown North, perhaps said it best: "This is a no-brainer; he is a Rockland County Hall of Famer. He was Gordon Chiesa's MVP at Manhattan in his senior year! And Coach K's last point guard at Army ... that says it all."

Sadly, we lost Joe to cancer on February 12 of this year, at the much-too-young age of 55. He leaves behind his wife, Cynthia, and three children – Megan, Patrick, and Conor.

LINDA SOTO

North Rockland High School
Class of 1984

In the early part of the new century, Linda Soto and her immediate family were making so many trips to Florida to visit assorted relatives that by 2005 it just made sense to move there.

Now she lives about 1,200 miles from North Rockland High School, where she pitched herself and her team to glory in the first half of the 1980s.

So where does the transplanted die-hard Yankees fan live? Just a sharp line drive away from Tradition Field, the New York Mets' spring training home in Port St. Lucie.

But even all those miles from what once was home hasn't distanced her from the game she loves.

She's already a member of the North Rockland High School Sports Hall of Fame and a double honor this spring has her heading back to Rockland for induction into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame and even farther north in June, to Herkimer, N.Y., for induction into the New York State Softball Hall of Fame.

After starting her softball career playing in the North Rockland Girls Athletic League in 1973, Linda played four years of varsity softball at North Rockland. She also played the infield, but she was truly a standout on the mound, pitching to a 43-3 career record under the watchful eye of Coach Isidro "Papo" Cancel.

In the 1983 and 1984 seasons, all she did was lead the Raiders to consecutive final game victories in the Class A Capital Region championships – the last stop in post-season play in the era before state championships.

The regional titles were the icing that came after North Rockland won two consecutive Rockland County Public School Athletic League (PSAL) softball championships – including their first ever – and three Section 9 titles.

Her performance earned her back-to-back first team All-County and All-Section 9 recognition and twice she was the Lady Raiders' MVP.

Veteran North Rockland Athletic Director Joe Casarella says, "Linda became the most dominating pitcher in New York State in her junior and senior years."

In 1984, she was the best of the best in New York, honored as New York State Softball Player of the Year.

Of course, she also played travel softball, teaming up with some of her in-season opponents, and also played and later coached in the Empire State Games.



As if that wasn't enough, she also played varsity basketball at North Rockland.

But it was her pitching that earned her a four-year softball scholarship to New Mexico State University that was lengthened to five years by what would now be called a medical redshirt, because of a freshman-year back injury.

Unfortunately, the coach who had recruited Linda left early in her career, breaking a bond that never quite got rebuilt with the new coaching staff. Injuries, too, continued to nag her, but overall Linda says, her mission was accomplished. She opted to go west, hoping to play against top-notch college players and teams and the New Mexico State Aggies presented just that kind of opportunity.

She played on what was usually around a .500 team, but just as she had hoped, that came against the best of the best competition in the West, including powerhouse UCLA. "We held our own," she says, "and often we were a step above."

She not only was in the starting lineup, but batted cleanup throughout her playing time there and in her senior season played first base and hit a solid .350.

She returned to Rockland after graduation in 1989 and put her criminal justice and social work studies to use for 15 years as a case manager for the Rockland County Department of Social Services.

Always wanting to give back to the school and game she loves, Linda also coached at North Rockland for seven years as assistant to Coach Tony Toronto.

Although she jokes about considering her coaching mentor a traitor for retiring from North Rockland and moving on to coach at Nanuet High School, she says of their seasons

together, "They were amazing. He was so supportive of my career and I appreciated the opportunity to give back, passing on my learning experiences from college."

"Linda is not only a great player, but a great person," says Casarella, noting that as a coach at her alma mater "she brought many of our young players to the next level. She has been an ambassador for the game of softball and an excellent role model."

Linda took great satisfaction teaching the Lady Raiders everything she knows and finding them receptive. "Virtually all the girls I coached went on to play college softball, whether at Division I or another level," she says.

Despite her strong connection to the community and North Rockland, Florida's pull won out in 2005 after countless trips to visit her family and that of her husband, Edwin Vazquez, who is originally from Puerto Rico. "He loves boating, fishing and scuba, so it just made sense for us," Linda says.

Linda almost immediately started working at the Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County, first as a truancy specialist and now as director of that program, anti-gang outreach and a summer

meals program for children who usually get their nourishment through school.

This May, between her Hall of Fame inductions, she will be honored by the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County as their "Champion for Youth."

Their two children, 14-year-old daughter Aleya and 9-year-old son Richard, known as "R.J.", haven't caught mom's diamond sports bug. She's into dance and cheerleading and is a standout in volleyball. He's more into flag football and soccer.

Linda played coed softball until about 2012 when she was again hampered by a neck injury requiring surgery.

But she's healed up now and on the same evening she spoke about the upcoming Hall of Fame inductions, she got a call from a friend asking her to consider coming out of retirement.

Reflecting on the honors coming her way this spring, Linda says, "Sitting back thinking of the joy, friendships and memories softball has brought to my life puts a smile on my face. Not many people can say the same."

Congratulations

All Inductees – Past, Present & Future

With gratitude,

JOE HOLLAND

FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN EMERITUS



RON MORGAN

Congers High School
Class of 1952

Ron Morgan's athletic career spanned more than 50 years in Rockland County, first at Congers High School, then on the semipro baseball fields in the county, and finishing up on the recreational bowling lanes and golf links. He was a truly active and involved athlete in all aspects of his life.

Ron started out as a multi-sport athlete at Congers High School. During his time at Congers High, 1949-1952, he earned an amazing 15 varsity letters. In the fall he won four varsity letters on the soccer team. In 1949, his freshman year, he was selected honorable mention All-Rockland County and the next three years was voted to the first-team All-Rockland County squad.

During the winter Ron played basketball, earning three varsity letters, and was elected the team captain. Springtime was very busy for this Congers Lakesiders standout. At the time you were allowed to participate in two sports at the same time and Ron took advantage of that rule. He competed on both the baseball and track teams, earning three varsity letters in each sport. On the baseball diamond he pitched and played short-stop and had a career batting average well above .300. He was elected the team captain in 1951. In track Ron competed in the 100-yard dash, shot put, discus and long jump, usually placing in most of those events at the track meets. In 1951 Ron won the bronze medal in the shot put in the Rockland County championship meet. He also found time to compete on Congers High School's bowling team in 1949 and 1950, and in 1949 won the Section 9 championship shield. Because of his athletic accomplishments at Congers High, Ron was inducted in 1996 into the Clarkstown North Sports Hall of Fame, which includes students who attended Congers, Clarkstown and Clarkstown North high schools.

After high school Ron joined the U.S. Air Force and played baseball for Pepperrell Air Force Base in Newfoundland, Canada. During that time he was selected the most valuable player as a pitcher for the combined Air Force/Navy All-Star team in a game against the St. John's Capitals City team. Returning home after his tenure in the Air Force, Ron continued to play baseball and manage in the New York/New Jersey Hudson Valley semipro league. He played and managed the County Welders to a championship in 1958, then went on to play and manage for the Haverstraw Lumbermen in the same league. Many Rockland County Hall of Famers, including such stars as Howie Pierson, Joe "Biscuit" Picarello, Joe D'Auria and John Mercurio, played with Ron on those teams. Eventually most baseball players find their way to the softball diamond and Ron was no exception. He played with Seidel's softball



team in both the county and Suffern night softball leagues, and on two occasions was selected to an All-Star team chosen to play against Eddie Feigner's famed "King and His Court."

While working for Lederle Laboratories, Ron bowled in the company's three-man league in Montvale, NJ. His team won the championship in 1978 and 1979. In the American Bowling Congress-sanctioned competition, Ron bowled a high game of 289 and a 717 series. In 1978 he averaged 196 and in 1979 he averaged 195 in the league. Never one to concentrate on one sport, Ron also golfed, and while playing in the Orange & Rockland league at Blue Hill Golf Course, Ron and his partner, Roy Weyant won the league championship in 2004 and 2005. He also managed to be an active working member in the Rockland County Umpires Association, serving with distinction from 1979 to 2000, and in the Valley Cottage Sportsman Club.

After serving in the Air Force from 1952-1956, Ron worked in sales for Orange and Rockland Utilities from 1956 to 1970. He then opened his own business, Orange and Rockland Appliance Sales, and went to work as a supervisor for Lederle Labs, retiring in 1994. Later on he became a consultant for Solgar Vitamin and Herb Company in Leonia, NJ, from 1999 to 2001.

Ron, who resided in Stony Point for many years, died in 2015 at age 81. He was married for more than 50 years to his wife, Mary, and had two children, Glen and Robin, and four grandchildren.

STEVE SILVERBERG

Ramapo High School
Class of 1975

Steve Silverberg was a dominant four-year varsity wrestler at Ramapo High School under legendary coach Tom Canty. In 1975, Steve's career culminated in a New York State championship and he was named a high school All-American. He was a four-time Rockland County tournament champion and twice a Section 9 champion. During his high school career Steve won 16 different tournaments, twice being named Most Outstanding Wrestler. Steve's victory in the quarterfinals of the New York State tournament still brings back vivid memories to all who witnessed it. Down by 5 points with 14 seconds to go in the match, Steve escaped for 1 point then took down the pre-tournament favorite to his back earning 5 points and moving on the eventual the state title. The arena erupted as Silverberg's hand was raised in victory.

At Ramapo Steve was not just a wrestler but also earned three varsity letters as a soccer player. Steve captained the team in his senior year and was voted honorable mention All-County after his senior season. Those soccer skills have served Steve well later in life as he coached soccer for 15 years when his daughters progressed upward from the recreation leagues to the travel soccer teams of which they were a part.

After graduating from Ramapo, Steve's New York State championship plus his academic achievements earned him a wrestling scholarship to the University of Virginia. During his time at UVA, he earned four varsity letters in wrestling. While competing under Coach George Edwards, a former Penn State wrestler (like Tom Canty), Steve was twice voted the team's Most Outstanding Wrestler. He won the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament twice, in his freshman and junior years. Those two victories qualified him for the NCAA Division I tournament, where he wrestled against the best in the country. He also had two second-place finishes in the ACC tournament to his credit.

After college Steve stayed active participating in recreational softball leagues, playing racquetball, and coaching his girls in soccer. Steve continues to play tennis a few times a week to stay in shape. He currently works for CBRE, an American commercial real estate company with headquarters in Los Angeles. It is the largest real estate company in the world, with Steve's branch located in Maryland.

Steve has been married to his wife, Gloria, for 36 years and they live in Potomac, Md. They have two daughters – Michelle, 32, and Nicky, 28. Michelle and her husband, John, have a son, Jack.



**Congratulations
and
Best Wishes
to all 2016
Inductees**



Bob Marino

ROOSEVELT "BUSTER" KEYES JR.

Clarkstown High School
Class of 1972

Whether he was dashing to paydirt on the gridiron, sprinting or jumping his way to victory in track & field, or fast-breaking on the basketball court, Roosevelt "Buster" Keyes Jr. was a man for all seasons for Clarkstown High School. Buster won nine varsity letters – four in track, three in football, and two in basketball – and at times left spectators in awe with his breakneck speed, hair-trigger quickness and off-the-charts jumping ability.

Buster's top individual performance was his third-place finish in the long jump at the 1971 New York State Track & Field championships with a leap of 23 feet 3 ½ inches, at that time the No. 2 mark in Rockland County history and currently ranking No. 5 all-time. That same year he set a school record in the 100-yard dash, clocking 9.9 seconds in a rain-swept dual meet versus Nanuet. The Rams and Golden Knights battled back and forth for track supremacy during Buster's four years on the track team, with Clarkstown rattling off 24 straight PSAL dual-meet victories over three years before Nanuet snapped the skein in 1972, winning the meet in the final event, the mile relay, and thereby taking the PSAL dual-meet crown. Clarkstown had won the title the previous two years.

Four times Buster was chosen to the All-County team in spring track, starting as a ninth grader when he scissored the school long jump record at 21-10 ½, and improving as a sophomore to 22-5 ½, a Section 9 record. That same year he broke the long jump record and ran on the record-setting 440-yard relay at the Nyack Jaycees meet, which was considered one of the premier all-comers meets in the metropolitan area.

His junior year of 1971 turned out to be his best, when he won the State long jump bronze, broke the 10-second barrier for the 100, and combined with teammate John Duddy for a long-jump relay record at the Nanuet Relays that stood for 12 years. He closed out his track career in 1972 with first-team All-RCP-SAL honors in the long jump and second-team recognition in the 100.

"Buster's athletic talent was exceptional," says Joe D'Innocenzo, who coached track at Clarkstown/Clarkstown North from 1959 to 1978, the last 11 years as head coach. "He added to our team, helped make us a dominant team."

In football Buster was a two-time, first-team All-PSAL running back who was also chosen to the New York Daily News Metropolitan All-Star team in 1971. After an especially memorable performance against Nanuet in which Buster racked up 164 rushing yards, including a scintillating 60-yard touchdown burst, Journal-News sports writer Steve Drummond



wrote that Buster "has now firmly established himself as the most exciting back in the history of Clarkstown football." Buster's top-end speed and cutback ability enabled him to break off many long-gainers and cement his status as the Rams' chief offensive threat. He thrived despite a heavy workload of 20 to 30 carries a game and the pressure of knowing opposing defenses were targeting him.

"Speed was a valuable tool for me," says Buster, who was slight of stature but still powerful at 5-foot-6 and 143 pounds. "Being quick was also a good tool to have." Lou Toscano was Buster's head coach his junior and senior years, and brother Paul Toscano, fresh out of the University of Wyoming, was the assistant coach who worked with the offensive backs. "Buster possessed a tremendous amount of natural talent," says Paul Toscano, a legendary Clarkstown athlete in his own right and a college football All-America at Wyoming. "He had great speed and quickness, and surprising power for a small back. Every time he touched the ball you had a feeling he could score a touchdown. Once he got past that first line of defense, you knew he could go all the way."

On the basketball court Buster was a solid contributor to Coach Ed McGrath's 1971-72 RCPSAL and Section 9 championship team that was ranked 10th in New York State. He often was assigned to guard the opposing team's toughest backcourt player, and he and fellow guard Neil Davren ignited a high-performing offense that revolved around All-County center Bob Mathias. Buster also played varsity on the RCPSAL champion 1970-71 squad. Including his time on sub-varsity teams in ninth and 10th grades in Clarkstown, Buster's basketball teams went undefeated throughout his high school career, winning all 72 games.

Paul Toscano, Buster's freshman basketball coach in the 1968-69 season, recalls Buster making his job a lot easier during that unbeaten, 18-0 inaugural season in his coaching career. "I remember thinking, 'Coaching is not hard when you have a player like that and can give the ball to him.' Whenever you needed a steal or a basket, he came up with it."

For his three-sport prowess, Buster was inducted into the Clarkstown North Hall of Fame in 1999. The hall encompasses honorees from Congers, Clarkstown and Clarkstown North high schools.

After graduating from Clarkstown in 1972, Buster enrolled at Manhattan College but left after one semester to join the U.S. Army. He went on to serve honorably for 38-plus years as a combat medic, paramedic and licensed vocational nurse, serving multiple tours overseas. He managed to maintain his athletic pursuits while in the military, earning an All-Army (Europe) citation in flag football and softball, playing lead guard for the Fort Meade (Md.) basketball team, garnering first-team honors in eight-man football at Fort Meade, and meriting selection to the All-Post baseball team as an infielder at Fort Benning, Ga.

Another measure of fame came Buster's way in 1994, when he was written into the script of an episode for the TV sitcom *Coach* as a backfield prospect for a fictional Division I-A college football team, the Minnesota State University Screaming Eagles. The script writer, Alan Kirschenbaum, was a Clarkstown graduate who was familiar with Buster's athletic exploits and found him suitable in name and talent for inclusion in the episode, titled "Blue Chip Blues."

Buster, who is 62, was born at Nyack Hospital and first lived at Camp Shanks Village in Orangeburg, later residing in the Clarkstown school district section of Nanuet. He moved to California in 1990 and has remained there ever since, currently serving as a civilian nursing assistant and certified massage therapist for the Veterans Administration facility in Menlo Park, Calif. A resident of nearby Belmont, Buster does most of his chair and table massage as a ministry to his community.

The Keyes connection to Rockland County remains strong. One of Buster's three sisters, Gloria, works as a registered nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, and another, Adele, is an educator in Rockland. His other sister, Deborah, was a probation officer in New City who died of lung cancer in 2011.

THE ROCKLAND COUNTY TRACK & FIELD HALL OF FAME

Proudly Salutes

John Stephens – *Red Raider 4-time NYS Shot Put Champ*

Buster Keyes – *Rams' Jumper, Sprinter, Gridiron Great*

Joe McGuinness – *Viking Hoops Ace, AM & TZ Coach/AD*

Michael Coffey – *Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement*

Virgilio Hernandez – *Spring Valley Three-Sport Ace*

Katherine Nowell – *CSHS Swim Star, 3-time NYS Champ*

Ron Morgan – *Congers 5-Sport Whiz, 15 Varsity Letters*

Linda Soto – *NRHS Softball Pitcher, NYS Player of the Year*

Steve Silverberg – *Ramapo's State Wrestling Kingpin*

On your induction into the
Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

KATHERINE NOWELL

Clarkstown South High School
Class of 1978

Katherine Nowell emerged as a champion swimmer in the formative days of the sport in Rockland County and New York State. While Rockland was home to amateur standouts such as national champion Gloria Callen and Olympian Elizabeth Ryan in the 1930s and 1940s, it wasn't until girls' swimming became an officially sanctioned sport in New York State in the mid-1970s that competitive swimming opportunities expanded for high school girls. College scholarships for female athletes, stemming from federal Title IX gender equity policies enacted in 1972, gave further impetus to aspiring champions.

Rockland girls' swimmers forged an enduring legacy beginning in the 1970s, with names such as Patty Dillon, Connie Snedeker, Marianne Milliken, Joni Neuendorf, Jenny Mulderig and Lynn Kennedy forming the foundation for future success. Katherine Nowell was a cornerstone of that grand tradition. All she did was capture three State titles; finish undefeated in every one of her high school dual meet, County and Section 9 races; go 12-for-12 in gold medals in County and Sectional competition in 1976 and 1977; set State records in the 100-yard butterfly, 200 freestyle and as anchor leg on the 400 freestyle relay; and break numerous records in County and Section 9 competition.

It's no surprise she earned High School All-America honors in her junior and senior years for posting one of the top 15 times nationally for her events, or that she was selected Journal-News Female Athlete of the Year in 1978. Later she was an inaugural inductee into the Clarkstown South Hall of Fame and chosen by that organization as the school's top female athlete of the 1970s.

After a decorated swimming career at the University of South Carolina and Ramapo College, Katherine returned to coach at Clarkstown South and guided the 1983 Vikings team to a No. 1 New York State ranking and No. 14 nationally. The 1984 club also ascended to No. 1 statewide during the season and that squad was so well-regarded that it reaped honorable mention accolades in a poll of Journal-News readers of the top high school athletic teams in Rockland from 1960 to 1985.

Katherine started as an assistant coach on the South boys' swimming team in 1981 and later was head coach for Clarkstown district merged teams in both boys' and girls' swimming, finishing her coaching tenure in the early 1990s. While coaching the South girls, she had the privilege and challenge of competing against her mom, Ellen Nowell, who was head coach of the Clarkstown North girls' program.



Katherine got her start in swimming as a 6-year-old living in Atlanta, watching her brothers frolicking in the pool with the North Crest Swim Club and finally overcoming her fear of the water and joining the club team. That first year she won "my most valued memento from my swimming career," a trophy for Most Improved Swimmer. "After that, swimming was all I ever wanted to do," she says. "The pool was my sanctuary. I've loved it ever since."

Born in Coral Gables, FL, Katherine moved with her family in five-year intervals as her father's job with Prentice Hall required. After Atlanta, the Nowell family moved to Dallas and finally settled in New City. At each destination, Katherine flourished in age-group competition. At age 12 she set a national record in the 100-meter butterfly and three years later established a Texas state mark in the same event.

Although in Clarkstown she was not permitted during sophomore year to compete on the high school team due to her participation on a local club team, the Dolphin Aquatic Club, the policy was changed the following year and she swam for both Clarkstown South and the Dolphins. It was a grueling schedule, to say the least. "Club practices were mornings before school and pretty much every afternoon," she says. "I had to juggle making it to both, sometimes skipping club practices for school practice, and vice versa."

The highlight reel for Katherine Nowell was laced with many watershed moments, but one memory stands out above all others: the 1977 New York State championships at West Point, when she set state records en route to victory in the 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle, and anchored a Vikings quartet to second place in the 400 freestyle relay with her best 100-meter split time by a full four seconds. The results were secondary, however, to the feeling of complete relaxation she felt that day, unburdened by expectations or external pressure or having to validate the years of hard work that got her to that point. "I was just doing what I wanted to be doing," she says simply. "It was probably my most comforting day of competitive swimming."

Although she matched strokes with some of the greatest female swimmers to come out of Rockland County, citing in particular Snedeker from Clarkstown North, Mulderig of Suffern and Neuendorf of Tappan Zee, Katherine says she derived the greatest inspiration from the girls she coached, especially the modestly talented members who gave their all every day. "I was as proud of the kid who came in last by a minute in the 500-yard freestyle who never thought they could do it, as I was of any champion I coached. They were a part of teams that made it into no record books but that were the best teams I ever was a part of."

Katherine received a full scholarship to the University of South Carolina and performed admirably for that Division I school, meriting All-America honors for finishing in the top eight in the AIAW National Championships (pre-NCAA days) in three relays, including a third-placing showing in the 200 medley relay. Maybe the most memorable aspect of that effort, though, was the team's 10th-place overall finish in a powerful Division I field, and winning a bet against their coach that they could achieve a top-10 finish. Their reward: earning the privilege of shaving his head.

After transferring to Division III Ramapo College in 1980, Katherine did not miss a beat, churning out All-America citations in six events over two seasons, gaining Outstanding Swimmer honors for the Metropolitan Swim League in 1981, and eventually earning enshrinement in the Ramapo College Sports Hall of Fame. Her most prominent memory of her two-year tenure at Ramapo was the Division III national championship meet in which she swam so many events back-to-back that "I was totally taxed as a swimmer. It was the most grueling day I've ever had in a pool. I left everything I had in the pool that day."

After graduating from Ramapo in 1983, Katherine, who's 55, embarked on a career as a special education teacher, first at the Birchwood School in Clarkstown and then for many years at Monroe-Woodbury High School in Orange County. She resides in Monroe with her husband of 26 years, Terence Burke, and their three children: daughters Alden, 23, and Selby, 21, and son Tristan, 18. Irony of ironies: All but Katherine are non-swimmers, prompting her to quip, "I can't understand how they're a part of my family!"

TAPPAN ZEE

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to all the 2016 Inductees

*With Deep Sorrow on the Passing Away of our
Former Athletic Director & Coach,
Joe McGuinness – May you Rest in Peace*

Go Dutchmen!

JOHN STEPHENS

North Rockland High School
Class of 1989

If it weren't for the late Bob Murphy, John Stephens might never have laid eyes on a shot-put circle, let alone become one of the greatest practitioners of that event in Rockland history. As a ninth grader at North Rockland, John had visions of going out for football in the fall – which he did – as well as wrestling in the winter, and lacrosse in the spring. But during a fall athletic fair for the school's freshmen, Murphy, then the North Rockland weights coach in track, came right up to John, grabbed him by the haunches, and asked if he'd like to try the shot put.

"I looked at him like he had four heads," John said of "Big Murph" Murphy, who died in 2013 after a storied career as a throws coach. "I had no idea who he was. North Rockland lives and breathes football, and he played up the idea of staying in shape for football, lifting weights, doing plyometrics. Once I tried it, I loved track from the get-go. If it wasn't for [Murphy], I would never have gone out for it."

When you're 6-foot-4, 265 pounds and live in the North Rockland school district, it's a pretty safe bet you'll be playing football in the autumn. John certainly made the most of his gridiron opportunities, becoming a first-team All-State defensive tackle and anchoring the line for one of the best teams in school history. But the lion's share of his individual glory came from hoisting a 12-pound sphere farther than the competition, over and over again.

John won four – count 'em, four – New York State shot-put titles, indoors and outdoors his junior and senior years. It's hard enough to win one state championship, never mind four. After the third of those, the 1989 indoor States at Cornell, John traveled overnight by bus to Annapolis, Md., to compete in the National Scholastic championships the following afternoon. He seemed none the worse for the wear, however, winning the national title with a throw of 61 feet 2 inches, not far off his indoor personal best of 61-9.

"That one was the toughest," John said. "Just the look on my dad's face and Bob Murphy's face when I won ... it was the culmination of a lot of things." Besides the state and national crowns, John is justifiably proud of his back-to-back Penn Relays championships – a feat unmatched in that event until 2009.

By the time he was a senior, John's victories seemed like a foregone conclusion. It was only a major story if he lost, but he didn't lose the entire winter and spring. He repeated as Loucks Games champion in the shot and discus, and won Empire State Games gold medals in the shot two straight years, in the summers before his junior and senior years. Among his



other accolades were being named New York State Sophomore Field Athlete of the Year; Bank of New York Winter Athlete of the Season; Journal-News Scholar-Athlete of the Season, and MSG Scholar-Athlete of the Week.

John ranks fifth on the all-time Rockland lists in the shot outdoors (61-10 ½) and indoors (61-9) and in the discus (171-4). His highest placing in the latter event was a runner-up finish at the State meet his junior year.

North Rockland's sovereignty in the weight events, fostered by head Coach Gene Dall and assistant Murphy, already was firmly entrenched when John arrived on the scene. But he certainly gilded the Raiders' reputation as a throwers mecca, along with standouts like Andrew Silberstein, Phil Caraher and Mike Manno. "John was a great kid to work with," Murphy said in 2006, when John was inducted into the Rockland County Track & Field Hall of Fame. "He listened and he knew how to listen. He appreciated everything you did for him. I've been blessed with kids like that."

John, in turn, credited Murphy with finding a way to unlock each athlete's potential differently. He elaborated on Murphy's coaching style when interviewed for his Track Hall of Fame induction in '06. "He approached each person individually. He knew some needed a kick in the [butt] and others needed finesse. I needed to hear things straightforward – 'This is what you're doing wrong.' I respect his knowledge and experience, not only as a coach but as a teacher and person. He brings out the best in you."

John was an honors student at North Rockland, carrying a 93 academic average. He earned a full scholarship – half academic, half athletic – to Syracuse University, where he majored in biology. He chose Syracuse over North Carolina because of the Orangemen's highly respected weights coach, Sandy Burke, who had a good working relationship with Murphy. Early in John's freshman year, however, Burke left Syracuse to become women's throws coach at the University of Florida.

The coaching change stung John. But he responded in typical fashion, challenging himself in the weight room and in practice, and feeding off the intra-squad competition from such talented teammates as Tony Washington (1999 world discus champion), Steve Dering and Chris Hall. John's highlights included Big East Conference titles indoors and outdoors his senior year, and a third-place finish in the IC4As (Easterns) outdoors. His personal best with the 16-pound shot was 57 feet.

John wanted to remain in the Syracuse area after graduating in 1993, so he took a test for the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department in 1994 and was hired in September 1995. He rose to the rank of lieutenant and is retiring from the department with 20 years of service. John will be joining Syracuse University's Department of Public Safety as a patrol sergeant and intends to remain with the department until his two children, Audrey, 10, and Ryan, 8, have completed college. As a Syracuse alum and employee, he will be entitled to have his children attend Syracuse tuition-free.

John, who is 45, lives in the Syracuse suburb of Cicero with his wife of 11 ½ years, Vicki, a New York State court officer, and their two children. John was inducted into the North Rockland Sports Hall of Fame in 2004. "The tradition at North Rockland is tremendous and I'm proud to be a part of it," he says.



Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

MICHAEL COFFEY

Pearl River High School
Class of 2006

During an initial conversation about being honored by the Rockland Sports Hall of Fame, Michael Coffey allowed that "it's a really big surprise, especially that it would happen at this time."

It was only in a second conversation that he let on why the timing was so important.

He had just learned that a friend with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy had been put on a ventilator because of a respiratory issue. The friend, Michael explained, has since passed away, just three days short of his 31st birthday.

"Most of his life was a struggle," Michael says of his friend John, "which he went through without complaining."

His friend's passing, he decided, was a time for introspection in that Michael Coffey, who will be 28 in August, also has Duchenne's, a progressive form of muscular dystrophy caused by a defective gene. It blocks production of an enzyme needed to keep muscles healthy. There's no cure, but medication, therapy and medical advances have lengthened life expectancy.

Michael says the timing of the Joe Holland Lifetime Achievement Award put things into perspective for him.

"I realize I'm really lucky that I get to do what I do," he says. "It also puts me in a position to raise awareness of Duchenne's and be able to inspire others."

Still mobile as a youngster, he was registered for T-Ball, but by 14 he was having trouble with stairs. That's when he slipped and fell on a ramp at home and sustained five compression fractures in his back.

He decided then that it would be safer for him to use a wheelchair to get around.

That hasn't kept him from building on experiences at Pearl River High School to earn a position as an assistant basketball coach and assistant sports information director at Dominican College, where he earned his B.A. in Biology and teacher certification in 2010. He also earned an M.S. in sports management from Southern New Hampshire University in 2014.

At Pearl River High School, partly to earn service credit, Michael assisted the baseball team at home games and then started working with the football and basketball teams, growing into an assistant role with Coach Jerry Houston. His duties included operating the clock for timed practice drills, keeping score at scrimmages, recording stats at games and even scouting opponents using game films and reporting his findings to Coach Houston. By his senior season, Houston says, Michael



was able to offer valuable observations about individual players, fulfilling the role of an assistant coach.

After his 2006 graduation from Pearl River, Michael was manager of the Dominican men's basketball team until his 2010 graduation.

That year, he was honored by the Pearl River High School Sports Hall of Fame with the Tom & Priscilla Lanks Community Service Award, bestowed on the person who has contributed the most to the school's athletics program.

Dominican graduation brought a tough decision – he had to choose between being an assistant at Pearl River and the same role at Dominican.

The offer of a full-time position from Dominican Coach Joe Clinton made the decision easier. Michael has just completed his sixth season as an assistant coach and third as assistant sports information director.

Joe Clinton, himself a Hall of Fame honoree, says Michael does valuable work contributing to defensive game plans for the team. "Mike has been around the game all his life and has a good basketball mind."

There's a lot of hard work behind that, Clinton says. He puts the time in, breaking down opponent tapes, analyzing offenses and contributing to the defensive game plan.

"He comes up with good ideas," Clinton says, adding that although Dominican doesn't play much zone defense, if Michael thinks it's the best way to stop an opponent, it goes into the mix.

Although his wheelchair keeps him from going on the court to demonstrate what he's installing, Clinton says Michael's knowledge of the game has earned the respect of the players. "He's smart and knows what he's doing and he catches their attention."

Michael says he's a constant student of the game. "You have to know and understand what you're talking about before you can pass it on," he says, adding that he wants to learn and digest different coaches' thoughts about the game.

Being able to write and type and use a cell phone and other technology has undoubtedly unlocked opportunities for Michael, who has another role at Dominican he couldn't have at Pearl River.

He reviews tapes submitted by recruits and makes recruiting calls, trying to convince promising talent to come to Blauvelt.

Michael Coffey credits Pearl River coaches Jerry Houston Jr. and Sr. with teaching him the value of game preparation.

Now he says, Coach Clinton has given him the opportunity to put that work ethic into practice at Dominican, the opportunity to grow as a coach and inspire others in doing so.



Congratulations

to all 2016 Rockland County Hall of Fame inductees

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ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME NIGHT
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Proceeds to benefit Mike Rogan, a former Clarkstown North track star recovering from a traumatic brain injury.

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(Danny Sullivan, Rockland County Sports Hall of Famer, Class of 2012)

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on your induction into the

ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME!!

Virgilio Hernandez – Spring Valley
Buster Keyes, Jr – Clarkstown North
Ronnie Morgan – Congers (Posthumous)
Katherine Nowell – Clarkstown South
Steve Silverberg – Ramapo
Linda Soto – North Rockland
John Stephens – North Rockland

Special Praise to:

Joe McGuinness
Player, Teacher, Coach
& Athletic Administrator-RIP

Mike Coffey
Coach & Assistant Director of Sports
Information-Dominican College
Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award



The Dan Sullivan Foundation

12 Lombardi Road, Pearl River, NY 10965 T 845-548-2040

MAY DANNY REST IN PEACE

Michael,

Congratulations on your continued dedication to the world of sports, and inspiring us to be the best we can be as we all journey through life. We are so very proud of you and all the accomplishments you have achieved.

*With Love,
Michele and Matthew*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2016 INDUCTEES!





**THE NYACK H.S. CLASS OF 1952
WISHES TO CONGRATULATE THE 2016 INDUCTEES TO
THE ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME.**

Virgilio Hernandez – Spring Valley
Buster Keyes, Jr – Clarkstown North
Joe McGuinness – Clarkstown South, Albertus Magnus, Tappan Zee (Posthumous)
Ronnie Morgan – Congers (Posthumous)
Katherine Nowell – Clarkstown South
Steve Silverberg – Ramapo
Linda Soto – North Rockland
John Stephens – North Rockland
Michael Coffey – Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

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Adele De Vries	Helen Kefeli	Sally Ann Mock	Patricia Shaw	
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**Deceased but still alive in our hearts.*

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into the
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Special Recognition to
Roosevelt "Buster" Keyes Jr.
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MIKE COFFEY

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On behalf of the Pearl River Basketball Program, thanks for your tireless efforts over the years. Your contributions to the program have been invaluable. You have been a shining example of hard work and character. It has been a pleasure to work with you.

You continue to be an inspiration to players, coaches, officials and all who come in contact with you!

THE HOUSTON FAMILY

Jerry, Kevin, Jean & Jerry, Sr.

THE SPRING VALLEY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

congratulates

VIRGILIO HERNANDEZ

on his induction into
The Rockland County Hall of Fame!

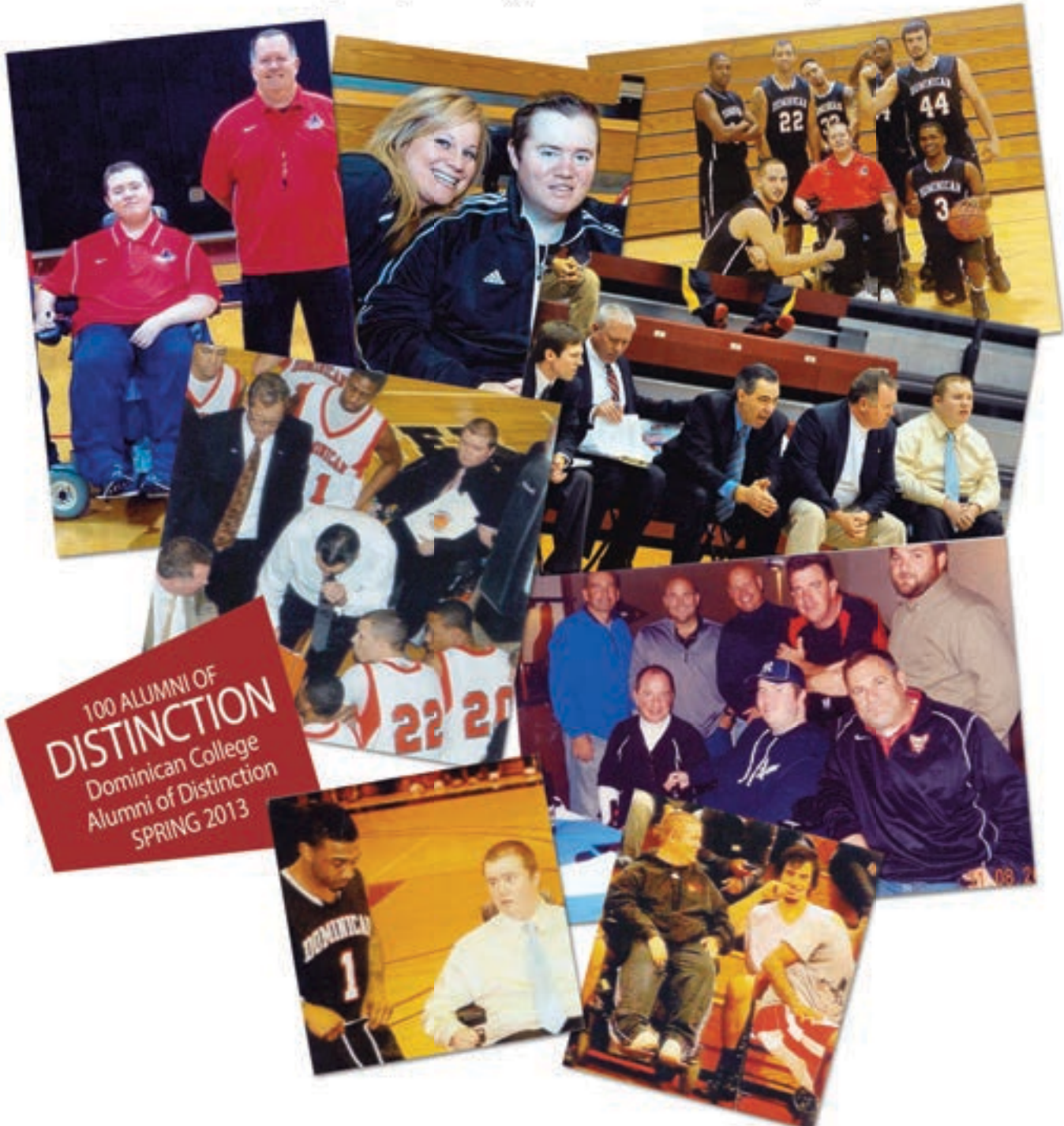


"Once a Tiger, Always a Tiger!"

Congratulations, Michael, on a lifetime of achievements!

Your dedication, enthusiasm, perseverance, and loyalty are the qualities of who you are. We are more than proud.

*Love,
Mom, Dad, Nanny, Grandma & Grandpa*



Congratulations to all 2016 Inductees on your accomplishments.

Congratulations 2016 Inductees



Virgilio Hernandez
Spring Valley

Buster Keyes, Jr
Clarkstown North

Ronnie Morgan *(Posthumous)*
Congers

Katherine Nowell
Clarkstown South

Steve Silverberg
Ramapo

Linda Soto
North Rockland

John Stephens
North Rockland

Special Recognition

Mike Coffey
The Pride of Pearl River
Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

Joe McGuinness
A Great Friend of
Rockland County Sports – RIP

Go Pirates!

TOM DOHERTY

PEARL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

SALUTES

THE 2016 INDUCTEES

INTO THE

ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

VIRGILIO HERNANDEZ – SPRING VALLEY

BUSTER KEYES, JR – CLARKSTOWN NORTH

RONNIE MORGAN – CONGERS (POSTHUMOUS)

KATHERINE NOWELL – CLARKSTOWN SOUTH

STEVE SILVERBERG – RAMAPO

LINDA SOTO – NORTH ROCKLAND

JOHN STEPHENS – NORTH ROCKLAND

Special Praise to

MIKE COFFEY – PRHS CLASS OF 2006

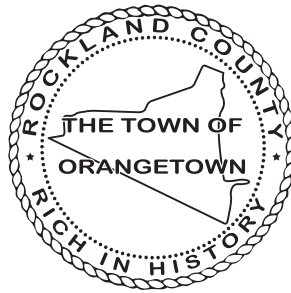
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JOE McGUINNESS – MAY YOU REST IN PEACE!

TODD SANTABARBARA
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

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congratulate
The 2016 Inductees into the
Rockland County Sports
Hall of Fame



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Clarkstown North



CONGRATULATES

BUSTER KEYES

CLARKSTOWN NORTH 1968-1972

**Rockland County Sports
Hall of Fame**

2016 Inductee



**Congratulations from the
Clarkstown North Athletic Department**

Congratulations

to our own

Joe McGuinness

and

Katherine Nowell

and all of the 2016 Inductees



Congratulations to

Buster Keyes

on his induction into the
Rockland County Hall of Fame

*Your incredible speed, athleticism, fellowship,
determination and commitment
have always been an inspiration on the field and beyond.*

with all our love,

Your classmates & friends

Mary, Jim & Nancy, Bonnie,
Barbara & Matt, Sue, Phyllis,
Anna, Judy & Eddie, Laurie,
Suzanne, Patti, Elise, Linda,
Donna, Leslie, Steve G., Alan,
Nancy & Tom, Steve M.





Congratulations

**2016 ROCKLAND COUNTY
SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

Virgilio Hernandez, Buster Keyes, Jr,
Ronnie Morgan (*Posthumous*), Katherine Nowell,
Steve Silverberg, Linda Soto, John Stephens

and to my special friends,

Joe McGuinness

Clarkstown South, Albertus Magnus, Tappan Zee (*Posthumous*)

and

Michael Coffey

an inspiration to us all

Love and Best Wishes,

Tom and Sandy Collins & Family

IN MEMORY OF
JOE McGUINNESS

Thank you for your years of leadership,
dedication and service to
Albertus Magnus High School.

We will never forget your commitment
to our Student Athletes and
the Athletic Program.



THE COACHES AND STAFF
of Albertus Magnus

Congratulations

to the Class of 2016 on your induction into the

ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME!

Virgilio Hernandez – Spring Valley

Buster Keyes, Jr – Clarkstown North

Ronnie Morgan – Congers (posthumous)

Katherine Nowell – Clarkstown South

Steve Silverberg – Ramapo

Linda Soto – North Rockland

John Stephens – North Rockland

Michael Coffey

Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

**Special Recognition to our Fallen Colleague,
Joe McGuinness – May He Rest In Peace**

*Deep Appreciation to the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Committee
for Their Continued Financial Support of the
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Ronnie Morgan – Congers (posthumous)

Katherine Nowell – Clarkstown South

Steve Silverberg – Ramapo

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MIKE COFFEY

*Celebrated for your outstanding achievements
Dedicated and Loyal Coach and Friend
Your enthusiasm is genuine*



*Congratulations to ALL the
2016 Hall of Fame Inductees*

Best Wishes,

Joe and MaryBeth Clinton & Family



Clarkstown North
congratulates
The McGuinness Family
on the induction of
Joe McGuinness
into the
Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

2016 Inductee



A GREAT COLLEAGUE & FRIEND WHO IS DEARLY MISSED
RIP

The North Rockland Sports Hall of Fame

Congratulations to our own

John Stephens and Linda Soto

and our friend

Joe McGuinness

Clarkstown South, Albertus Magnus, Tappan Zee (Posthumous)

and all the 2016 Inductees

Virgilio Hernandez – Spring Valley

Buster Keyes, Jr – Clarkstown North

Katherine Nowell – Clarkstown South

Steve Silverberg – Ramapo

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Michael Coffey

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Coach Joe Casarella, 845-942-3390

Frank Schultz, President, 914-329-3709

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**The Albertus Magnus Class of 1998
Boys Basketball Team
wishes to congratulate all of the 2016 inductees.**

**We will always fondly remember "Our Coach" Joe McGuinness.
His lessons both on and off the court will remain with us forever.**

**Tom Anderson
Kurt Benjamin
Kevin Farrell
John Llave
Raul Lopez
Mark McDermott
Dapo Orafidiya
Brian Rogers
Charles Youn**



Congratulations to all the inductees

We will always remember

Joe McGuinness

for his dedication and commitment

to our three daughters

and to the students of

Albertus Magnus

May he Rest in Peace

Chris and Noreen Power



JOE MCGUINNESS
ROCKLAND COUNTY HALL OF FAME

We couldn't be more proud of you, Joe!

Your legacy for love of basketball and family will live on through Megan, Pat, and Conor, and all those you have touched. You are forever in our hearts and at peace with God.

Congratulations to all the other inductees.

*The Family of Joe McGuinness
thank you for this honor.*



Congratulations

to all of this year's

ROCKLAND COUNTY
SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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Athletic Department

Congratulations Class of 2016

Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

Virgilio Hernandez, Buster Keyes, Jr, Joe McGuinness (Posthumous),
Ronnie Morgan (Posthumous), Katherine Nowell, Steve Silverberg,
Linda Soto, John Stephens, Michael Coffey

Congratulations to the 2016 Inductees of the Rockland County Sports Hall Of Fame

North Rockland's Own
Linda Soto & John Stephens

Virgilio Hernandez Buster Keyes, Jr.
Katherine Nowell Steve Silverberg Michael Coffey
In Special Remembrance of Joe McGuinness & Ronnie Morgan



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THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW ELECTED OFFICIALS**

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The Albertus Magnus Girls Basketball Program

congratulates
The 2016 Inductees to the
Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame
Buster Keyes-Clarkstown North,
Ronnie Morgan-Congers,
John Stephens-North Rockland

Special recognition to:
Joe McGuinness – Our Fallen Leader – RIP
Mike Coffey – Dominican College

We are Proud! We are AM!
GO FALCONS!

Pat Buckley, Head Coach



Congratulations to the 2016 Inductees

Virgilio Hernandez – Spring Valley

Buster Keyes, Jr – Clarkstown North

Joe McGuinness – Clarkstown South, Albertus Magnus,
Tappan Zee (Posthumous)

Ronnie Morgan – Congers (Posthumous)

Katherine Nowell – Clarkstown South

Steve Silverberg – Ramapo

Linda Soto – North Rockland

John Stephens – North Rockland

Mike Coffey – Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

Best Wishes,

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*Congratulations
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Buster Keyes, Jr – Clarkstown North

Joe McGuinness

Clarkstown South, Albertus Magnus, Tappan Zee (Posthumous)

Ronnie Morgan – Congers (Posthumous)

Katherine Nowell – Clarkstown South

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IN MEMORY



Ralph Cordisco



Al Witt



John Hanlon



Achievement
EveryDay

Dominican College congratulates the new inductees to the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

**Virgilio Hernandez - Spring Valley
Buster Keyes, Jr. - Clarkstown North
Joe McGuinness - Clarkstown South, Albertus Magnus, Tappan Zee (Posthumous)
Ronnie Morgan - Congers (Posthumous)
Katherine Nowell - Clarkstown South
Steve Silverberg - Ramapo
Linda Soto - North Rockland
John Stephens - North Rockland
Michael Coffey - Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Sr. Mary Eileen O'Brien, O.P., President
Sr. Kathleen Sullivan, O.P., Chancellor**



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RONNIE MORGAN

STEVE SILVERBERG

JOHN STEPHENS

BUSTER KEYES, JR.

KATHERINE NOWELL

LINDA SOTO

MICHAEL COFFEY

**ESPECIALLY, OUR OWN
JOE MCGUINNESS,
WHO WE GREATLY MISS!**

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NOREEN POWER, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

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