

The Hall of Fame Induction

sponsored by

the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, Inc.



"To foster and promote the game of baseball"

October 25, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Monticello's Restaurant
S. Broad St., Meriden

SAL PUNZO

**Good Luck & Congratulations
on your induction into
the 2017 Southern Connecticut
Diamond Club
HALL OF FAME**

**With all of your endeavors, you
truly deserve what you have
coming.**

**God Bless You with this great
honor**

With much love and respect.

***Mr. and Mrs, Michael Lamberti
& Family***

INTRODUCTION

The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, Inc. is a non-stock corporation which was originally organized in 2005 as an informal organization. Its motto was "To foster and promote the game of baseball." The Southern Diamond Club got its motivation from a prior organization, known as the Greater New Haven Diamond Club. This former organization was founded in 1980, but went into a "batting slump" after 1992.

Thankfully, several former members, along with a group of new dedicated individuals, still believed in the motto, and started the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club in 2005. What these men started has blossomed into a full-fledged network of baseball people helping others enjoy the game. In 2011, the organization went from an informal group of baseball enthusiasts to a full-fledged, non-stock corporation.

In 2005, the club was established with the Whitey Piurek "No I in Team" awards for area high school baseball players. 2008 marked the first Hall of Fame Awards Dinner of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, honoring those who have done great things for baseball in the region. The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club also decided to pay tribute to the Hall of Famers of the disbanded Greater New Haven Diamond Club by inducting them all as Hall of Famers into their own organization.

The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, Inc., has and will continue in its efforts to spread the goodwill of baseball to those fortunate enough to be associated with it. It will continue in its efforts to recognize and award those who have given so much to so many through this great game.

THE ANDREW GASSIRA MEMORIAL UMPIRE'S AWARD



Andrew Gassira was a lifelong resident of the New Haven area, who passed away in October, 1979.

Despite the fact that he had no sons, he spent evenings and Saturdays each year fulfilling his role as League Commissioner, Umpire in Chief, coach and teacher for the 83 teams making up the Hamden Fathers' Baseball Association. He would line up umpires, keep their payroll records, conduct training clinics, attend games, keep performance ratings on his staff and supervise the entire program.

Born in 1922, Gassira graduated from Commercial High School, entered the U.S. Army, was discharged, and then entered J.C.C. College under the G.I. Bill. He graduated from the Baseball Umpiring School in Bartow, Florida, in 1948 and worked with the New York Yankees. He umpired in the AAA Baseball System in Georgia and upstate New York. He then got married and went to work for G & O Radiators where he became a draftsman and worked there for 31 years.

Gassira was a basketball coach for the Trowbridge Rec Center in New Haven and also refereed high school and college basketball.

He umpired in American Legion and Babe Ruth Leagues. He was a member of the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association, the Connecticut College Baseball Association, and the Hamden Fathers' Baseball Association.

PROGRAM

Invocation..... Rev. Owen Sanderson, *Christ Lutheran Church*
Pledge of Allegiance Ed Klinkhammer
Singing of National Anthem Mel Zeidenberg, *SCDC Hall of Famer*
History of SCDC Samuel A. Burrell Jr.
Master of Ceremonies Ned Burt

DINNER INDUCTION CEREMONIES

Induction of the ANDREW GASSIRA MEMORIAL UMPIRE AWARD

Presentation..... Ed Klinkhammer
Acceptance..... Stan Konesky, Jr.

Induction of TONY MENTONE MEMORIAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Presentation..... Sam Burrell and Burt Leventhal
Acceptance..... Bill Rhone

Induction of RICH BALZANO..... Frank Mentone

Acceptance..... Rich Balzano

Induction of WILLIAM "TINKER" BLAKE..... Ron Luneau

Acceptance..... Maureen Blake

Induction of CHUCK BURGHARDT..... Fred Norman

Acceptance..... Chuck Burghardt

Induction of RAY CIARLEGLIO, SR..... Vin Virgulto

Acceptance..... Ray Ciarleglio, Sr.

Induction of JIM PECCERILLO..... Ron Luneau

Acceptance..... Jim Peccerillo

Induction of SAL PUNZO..... Anthony Notarino

Acceptance..... Sal Punzo

Induction of TEAM OF THE PAST: HAMDEN HIGH BASEBALL TEAM OF 1977..... Rich Altieri

Acceptance..... Mike Giordano, Captain

Induction of TEAM OF THE PAST....AMERICAN LEGION TEAM OF 1972 (POST 76)..... Joe Mattei

Acceptance..... Charlie Flanagan

Closing Remarks..... Rose V. Mentone

Benediction Rev. Owen Sanderson, *Christ Lutheran Church*

COMMITTEE

Rich Altieri
Samuel A. Burrell Jr.
Ned Burt
Dan Gooley
Ed Klinkhammer
Burt Leventhal
Ron Luneau
Joe Mattei

Frank Mentone Jr.
Matthew Mentone
Rose Mentone
Fred Norman
Tony Notarino
Vincent Virgulto
Lynair Walker
Mel Zeidenberg

Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award



STAN KONESKY, JR.

Stan grew up in the Hill section of New Haven playing baseball at the Amvets Little League, Sacred Heart in the parochial league and Berra / Rizzuto league. He graduated Notre Dame High School then graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with a Bachelors' Degree in Education and a Masters in Psychological Counseling; then continued his education at the University of New Haven earning a Masters in Criminal Justice. Stan was employed at Branford Police, retiring as a lieutenant after 29 years and then became a lead instructor at the State of Connecticut Police Academy POST, retiring after 13 years.

He has been a member of the New Haven Board of Umpires, later renamed the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association for 51 years. Stan has umpired Little League and founded the first LL umpire school for Branford. During his career he umpired high school, American Legion, Twilight, semi pro and Shoreline Babe Ruth baseball.

His start in umpiring was with the Andy Papero Little League at Davis Street Park. His dad, the late Stan Konesky Sr., later became the umpire in chief. The Konesky family has sponsored the Stan Konesky Sr. Sportsmanship Award for over 25 years at the Papero Little League.

During his umpiring career he organized the "Tournament For A Cure" in 2011 & 2012, which was a baseball tournament at the Connecticut Sportsplex and raised over \$17,000 for the New Haven Chapter for Diabetes. He was extremely proud of the umpires from GNHBUA for volunteering their time every year for the 3 day tournament. This was the first ever involvement of the GNHBUA in such a worthwhile community venture.

Stan organized, designed and had built the first ever Branford Little League two story clubhouse/concession in 1993 raising over \$42,000 with the first year profits exceeding \$17,000.

He has been a member of the Yale Football chain crew for 17 years and presently is their Crew Chief. During his free time he volunteered coaching for numerous youth baseball, basketball and football teams for over 30 years. Some of his other accomplishments:

- Wrote "UMPS – How Police and Umpires mutually deal with Conflict Resolution" for Referee Magazine 2010
- was President of the Walter Camp Football Foundation from 1999-2000 & a member since 1987
- Served as parliamentarian, umpire evaluator and recording secretary of the GNHBUA
- Played for numerous adult softball teams winning the City of New Haven, Branford and other league championships
- Adjunct professor at the Henry C Lee College of Criminal Justice at University of New Haven
- President of the SWKonesky Consulting Firm for police civil liability and law enforcement science

Among the awards he has received are the "Outstanding Executive Award" from the American Football Foundation; "Good Guy of the Year Award" Farnam Neighborhood House; Branford Board of Education Hall of Fame; Connecticut American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year; Branford Little League Outstanding Service Award; and the Branford Chamber of Commerce Humanitarian Award.

Stan lives in Branford with his wife of 41 years, Sandy, and has two married sons, Stosh (Kyle) and Dru (Krisy) ,two grandchildren , Jaeden and Chase and expecting twin grandchildren in October, 2017.

Anthony “Tony” Mentone Distinguished Service Award



BILL RHONE

A graduate of North Haven High School where he played football and baseball, Bill went on to Quinnipiac University where he graduated in 1983 with a BS in Accounting. He later continued his education at the University of New Haven obtaining an MBA in Finance in 1991.

He became President and Owner of Arcade Technology LLC in 1989.

He began his volunteer career in 1998 when he became a head coach in the Hamden Fathers Baseball and Softball Association and continued as a coach through 2011. He has been a sponsor since 1999 and served as Vice President for 12U from 2000-2009.

Bill also served as Central CT Fall Baseball League Director and Coach (2001-2009) and was a CT Bombers 12U Fall Baseball Coach in 2003.

He served the parish of St. Rita’s Church in Hamden as a baseball coach (2008-2011) and softball coach in 2015.

He presently is a West Haven Twilight League Sponsor and Coach since 2014.

Bill is married to his wife Karen and they have three children - Brian (23) Will (20) and Shannon (16)



RICH BALZANO

Richard Balzano is a graduate of North Haven High School and Providence College. He is the owner of RAB Associates in Branford, CT., a manufacturers rep agency of building materials and kitchen cabinets. He began his coaching experience in Branford Little League in 1999; then becoming an AAU coach from 2001 to 2004 before moving on to coach American Legion from 2004 to 2016. He decided to retire in 2016 after 12 years. He is the only coach in Connecticut history to take four teams to the American Legion World Series. Balzano took over the Branford program as coach in 2005 and led Post 83 to a third-place finish in the American Legion World Series in Rapid City, South Dakota that year. Branford was one step away from playing for the national title, having been beaten by eventual champion Enid, Oklahoma, in the loser's bracket final.

In an article in the New Haven Register dated July 21, 2016, Balzano said, "To win the whole thing was not a realistic thing. I had no idea there was a regional tournament or a Legion World Series. To play against so many incredible teams and to take a 6-4 lead in the 8th inning against Oklahoma with a 15-year-old pitcher on the mound (his son Jimmy)."

Two years later, with a number of the same players on the roster, Branford returned to the Legion World Series, winning a game in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Among the stars of those two teams included Mike Olt, who later became the only Post 83 player to appear in a major league game.

In both 2010 and 2013, Branford failed to win a game in the World Series, played in Spokane, Washington, and Shelby, North Carolina, respectively. However, Balzano was a perfect four-for-four in both Connecticut and Northeast regional championship game appearances.

Branford also won or shared the Zone 2 title seven times in Balzano's 12 years at the helm, including six consecutive times during a period from 2010 to 2015. His record in Zone 2 play was 250-59 (80.9 percent winning percentage), including an undefeated season in 2013 when his team finished 27-0 in zone play and 36-3 overall. His overall record, including Junior Legion, Senior Legion regular season games, tournaments and non-zone games since 2004 is 375-79.

The moment Balzano will always remember came with that 2007 team in the first round of the Legion World Series. Branford trailed Bellingham, Wash., 12-10, in the 13th inning and his son, Jimmy, blasted a 400-foot home run off a pitcher throwing 93 miles an hour to tie it.

"They brought in their closer, who pitched for Stanford and Jimmy hits the home run and we win it in the next inning, 13-12," Balzano recalled. "Then we lost to eventual champion Columbia, Tenn."

In his American Legion career, he won five American Legion state championships, four regional championships, four ALWS appearances and named Legion Coach of the Year five times.

He is the father of two sons, Richard and James and grandfather to one-year old Calla.



THOMAS "TINKER" BLAKE
(posthumously)

When Thomas "Tinker" Blake passed away on June 30, 2017 at the age of 60 after a long battle with multiple systems atrophy, the city of West Haven lost one of its finest community members.

"Tinker was my go-to guy for so many years," West Haven athletic director Jon Capone said. "He helped in so many ways behind the scenes to make the athletic department run smooth. Many times I would run things by him before making a final decision. He always had great advice. However, what I will remember most about him was his loyalty and commitment to his family and community."

Blake, also known as the "Voice of West Haven," for many of the school's athletic events, started having issues in May of 2012. After going through months of tests, Blake was diagnosed with MSA in November of 2013. He fought valiantly and was in good spirits up until the end of his life.

Blake was a former coach and board member for the West Haven Youth Hockey Association, as well as the president of the West Haven High School Penalty Box Club. He was also former vice president and coach of the West Haven Little League, former board director and chairman for the Jimmy Fund and West Haven Twilight League, co-chairman of the Savin Rock Festival and founder and past president of the West Haven Football Alumni Association. While he was a long-time employee of SNET and AT&T (1979-2008), and the executive assistant to the Mayor of West Haven (2012-2013), he will be most fondly remembered for his tireless work in the community.

"Some people you just call great guys," long-time radio personality George DeMaio, a friend of Blake's for close to six decades, said. "That would be Tinker Blake. He loved West Haven and he was all about West Haven. He would do anything for you. He was one of the truly great guys, and he was one of the nicest guys you will ever meet."

In a ceremony in May of 2016 prior to a softball game against Hamden, the press box of West Haven's Frank Biondi Field was named in Blake's honor. The softball team went on to defeat Hamden that night with the Blake family in attendance to qualify for the postseason.

"To have my name included at the complex with the names Frank Fitzgerald, Ken Strong, Whitey Piurek, Frank Biondi and Joe McHugh is a great thrill," a touched Blake said at the time. "They are all great Westie icons. This is something I would have never imagined. It is a huge honor. I am totally humbled by it."

Blake, who also served as a coach in the West Haven Girls Basketball League and West Haven Pop Warner football, along with being an assistant football coach at West Haven High, and assistant softball coach at Albertus Magnus College, was also on the West Haven Hall of Fame committee.

Blake was recently nominated to be inducted into the West Haven Hall of Fame this coming November. "He was just a great guy," long-time friend and West Haven's Recreation Program Director Tom Conroy said of Blake. "He is a great Westie. Obviously, him and (wife) Maureen go hand in hand. They are all about West Haven, especially with the kids. He was just a great guy. He would do anything for you."

A 1974 graduate of West Haven, Blake received numerous awards throughout his decorated career, including the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance Good Sport Award, the West Haven High School PTA Unsung Hero, West Haven Twilight League Community Service Award, West Haven Twilight League Program Book Award, Jimmy Fund Award, and the West Haven Football Alumni Association Edward L. Bennett Award for Community Service. Blake was also part of the New Haven Gridiron Club Hall of Fame.

Blake leaves behind his wife of 37 years, Maureen, their three children, Kevin, Erin, and Brittany, son-in-law Mike Bova, and grandson, Blake.



CHUCK BURGHARDT

Chuck Burghardt is a 1963 graduate of Notre Dame of West Haven High School. After high school Chuck served two years of active duty in the U.S. Navy, He received his Bachelors Degree in Social Studies from the University of New Haven in 1972 and earned a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Bridgeport in 1981.

He taught Social Studies at Wilcox Tech in Meriden from 1978 until he retired in 2009. He coached baseball there; and also coach basketball for six years, freshmen boys and junior varsity boys and girls in the 1980's Prior to entering teaching Burghardt was the Sports Editor of the Meriden Record-Journal from 1972-78. In addition to covering high school sports, and pro sports, he covered Yale football and worked three World Series, 1975, 1976 and 1977

Burghardt has been the Lyman Hall baseball coach since 1993. He coached Lyman Hall to the Class L state championship in 2002, their first since 1969. The Trojans finished at 19-6 and were ranked third in the state. Lyman Hall won the SCC Housatonic Division title in 1997 sharing it with Amity and Shelton. It was their first league title since 1966. Lyman Hall has made the tournament numerous times in his career including the past two years while competing in the "toughest baseball league" in the state. Burghardt's 1983 Wilcox Tech Indians won the school's first Meriden City Title going 5-0 vs. Maloney and Platt. They beat the Spartans a third time in the state tourney.

Earlier in his baseball coaching days, Burghardt coached Little League, Babe Ruth and summer league teams. He was the first president of the Greater New Haven Shoreline Hockey League.

He is married to Susan Warfield Burghardt and they have two children, Marlena a 3rd grade teacher in Newport News, Va. and Michael, who is self-employed. The couple will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary in early December.



RAYMOND "RAY RAY" CIARLEGLIO SR.

Ciarleglio was born and raised in New Haven, CT. He attended Sacred Heart Grammar School, Notre Dame High School where he was captain and the leading hitter; and Southern CT State University. He received a BA in Physical Education; a Minor in Biology and a MA in Counseling.

In high school he captained three sports while at Notre Dame, played high school varsity football for three years and was a member of the first All-District Team in 1957. Ciarleglio was the captain of Notre Dame when they won their first District League title in 1958. In 1958, for his achievements on the football field, he was chosen to the All-District Team, the New Haven Register All-State Team and FirstTeam High School All-America Team. Other high school awards included the Campania Club (Joe DeGale) Award, Gridiron Club Award, Dante Club Award, Athlete of the Year, Morro Award, Savitt Award. He was also chosen to the All-District Baseball Team; was voted M.V.P. in the Nutmeg Bowl in 1959.

In college, he played three years of collegiate varsity football at Southern Connecticut State University and was the starting quarterback for all 23 games. He was the second leading scorer in New England (freshmen were not eligible to play). In baseball, he led team in batting average (.410), hits, RBI's and home runs as a sophomore and junior. As a senior, Ray was captain and led team in batting average (.457), hits, RBI's and home runs. Ray's accomplishments provided him an opportunity at the big leagues when Billy Martin gave Ray the chance to play with the Twins after the franchise relocated from Washington to Minnesota.

"I went to Minnesota and played for a month, working out with the parent club, but I was married with a child, so I didn't pursue it to any great degree," says Ray. "It was a great opportunity. It was tremendous. I played with Harmon Killebrew and a lot of great players on the Minnesota team. I was out there with them and it was a tremendous experience with them."

Ciarleglio has taught and coached for the past 52 years, beginning at Notre Dame HS where he served as Assistant Coach for football, basketball and baseball; then Derby High School and Jonathan Law H.S. as football assistant coach; then he went to Central Catholic H.S. in Norwalk as head football coach; then back to Jonathan Law H.S. as head football and baseball coach. Next Ciarleglio served as head football coach at Shelton H.S. and Hamden H.S. From 1993-97 he was assistant football coach at North Branford H.S. where he won first awarding of the Assistant Coach of the Year Award- 1993 Season). In 1997 he moved to assistant football coach at North Haven H.S. where he still coaches.

Ciarleglio is married and the proud father of five boys and two girls, and two grandchildren.



JOHN PECCERILLO

As he was growing up in the West Shore District of West Haven, Jim Peccerillo gained a reputation as a hard-hitting, talented, skilled and quiet member of the athletic community. Born in West Haven, it was soon obvious that he possessed quite a bit of athletic talent and intellectual ability.

While attending West Haven High School, he excelled in football and baseball and served as captain of both teams in his senior year. At the time he was also a classroom standout.

In baseball he was selected on the All-District teams during his sophomore, junior and senior years. In his junior year he led the Westies to a state championship, the second for coach Whitey Piurek. But he is probably remembered best for his exploits on the gridiron where he led the Blue Devils to a state title.

He was awarded the DeGale Annex-YMA Club and citation, the Hilltop Athletic Association Colletta Award as well as the New Haven County Scholar-Athlete Award.

Peccerillo went on to play baseball at Harvard, where he won three varsity letters, was selected to the All-Boston League team and won the school's Unsung Hero citation in 1979. Jim is also a Twilight League Gold Bat Award recipient. He graduated from Harvard in 1978 with a BA in economics and an MBA in 1992 from the University of New Haven. He is currently employed by Unilever Americas in Trumbull.

Peccerillo is active in local politics, having served as a city councilman and is currently chairman of the West Haven Charter Revision Commission.

Married to the former Sandra Kalison, they are the parents of two sons, Andrew and Edward.



SAL PUNZO

Sal Punzo was born and raised in New Haven. He attended Wilbur Cross from 1960-1962. At Cross, Sal was an outstanding baseball player for Coach Larry DePalma. He played on the baseball team for three years and lettered in his junior and senior years. He was an outstanding defensive short stop and an excellent batter.

He finished his Wilbur Cross baseball career with a batting average over .300 and he stole 35 bases. As a senior; he helped lead the Governors to the District League Championship in 1962. Sal was known to give his all in every game, always gracious in victory or defeat. In his senior year, he was chosen as the winner of the Savitt Award for Sportsmanship. Sal was also a member of the bowling team while at Cross.

After graduation from Cross in 1962, Sal went on to New Haven College, now the University of New Haven, and played for the legendary baseball coach Frank "Porky" Vieira. Sal was a member of the inaugural baseball team at New Haven and starter at short stop for four years. He was remembered by Coach Vieira as one of the most hard-nosed players he'd ever coached. During Sal's four years, the New Haven Baseball team compiled a 94-16-2 record. In 1965, he helped New Haven reach the post-season for the first time batting .320 with 41 hits and 20 RBI's. As a senior at New Haven, he was elected captain of the baseball team and helped lead the team to the NAIA College World Series batting .330 with 36 hits and 36 RBI's. He finished his New Haven Career with 130 hits, 70 RBI's, 106 runs and 46 stolen bases. In 2004, Sal was inducted into the University of New Haven Hall of Fame.

After graduating from New Haven College, Sal began his long and distinguished career in education. In 1969, Sal began teaching at Horace Day School. He moved to Hill Central in 1971 and taught grades 3, 4, 5 until 1983. He then became a Chapter 1 teacher at Helen Grant and Barnard schools. In 1985, Sal was appointed to a new administrators mentoring program for one year and then was assigned to BRAMS as an assistant principal. In 1987, he was appointed Principal of East Rock Magnet School where he served for 17 years. He also coached the Richard C. Lee baseball team for eight years. While Sal was principal of East Rock, the school received numerous awards and recognitions. In 2003, the State of Connecticut recognized East Rock as a Vanguard School in recognition of growth on the CMT. Under Sal's leadership, the school received three major technology awards for its website, finished first place in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, hosted a satellite feed for all Connecticut schools featuring President Bill Clinton, received an I Have A Dream Program award, and was featured on the Oprah Winfrey show for a Multiple Intelligence Study.

Individually, Sal has been recognized for his outstanding service in the field of education. In 2004, he was nominated Principal of the Year from the New Haven Public Schools. He received the New Haven Athletic Pride Award in 2003, the TAPS Award in 1999 and the Grandparents Award in 1998. He also was recognized as the Chapter 1 Principal of the Year and received the Connecticut Shootout Award.

Sal is currently a Consultant at Nathan Hale School working with Principal Tara Cass and Assistant Principal Scott Voisine. He also serves as the President of the Annex Little League and Co-Founder of the East Shore Travel League. Sal resides in New Haven with his wife, Carmela. He has two sons, Sal and Michael, as well as six grandchildren.

TEAM OF THE PAST- HAMDEN HIGH BASEBALL TEAM OF 1977



Row 1: R. Diana, A. Naples, B.Kuchar, R. Andreozzi, M. Giordano (capt.), P. Ciardiello, G. Saslow, B. Kranich, R. unaro. Row 2: T. Veno (mgr), R. Monaco, J.Mullally, S. Colantonio, . F. Raio, S.Smith, J.Roche, M.Lorenz (mgr) Row 3: Head Coach R. Hartmann, Asst. Coach V. Virgulto

After barreling through the regular season 18-0, with an 18-6 win over West Haven to clinch the District League, the Hamden High baseball team of 1977 then swept through the CIAC tournament, beating Notre Dame in the quarterfinals, Westhill in the semifinals, and then completing their undefeated season with a win over New Britain 9-3 to claim the 1977 championship with an undefeated season.

Under the inimitable coaching of Ray Hartmann and his assistant Vin Virgulto, the team was paced on the mound by captain Mike Giordano, who ended the regular season with nine wins. After the first seven wins, Giordano had a 0.68 ERA and a record-breaking zero walks in 25 innings. The other starting pitcher was Bill Kuchar, whose ERA was just over 1.00. Leading batter was junior Richie Diana, who after the first seven games, was hitting at a .580 clip with five homers and 18 runs scored. Shortstop Rich Andreozzi and Diana at second base were called by Hartmann "two of the best outfielders in the state." With a scarcity of natural infielders, the Dragon coach needed them where they would help the team the most. "You've got to have your best athletes in the infield," he said, "and that's why they're there."

In the final game of the season against Notre Dame of West Haven, which they won 20-0, the Dragons were led by the bats of Kuchar, Rich Funaro and Glenn Saslow. Going into the tournament, the Green Dragons had outscored their opponents 204-24.

As the team awaited the start of the CIAC tournament that year, their coach had high praise for them. The starting lineup read like a "Who's Who" among state baseball players. "And I'm tough on kids' averages," Hartmann was quick to point out, 'There are no gifts.' Second baseman Richie Diana was batting .433 with nine homeruns, 20 RBIs and 12 of 13 stolen bases; third baseman Rich Funaro, batting .362, 25 RBIs; pitcher-outfielder Bill Kuchar, batting .397, 31 RBIs; pitcher-outfielder Mike Giordano, .426, 31 RBIs. Then there was shortstop Rich Andreozzi, batting .403; catcher Pete Ciardiello (.321); first baseman Al Naples (.403) and outfielder Glen Saslow (.397). The starting pitching had the one-two punch of right-hander Giordano, who had given up only six walks in 66 and a third innings and had an ERA of 0.54, teamed with left-hander Kuchar, who worked 56 innings and owned a 2.10 ERA. Also contributing were Steve Colantonio and Bill Kranich who platooned in left field and Mark Mordecai on the mound.

**TEAM OF THE PAST -
AMERICAN LEGION TEAM OF 1972
(NORTH HAVEN POST 76)**



Front Row:j.Mattei (Coach), D.Fonda, T.Jermine, E.Ardito, D. Ciercieski, B. Vanacore,
SecondRow: W.Eddy, K.Gormley, T.Chiari, S. Kesses, P. Sibiga. Bac Row: S.Matthew,
R.Frigon, D. Salovitz, D. Prodoti, J. Cipollini, L. Verdi (Coach). Missing from photo: Bat
Boy J. Matthew

The Murray-Reynolds Post No.76 team from North Haven became the New England Region 1 Champions in 1972 with a record of 26-2 under the head coaching of Joe Mattei. They won the crown in four straight games at Keene, N.H.

In 1972, Mattei had four pitchers he could go to: Dave Ciecierski, Kevin Gormley, Wayne Eddy and Steve Kesses. In the infield were Steve Matthew, Dom Prodoti, Dave Salovitz and Phil Sibiga while Brad Vanacore was catching. In the outfield were Ed Ardito, Kesses, and John Cipollini. Dave Fonda and Tom Jermine were reserve infielders and Tom Chiari was a reserve outfielder. The regional tournament began as North Haven rallied to beat the host team 8-6, and ended with an 8-2 victory over Portland, Maine. In between, Post 76 had to hustle to beat Milford, MA in a come-from-behind game 12-9, when the left-handed Eddy saw his only pitching action of the year in winning relief of starter Kevin Gormley. Next, North Haven edged past Portland in their first meeting, 2-1, with Kesses the winning pitcher. Ciercieski, the team's number one pitcher and the winner of the first game, finished off with the final victory and had an 11-0 won-lost record.

In the national Tournament in Memphis, Tenn., North Haven, without the help of Ciercieski who hurt his arm in the final game in Keene, beat Puerto Rico in its opener, 8-2, then lost to El Cerrito, CA and Ballwin, Missouri both by 7-2 scores. Ballwin went on to become the national champion.

In the eight state and regional games North haven played in 1972, Post 76 scored 77 runs; they scored 89 runs in 11 games, if you count the three games played in Memphis.

(Thanks to article written in Nutmegger North by Bill Moore, Aug. 3, 1976)

**PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE ANDREW GASSIRA MEMORIAL UMPIRE'S
AWARD**

- 1980** HENRY ROCHE
- 1981** ANTHONY "PEACHES" LOMBARDOZZI
- 1982** JOSEPH MURRAY
- 1983** FRED GHIRARDINI
- 1984** JOHN SUSKI
- 1985** JACK GARRITY
- 1986** GEORGE KLIVAK
- 1987** PAUL SWORDS
- 1988** RUDY RAFFONE
- 1989** EDWARD RAPUANO SR.
- 1990** WILLIAM MAHON
- 1991** ANTHONY F. MENTONE
- 1992** ARNOLD MANN
- 2008** WENDELL GOLDSMITH
- 2009** ED KLINKHAMMER
- 2010** RICH ALTIERI
- 2011** BILL RICCIO
- 2012** JOHN "BUDDY" CHERNOVETZ
- 2013** FRED NORMAN
- 2014** TONY GINNETTI
- 2015** RALPH BERNARDINI (posthumously)
- 2016** ELMER DESCHAIINE



PREVIOUS INDUCTEES OF THE GREATER NEW HAVEN DIAMOND CLUB

1980

"JUMPIN" JOE DUGAN
FRANCIS "HUCK" FINN
FRANK MCGOWAN
WALTER "POP" SMITH
"SMOKEY" JOE WOOD

1981

STEPHEN S. OBRIEN
JOHN "WHITEY" PIUREK
DANIEL Y. STEWART
RICHARD TETTLEBACH
GEORGE WEISS
WEST HAVEN TWILIGHT LEAGUE
EDWIN CANNAVAN
COL. HERB METCALFE
ED "SHRIMP" FLYNN

1982

WILLIAM "BILL" AHERN
EMMONS BOWEN
DR. JAMES MOORE
FRANK "SPEC" SHEA
MATTHEW "POP" SHORTELL
JOHN VIETCH

1983

DOM AITRO
ART CECCARELLI
RAY LEGENZA
PHIL MCLEAN
ED WILSON

1984

ROBERT BARTHELSON
JOSEPH DEGALE
KENNETH MACKENZIE
JAMES SHEEHAN
FRANK VIEIRA

1985

RAY HARTMANN
BOB DEMAYO
RAY TELLIER
E. BOWENS B.R. LEAGUE
JOHN WHITE
JOHN DAUGHAN

1986

NEW HAVEN CARDINALS
VITO DEVITO
PASQUALE "PAT" PANZA
EDWARD TORELLO
JOSEPH "JOE" YOTCH

1987

GENE CASEY
A. BARTLETT GIAMATTI
ROBERT "BOB" GREENWOOD

1988

GEORGE KLIVAK
JAMES F. "DOC" GILHULY
ROBERT NEUBAUER
EDWARD IRONS
CARL TUFTS

1989

VINCENT CARBONE
WILLIAM DOUGLAS
HENRY HANK" LUZZI
JOSEPH M. MATTEI
MICHAEL "MICKEY" MILICI

1990

SAM BURRELL
JOE TONELLI, SR.
PAUL "TOPSY" DEL GOBBO
AL "DOC" AGUZZI
ANDREW GASSIRA

1991

PHILLIP DEL VECCHIO
JUDGE JAMES DOHERTY
JOSEPH BENANTO
GEORGE HANCHETTE
REV. MATTHEW ROBERT SHANLEY

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND
CLUB

2008

TOM FAHY
GENNARO "JERRY" GAMBARDELLA
ED GOLDSTONE
DAN GOOLEY
BURT LEVENTHAL
MEL ZEIDENBERG

2009

JOHN L. CARUSONE
"AUGIE" GARBATINI
ED RAPUANO, JR.
VINCENT VIRGULTO
GEORGE WADLEY

**PREVIOUS INDUCTEES OF THE
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB**

2010

GEORGE GRANDE
WARREN HOWE
ED LEWIS
ANTHONY MENTONE (posthu-
mously
KEN PERRONE

2011

SCOTT BURRELL
VIN DILAURO
JOE GUGLIELMO
ED MAROCCO (posthumously)
OWEN SANDERSON
TOM YANKUS

2012

JON CAPONE
MIKE FREDA
RICH MARAZZI
MIKE REILLY
DAVE SOLOMON
ERNIE "MANNY" WILLIAMS

2013

JIM "BUTCH" ABEL
JOHN ANQUILLARE
DAN FORD
EARL MATHEWSON
BOB MORAN
TONY NOTARINO

2014

ROGER BEALE
HAMDEN PLAINSMEN
NOEL KINSKI
BILL MARIONI
PAT PAULSON
PHIL "SKIP" SCARPELLINO

2015

1954 HAMDEN MEDICS
SAL COPPOLA
PFC. EDWARD DUEL (posthumously)
MIKE GIORDANO
FRANK KAFKA
MIKE VACCA

2016

MATT ALTIERI
DICK JEYNES
MIKE LAMBERTI
JOHN STUPER
ED SYLVIA

**PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE
TONY MENTONE
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

2010 FRANK MENTONE JR.
2011 EDWARD C. "NED" BURT
2012 DAVE RUOTOLO
2013 SAL COPPOLA SR.
2014 STEVE PACELLI
2015 ROSE V. MENTONE
2016 ROBERT "PAT" MAILHOUSE
(posthumously)



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The logo for Whitney Donut features a stylized coffee cup on a saucer. The cup and saucer are rendered in black outlines. The background behind the cup is divided into four colored quadrants: green (top-left), yellow (top-right), blue (bottom-left), and red (bottom-right).

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HAMDEN CT 06518

248-9095

Congratulations to all
the Award recipients and
their families



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AMATEUR BASEBALL SINCE 1933

THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB HALL OF FAME HONORS THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE GAME OF BASEBALL IN THE LOCAL GREATER NEW HAVEN AREA.

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HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to All the Recipients!

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Fax: 203-265-3566

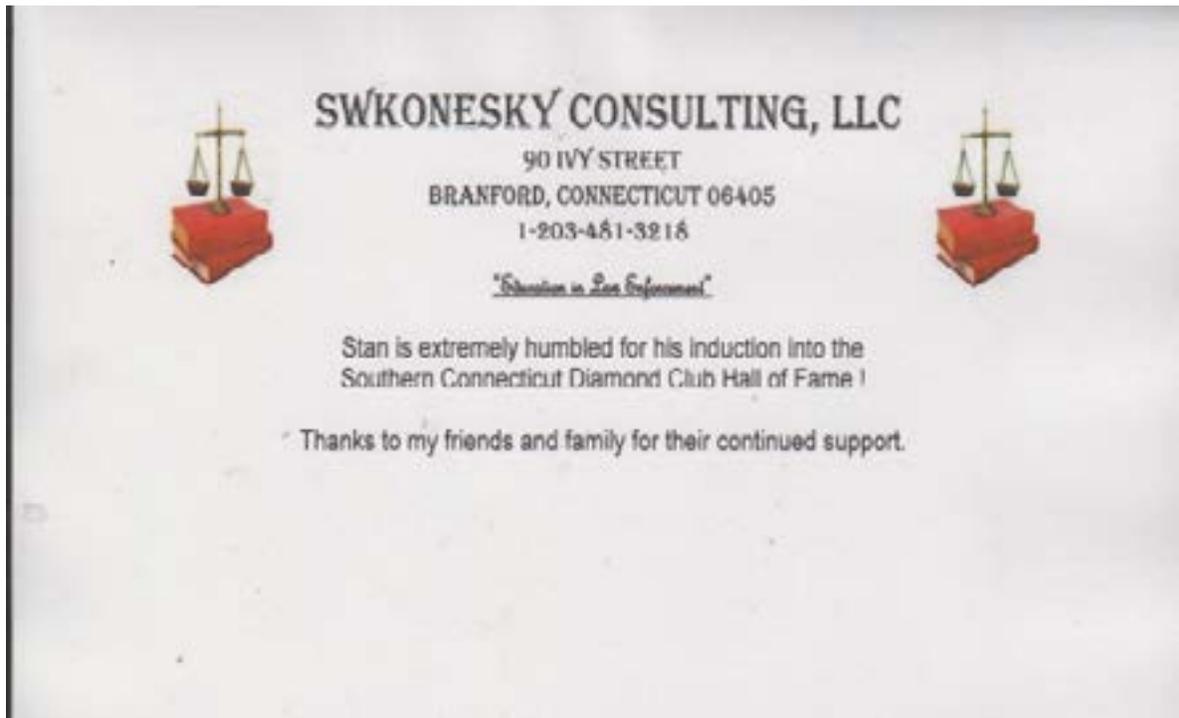
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO
BILL RHONE
AND
THE 1977 HAMDEN HS BASEBALL
TEAM**

HAMDEN ATHLETICS

GO DRAGONS!!!



Congratulations to all
of “the baseball best”
and our brother

STAN KONESKY, JR.



**Greater New Haven Baseball
Umpires Association**

Congratulations to all award
winners of
the Southern Connecticut Diamond
Club's
Hall of Fame
from
Samuel A. (Sam) Burrell, Jr.
Founding Father
Greater New Haven Diamond Club

**WALTER POP SMITH
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL**

***congratulates
the
2016
Hall of Fame Inductees
Southern Connecticut Diamond Club***

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ALL
AWARD WINNERS**

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BASEBALL INC.***

***NEW HAVEN AMERICAN
LEGION***



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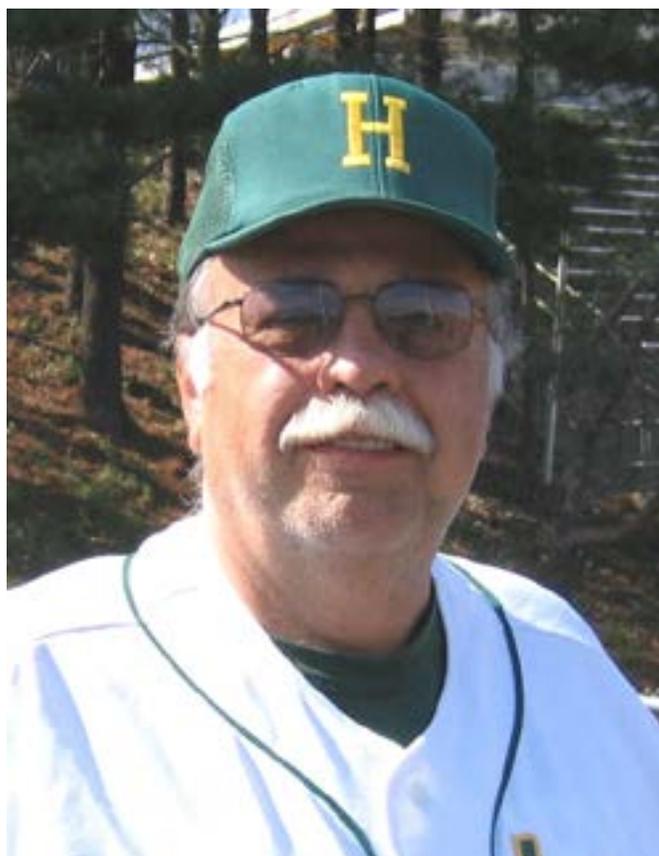
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ANTHONY F. MENTONE



NOVEMBER 9, 1945 - OCTOBER 20, 2009

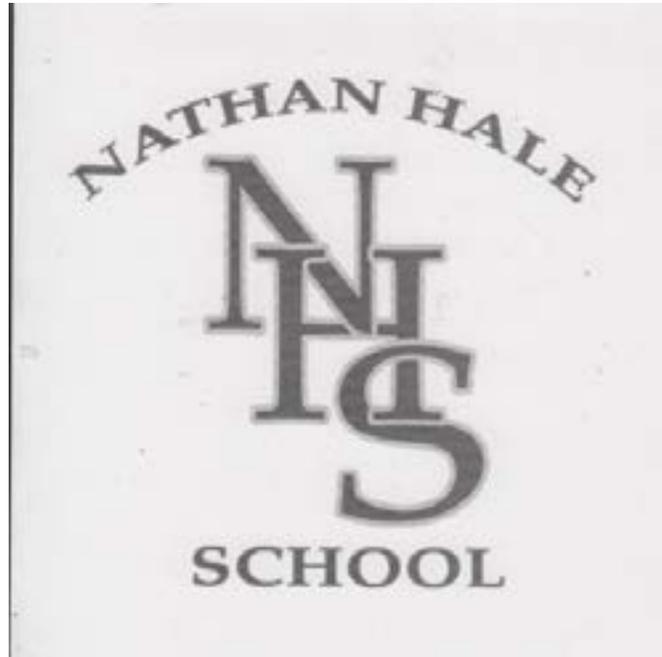
Volunteer baseball coach for Hamden High School
Assistant district administrator for CT District 4 Little League
Former treasurer and rules interpreter for CT District 4 Little League
Member, Greater New Haven Umpires Association since 1963
Former president, GNHBUA
Sub-varsity assignor, GNHBUA
Former umpire-in-chief for Hamden Fathers' Baseball Assoc.
Member, National Babe Ruth Umpires Association
Former vice president of Greater New Haven Diamond Club
Recipient, Andrew Gassira Umpire of the Year Award



COMPLIMENTS
OF



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HAMDEN, CT 06514



**Sal,
Congratulations on your well-
deserved Hall of Fame induc-
tion. Thank you for all you do
for the students and staff of
Nathan Hale School.**

**Your Nathan Hale School
Family**

To see a list of all inductees, or to nominate someone to our Hall of Fame, go to our website:

www.southernctdiamondclub.org

and please “like” us on
FACEBOOK

**For photos of tonight’s dinner,
go to
www.diamondclubbaseballdinners.shutterfly.com**

Also, if you buy through AMAZON, consider going through AMAZON SMILE, where your purchase earns the SCDC a small profit percentage. Just type in SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB for name of charity.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
TOM “TINKER” BLAKE**

and

**JIM PECCERILLO
BOTH FROM THE
CLASS OF 1974**

***FROM ALL YOUR
FRIENDS AT
WEST HAVEN
HIGH SCHOOL***

*CONGRATULATIONS
TO
COACH JOE MATTEI
AND THE
1972 AMERICAN
LEGION TEAM
POST 76
FROM THE
TOMAHAWK CLUB*

Congratulations

Sal Punzo

on your induction into

The Southern CT Diamond Club Hall of Fame!

Your love and passion for the game of baseball
has truly made a difference at the Annex Little
League!

*We thank you for your dedication and
service!!*

Annex Little League Board of Directors

CONGRATULATIONS

SAL PUNZO

ON YOUR

INDUCTION INTO

THE SOUTHERN CT DIAMOND CLUB'S

HALL OF FAME

Your love of baseball began playing at the Annex YMA Little League sixty years ago. Your baseball journey continued through your high school years at Wilbur Cross High School and then on to your college years at the University of New Haven. After leaving a lasting baseball legacy, your career in education began.

Throughout that time, your profound love of the game transitioned you from player to coach. You coached at Lee High School in New Haven where you mentored so many of the city's youth, all while raising your own family. You were brought back to the Annex Little League to coach your own sons, and then again years later to coach your grandsons. At this time you became President of the Annex Little League and Co-founder of the East Shore Travel League, where you have remained for the last eight years.

Your presence, character, influence and love of the game have had a direct impact on so many young players as they are being taught the game of baseball.

We, as your family, could not be prouder of you and your accomplishments!

WE LOVE YOU!!

**Carmela, Sal & Jen, Michael & Amanda, Tyler, Tucker, Tristan, Tatum,
Tanner & Leo**

**CONGRATULATIONS SAL PUNZO
ON YOUR INDUCTION**

LOVE,

TONY AND CARLA NOTARINO

**CONGRATULATIONS
STAN KONESKY, JR.**



***FROM
JOSEPH DENDAS***

GOOD LUCK

SAL PUNZO

FROM

EAST SHORE

TRAVEL LEAGUE



Congratulations Mr. Punzo!

Thank you Sal for all the fine work you do for our neighborhood and the entire city.

We appreciate your many great contributions to our community!



All the best,
Al Paolillo, Jr.