

Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame
Presented by the Cactus Jack Foundation



2008 Induction Dinner
Friday November 28, 2008
Port and Starboard, Ocean Beach
New London, Connecticut

The Cactus Jack Foundation

The Cactus Jack Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1989 as a grass roots charity to benefit individuals, families and other charitable organizations in need throughout SE Connecticut. Cactus Jack was a free spirit, who for many decades gave countless hours of his time to people from all walks of life. He was a firm believer in giving something back, and not in small doses. It is with his spirit of community that the foundation is named.

Cactus Jack's memory and spirit were honored each year from 1989 through the mid-1990s with a softball tournament that attracted teams throughout New England and the Northeast. Since 1997, the foundation has held the annual Cactus Jack Charity Golf Classic. In 2002, the foundation joined with The ARC of New London County as co-sponsors of the annual Jack O'Keefe Strides for the Handicapped Road Race. Also in 2002, the foundation started the Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame. In March of 2004, the foundation added the Cactus Jack Foundation St. Patrick's Day Dinner to its fundraising events.

The mission of the foundation is to aid individuals, families and other charitable organizations in need throughout SE Connecticut, and to honor the memory of people that lived their lives giving back to the community in the same spirit of Cactus Jack himself.

The Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame

Founded by the Cactus Jack Foundation Inc. in 2002. Two classes have been inducted to date, in November, 2002 and in November, 2004. Both classes were inducted in ceremonies held at the Port and Starboard, Ocean Beach in New London.

Class of 2002

Howard Christensen
Richard Cipriani
Gerard Rousseau
Francis Sweeney

Class of 2004

Bill Gardner Sr.
Arnold Holm
Jan Merrill Morin
Gary Swanson
Joan Van Ness

2008 Induction Dinner - Program of Events

6:00 PM Social Hour

7:00 PM Welcome

John Ryan, Cactus Jack Foundation
Dan Steward, Waterford 1st Selectman
Anthony Gigliotti, Program Emcee

Presentation of the Arnold Holm Awards:

David Sousa, Waterford High School

2008: Jen Ward
Matt Tuneski

Invocation: Todd Gigliotti

Dinner

Hall of Fame Inductions

Inductee: Norman Tonucci
Presenter: Jim O'Neill

Inductee: Joe Carey
Presenter: Marlene (Morth) Wiggins

Inductee: Karen Mullins
Presenter: Hank Daniels

Inductee: Gene Sutera
Presenter: Anthony "Bud" Joyce

Inductee: Ron Bugbee
Presenter: Paul Eccard



Waterford Pre-Teen Basketball

**congratulates the 2008 inductees to the
Waterford Athletic Hall Of Fame!**

**We applaud you on your many
accomplishments and thank you for
your contributions to Waterford
Athletics!**

**WPTB is available for Boys / Girls, ages 7 – 12.
Boys Sr. League is available for ages 13 – 16.**

**For more information, please visit our website
at www.eteamz.com/waterfordhoops**

**Congratulations to the 2008
Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame
Inductees!**



**“Where the tradition begins”
World Series 1980, 2002, 2003**



Congratulations to the Class of 2008!

We are proud of your accomplishments!

Sportee's
at Utopia Centre
262 Boston Post Road
Waterford, CT 06385

The Arnold Holm Award

Presented to the outstanding male and female athletes at Waterford High School.

Jennifer Ward

Jen Ward graduated from Waterford High in 2008 with high honors and is currently attending UConn on a softball scholarship. She is an outstanding athlete having lettered in soccer, gymnastics and softball since her freshman year as well as being captain in all three sports. She was one of the top High School athletes in the graduating class of 2008 in Connecticut. Jen received All-ECC honors in gymnastics for three years (grades 9, 10 and 11), All-ECC honors in softball all four years and All-ECC honors in soccer for three years (grades 10, 11 and 12). In addition, she received All-State honors in gymnastics for three years (grades 9, 10 and 11), All-State honors in softball for three years (grades 10, 11 and 12) and All-State honors in soccer her senior year. Jen was honored with the ECC Sportsmanship Award her junior year. Outside of athletics, Jen volunteered for community service at L&M Hospital, Connecticut Coast Soccer Camp, Heavy Hitters USA and ALS Cup for Lou Gehrig's disease. During her High School career, along with outstanding academic and athletic achievements, Jen worked part time at various jobs. One of the most prestigious awards Jen received was the CAS/CIAC Scholar Athlete Award for Waterford High School. Jen will always be recognized as one of the top female athletes who graduated from Waterford High School.

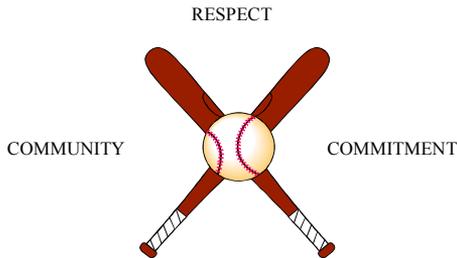
Matthew Tuneski

Matt Tuneski graduated from Waterford High in 2008 with honors and is attending Dickinson College where he is playing baseball. Matt excelled in varsity baseball and basketball which he played all four years. He was selected as captain for both sports which is a great accomplishment and showed the respect that Matt earned from his coaches as well as his fellow players. During Matt's senior year, both the baseball and basketball teams went to the finals in the CIAC State Tournament where he started at short stop on the baseball team and shooting guard on the basketball team. You can directly correlate the effect of Matt's leadership and play in being a major part in getting Waterford High to the finals in both sports. Outside of athletics, Matt held a position as Vice President in Class Council his junior and senior years. He also was a member of the Student Council for all four years. Matt volunteered for community service for the Neil Hoelck Basketball Tournament, the Slammas Jamma Basketball Camp, the Batter-Up Baseball Camp and the Strides for the Handicap Road Race. He was involved in the Tutoring Club where he helped tutor students in his junior year. Matt was selected to attend the CIAC Sportsmanship Conference and attended the Anti-Bullying Coalition Conference. Matt will always be remembered for his hard work and dedication along with his big smile.

*Congratulations to the
2008 Inductees and
Award Recipients*

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**Congratulations to the 2008 inductees
to the
Waterford Athletic Hall Of Fame!**

**In loving memory of our wonderful
brother and uncle, Gene Sutera.
You touched our lives in the most
positive of ways and you continue to
do so every day!**

The Padgett Family



Norman Tonucci

Norman Tonucci is a 1984 graduate of Waterford High School. He was born in New London and raised primarily in Waterford. His baseball talent was evident and noticed early on. He played Little League Baseball in New London Little League. He then played for Waterford Babe Ruth where he was selected as an All-Star in each of his three years in the league. He began playing for the New London American Legion team as a 14-year old (minimum age to qualify to play for an American Legion team). This was quite a testament to Norman's abilities on the baseball field as the New London American Legion team was a perennial league champion and had many players that wanted to play for them. By the time he reached Waterford High School, Norman was being scouted by colleges and by professional scouts.

Norman made an immediate impact as a Freshman in 1981 and was a four year starter for the Lancers. Norman was a member of the 1981 Class L Championship team and the 1982 Class L State Runner-Up team.

Norman hit 30 career home runs while at WHS and still owns the following single season school records:

Batting Average - .525

Runs – 54

Hits – 52

RBI – 37

Total Bases – 92

Slugging Pct. - .929

Stolen Bases – 22

Norman achieved many individual accolades during his time at WHS including being named a member of the Connecticut All State team in his junior and senior years. He was named to the USA High School All American team in 1984.

Following graduation from WHS in 1984, Norman was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 13th round as the 214th player picked overall. Norman played in the Blue Jays organization for 6 years as a third baseman. He earned the 1984 Most Valuable Player award of the Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada Rookie Ball team. Norman was named one of the top ten prospects for the Blue Jays in 1985 and 1986. In 1985, Norman played in Single A ball in Florence S.C. and was voted the most popular player by the fans. In 1986, Norman was a major contributor on that team as they won the South Atlantic championship. Norman was promoted to AA in Knoxville, Tenn. in 1987 and then promoted to AAA Syracuse, N.Y. where he played from 1987-1989. Norman made the Blue Jays 40 man roster in 1987 & 1988. He ended his professional career with a total of 120 career Home Runs.

Norman and his wife of 20 years, Samantha, have 2 sons Tyler and Corey. He has been employed by the Mohegan Tribe for the last 10 years, currently at Pautipaug Country Club.

Awards / Recognition

1983, 1984 – Member of Connecticut All-State team

1984 – Member of USA High School All American team

1984 – MVP of Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada Rookie team

1985 – Voted Most Popular Player for Florence, SC

Single A League team

Norman is being presented for induction by Jim O'Neill.



Joe Carey

Joe Carey was born in Norwich and raised in New London for the majority of his young life. He graduated from the former Bulkeley High School in 1946 where he played basketball and football. After graduation, Joe served in the United States Army from 1946 – 1948 where he was stationed in Alaska and played on several Army all-star basketball and baseball teams. Upon his honorable discharge, he first attended Admiral Billard Academy and then UConn at Fort Trumbull playing football at both places. He played summer baseball in the Morgan League and was offered a contract from the Boston Braves organization but decided to remain in college. Joe married the former Doris Brouillette in 1951. Joe worked for a short time at both Electric Boat and Michael's Dairy before he began his long career at The New London Day newspaper in 1956. Joe worked as a pressman for the The Day until his retirement in 1987.

Joe began an over 30 year commitment to youth sports in 1965 by coaching several sports including YMCA Pre-Teen Basketball (10 years), Waterford Little League South (7 years) and Waterford Pee Wee Football (5 years).

During the years from 1969 – 1979, he coached many other youth sports teams including teams at Waterford Babe Ruth, Waterford Recreation and Parks Girls Softball/Basketball, St. Mary's 8th grade Boys Basketball and New London High School Freshman Baseball. He was also an assistant varsity football coach under Jim Buonocore at New London High School from 1973 – 1977. Joe coached the Boys and Girls Basketball teams at Clark Lane Junior High School from 1983 – 1993.

Joe is perhaps best known as the founder and longtime (20 years) Varsity Softball coach at Waterford High School. Joe started the softball program at WHS in 1976 and enjoyed tremendous success until he retired as coach after the 1996 season. Joe's WHS softball teams won 5 ECC conference championships and played in the state tournament in 17 of his 20 seasons. In 1983, Joe guided his team to the school's first and only State Championship completing the season with a record of 19 – 6. His 1983 – 1985 teams posted an incredible record of 63 – 9 over those 3 seasons winning 2 ECC championships and 1 State Championship. Joe achieved his 300th career win on May 13th, 1996 versus St. Bernard. His overall softball coaching record at WHS over 447 games was 304 – 143.

Joe Carey passed away on August 22, 2000. Joe always took great pride and enjoyment in coaching but knew it would not have been such a rewarding experience for him if it weren't for the many incredible assistant coaches he worked with and the talented players who played for him over the years. If Joe were alive today, he would love to still be coaching and would do so with the great enthusiasm, knowledge and justice that was characteristic of his coaching style.

Awards / Recognition

1975 – New London High School Appreciation Award
1975 – New London YMCA Scottie Award
1983 – New London Day Coach of the Year
1984, 1985 – Coach of CIAC Tournament All-Star Team
Member of New London K.C. Sports Hall of Fame

Joe is being presented for induction by his former WHS softball player and family friend, Marlene (Morth) Wiggins. His son Peter Carey, will accept on his behalf.



Karen Mullins

Karen Mullins is a 1973 graduate of Waterford High School. Upon graduation, Karen attended the University of Connecticut, earning a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1979 and a master's degree in sports management in 1980. She was a standout basketball and softball player as an undergraduate and was awarded the UConn Senior Athletic Medallion from the University upon graduation. Karen was named the Head Coach for UConn softball in 1984. Success has become an annual occurrence with UConn softball since that time. Establishing an overall coaching record of 743-472-5, with a record of 733-462-5 over her 25-year career with the Huskies, Karen has played a major role in the tradition of excellence celebrated by the UConn

softball program. Karen is one of the most successful coaches in the nation having led UConn to eight trips to the NCAA Tournament (only appearances in program history), including 5 consecutive appearances from 1989-1993, one Women's College World Series appearance in 1993 and to dominance in the Northeast Region and BIG EAST Conference. Her UConn teams have advanced four times to the NCAA regional championship game (1989, 1992, 1993 and 1995), winning the NCAA regional title in 1993 en route to its berth in the Women's College World Series. UConn has emerged as a perennial power in the BIG EAST Conference. Since BIG EAST softball tournament play began in 1990, the Huskies have won seven of the 15 conference tournament championships and have been the runner-up four times. Since BIG EAST regular season round robin play started in 1992, Connecticut won all four regular season championships from 1992-1995 when the league crowned an overall champion. The Huskies have posted a record over .500 or above in all but three seasons of her tenure, with 25-plus wins in 16 of her 25 seasons. Karen celebrated two milestones during the 2007 season. She won her 700th career game as a collegiate coach with a win over Santa Clara on March 4 in the Santa Clara Bronco Classic and followed that up with her 700th career win at UConn with a win over Villanova on April 21. Always stressing the importance of academics with athletics, Karen has seen 96 percent of her softball student-athletes earn degrees in her tenure. Of those graduates, nearly half have attained Dean's List status

Awards / Recognition

1989,1990,1993 – NFCA Division 1 Northeast Coach of the Year
1992 through 1995,1997 – BIG EAST Softball Coach of the Year
1999 - Connecticut Scholastic and Collegiate Softball Hall of Fame Inductee / Coach of the Year
2001 – UConn coaching staff named Speedline NFCA Northeast Region Coaching Staff of the Year

Karen is being presented for induction by Hank Daniels.



Gene Sutera

Gene Sutera was born and raised in New London where he attended local schools and graduated from New London High School. After graduation, Gene worked at Electric Boat and then volunteered for the US Army, serving three years. He was Honorably Discharged from active service in 1958 and returned home to work at Electric Boat where he would remain employed for 40+ years. On June 17, 1961, Gene married the former Annette Bonanno. The couple settled on Grabner Drive in Waterford and raised three children, David, Peggy and Doreen.

In 1970, Gene began his long commitment to giving back to Waterford's youth by managing a minor league baseball team in Waterford North Little League ("WNLL"). This began a 33 year commitment to WNLL which saw Gene serve in nearly every facet of the league including as coach, manager, purchasing agent, schedule coordinator, project coordinator and Vice President. Gene served as WNLL President from 1983 – 1988. In 1973, Gene was actively involved in WNLL's founding of the area's first girls softball league. In 1979 Gene Sutera and Art Marsden formed the Waterford Senior Softball Program for girls ages 13 – 16, again, a first in the area and Gene served as the Program's chairman for nearly every year of its existence.

Along with several other committed volunteers, Gene was instrumental in securing the land and building the fields at the Neil Hoelck Complex in Quaker Hill where Gene has the distinction of having had two fields named after him. In 1996, WNLL honored Gene by naming its new lower field “Sutera Field.” WNLL opened its 2004 season by changing “Sutera Field” back to the “Lower Field” and officially designated its main softball field as “Gene Sutera Field.” In 2003, Gene organized and supervised the renovation and dedication of the Lisa Dedrick Memorial Field in Waterford for use by the Senior Softball League. While his commitment to WNLL is well known, he also coached in the Waterford Babe Ruth League, the Waterford Boys Pre-Teen Basketball League and coached the Waterford High School Freshman softball team with his daughter Peggy. In 1980, Gene and others started the Waterford Girls Pre-Teen Basketball League. Gene was a league coach for over 20 years, coaching his daughter Doreen and eventually two of his granddaughters.

Gene Sutera passed away on July 19, 2003, leaving behind a legacy of volunteerism that touched the lives of two generations of Waterford’s youth. A friend of Gene’s put it best when he wrote; “I know in my heart that Gene is in Heaven, where the grass is always green, it never rains and every kid gets to play”.

Awards / Recognition

1993 - State of Connecticut Citation for Commitment to
Waterford Preteen Basketball League

2002 - District 10 Little League Lifetime Achievement Award

2003 - Waterford Citizen of the Year (Awarded Posthumously)

Established 2003 – 2005

Gene Sutera Baseball Tournament – WNLL

Gene Sutera Memorial Fund (\$2,500 in awards to date)

WNLL - Gene Sutera Scholarship Fund (\$6,000 in awards to date)

Gene Sutera Basketball Award (WHS Girls Basketball Award)

Gene is being presented for induction by his brother-in-law and good friend, Anthony “Bud” Joyce. His son, David Sutera, will accept on his behalf.



Ron Bugbee

Ron Bugbee is a 1962 graduate of Waterford High School. An outstanding young athlete, he was an All-Star in New London Little League and in Waterford Babe Ruth. In his early years at WHS, grades 7 – 9 were grouped together and Ron played on the 7th grade basketball team and the “varsity” baseball team for Waterford Hall Of Fame members Fran Sweeney and Gerry Rousseau. WHS changed format in 1960 to include grades 9 – 12. Ron played varsity baseball in 1960 (team played in State Championship Game), 1961 and 1962 (team won the ECC championship). Ron was named co-captain of the baseball team in the 1961 / 1962 seasons along with Waterford Hall Of Fame member Arnie Holm. Ron played in several area baseball leagues in the summers, including the Morgan Park League, Norwich League, Electric Boat League, Niantic American Legion and with The Vagabonds. Upon entering UConn, Ron played freshman

baseball in the Spring of 1963 before injuring his hand in the fall of 1963 which forced him to miss the 1964 season. Ron played for the UConn varsity team in 1965 as they won the Yankee Conference championship, NCAA East Regional and played in the College World Series. Ron played at UConn for 2 more seasons and was also selected to play in the prestigious Cape Code Summer League in 1965 / 1966 where his teams won consecutive league championships. Ron was voted Cape Code League MVP in 1965.

Ron served his country in the United States Army from 1968 – 1970, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged after serving 13 months in Vietnam and was awarded the Army Accommodation Medal for his service.

Ron began a long and distinguished career in Waterford Recreation and Parks in the Spring of 1971 as he was granted an internship by Director Hank Daniels. Ron applied for the vacant position of Assistant Director and was hired in that role in May of 1971. Ron applied for and was hired for the position of Director of Recreation and Parks in 1978. He continued in that role until his retirement in April, 2003 after serving the town for 32 years. Some of the accomplishments during Ron's tenure as Director:

- Purchase of Stenger Farm Park
- Completion of The Leary Park Complex
- Increase in the number of recreational programs offered
- Creation of the central maintenance facility (Civic Triangle)

Awards / Recognition

1986 - 1988 – Secretary of New England Park Association
1988 - 1990 – Vice President of New England Park Association
1990 - 1992 - President of New England Park Association
1996 – 2002 – Treasurer of CT Parks Association
1965 – Cape Code League Most Valuable Player
Member of the Niantic American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame

Ron is being presented for induction by Paul Eccard, his long time Assistant Director of Recreation and Parks.

**Congratulations on your induction
into the
Waterford Athletic Hall Of Fame!**

Thanks for the memories!

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