John Mendes Jr graduated from Hamden High School in 1971. Upon graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army and served 2 years in the 8th Infantry Division in Germany. He was employed by the Hamden Public Works Department for 35 years. John retired as the Assistant Director of Public Works in 2006.

Mendes began volunteering as a coach for Hamden Fathers’ Baseball and Softball Association in 1982 and remained a coach until 2004. He served on the association’s Board of Directors for 22 years. In addition to sponsoring a team (1992-2004), he also served as League Director, Fields Director (1986-2004)and Equipment Vice President (1997-2004) for Hamden Fathers’ Baseball and Softball Association.

Mendes has also served as president of the Connecticut Owls AAU program from 2006-2009 as well as assist coach for 2 years. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Hamden Youth Hockey Association for 10 years (1990-2000).

Mendes lives in Hamden with his wife, Sharon. They are the parents of Karalyn (Jason) Orsini, John and Dan and grandparents of Jason”JJ” Orsini Jr.