



Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame

4th Induction Dinner
Friday November 26, 2010
Port N' Starboard at
Ocean Beach
New London, Connecticut

Presented by



The Cactus Jack Foundation

The Cactus Jack Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that had its origins in 1989 as a grass roots charity formed to aid individuals, families and other charitable organizations in need throughout Southeastern Connecticut. Ed "Cactus Jack" Evento 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. Cactus Jack was an inspiration to many and it is with his sense 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. 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 formed 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 Southeastern Connecticut. The foundation is proud to be able to give back to the community in the same spirit as Cactus Jack himself.

2010 Induction Dinner - Program of Events

6:00 PM ***Social Hour***

7:00 PM ***Welcome***

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

Invocation: Todd Gigliotti

Presentation of the Arnold Holm Awards

Gene Ryan / Rik Little, WHS

2009: Katelyn Flanagan
 Michael Shelburn

2010: Mattie Brett
 Colin O'Keefe

Dinner

Hall of Fame Inductions

Inductee: Liz Mueller
Presenter: Bill Kane

Inductee: Glenn Rupert
Presenter: Bill Caldrello

Inductee: Marlene (Morth) Wiggins
Presenter: Jim Cavalieri

Inductee: Warren Swanson
Presenter: Gary Swanson

Inductee: Dave Sousa
Presenter: Jim Cavalieri



Waterford, Connecticut

The Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame

The Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame was founded by The Cactus Jack Foundation in 2002 to honor those who have made special contributions to Waterford athletics, as a player, coach, administrator, supporter or community volunteer.

This is the 4th Induction Ceremony with others being held in 2002, 2004 and 2008.

The Waterford Athletic Hall Of Fame Selection Committee welcomes anyone who is interested and feels passionate about the many special people who have contributed to Waterford athletics. If you are interested in serving on this committee, would like to nominate a person for induction into the Hall of Fame, or would like to provide feedback, please contact the committee at cactusjackfndation@att.net

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

Class of 2008

Ron Bugbee
Joe Carey
Karen Mullins
Gene Sutera
Norman Tonucci



The Arnold Holm Award

This award honors Arnold “Arnie” Holm, a Waterford High School graduate, Class of 1962. The following terms were often used to describe Arnie Holm in his time at WHS:

- * A tremendous leader and extremely competitive
- * Mature beyond his age, he was a man among boys
- * He was a scholar athlete

At WHS, Arnie earned 4 varsity letters in both baseball and basketball, and 3 varsity letters in football (there was no varsity schedule in his freshman year). He was named Co-Captain in baseball in his junior and senior years and Co-Captain in basketball and football in his senior year.

He was named All-ECC first team a total of ten times.

Arnie was awarded the very first athletic scholarship in the history of Springfield College. He left Springfield to join the U.S. Army. While in the Army, the words that were used to describe Arnie were:

Bravery, Heroism, Courage and Honor.

He advanced from Private to Captain in 9 years; He was named as the outstanding recruit of his training class. He was an infantry man, tank commander and helicopter pilot. He received over 90 letters of accommodation. Arnie was awarded two Bronze Stars, two Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Purple Hearts for his service in the Vietnam War.

Arnie’s helicopter was shot down and he was killed on June 12, 1972. He is the highest ranking officer that has not yet been brought back home from the Vietnam War.

Arnie Holm was a man of incredible character, a person of great integrity, dedicated to his family, his friends, his school, his country and his God.

Arnold Holm was one of us. He was the best of the best. A real American hero. Arnie has brought tremendous honor to Waterford High School and the Waterford community.

The Arnold Holm Award

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

2009

Katelyn Flanagan
Michael Shelburn

Katelyn Flanagan

Katelyn played soccer and softball at WHS all 4 years and was named Captain of both teams in her senior year. The soccer team had a successful season in her senior year finishing 8-4-4. She played forward and scored 6 goals. The softball team went 20 – 5 that season. Katelyn led the team in nearly every offensive category. Her season was highlighted when she hit a 2-out, 2-strike, 2-run, walk-off home run in extra innings to give her team a 5-4 victory in the State semifinals. This sent the team to the Finals where they won the first State Championship for WHS since 1983. Katelyn was named Co-MVP of the team, earned the ECC Sportsmanship Award and was named to The Day All-Area 1st-Team. Katelyn is now attending the University of New Hampshire where she is playing club softball and is majoring in Kinesiology Pedagogy.

Michael Shelburn

Michael Shelburn played football, basketball and baseball at WHS all 4 years and was named Captain of the football and baseball teams in his senior year. He capped off an outstanding High School career by receiving the following in his Senior year: Named as the National Football Foundation (SE CT chapter) and Hall of Fame Scholar Athlete from WHS, received the Lancer Achievement Award for Outstanding Football Performance, Academic Achievement and School Leadership, honored by The Connecticut Association of Schools for Student Leadership and was awarded both a Chris Potvin Scholar/Athlete award and the Bill Jerome Award and Scholarship for baseball. Michael is a member of the National Honor Society. He is now attending Penn State majoring in Life Sciences.

The Arnold Holm Award

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

2010

Mattie Brett
Colin O'Keefe

Mattie Brett

Mattie Brett played soccer, basketball and softball at WHS all 4 years and was named Captain of each team in her senior year. She was a vital part of the 2009 and 2010 softball teams that won back-to-back State Championships for the 1st time in school history. She was named All-ECC and All-Area for 2 years in soccer and All-ECC and All-Area for 3 years in softball. In her senior year, Mattie was named All-State in softball as well as named the WHS female athlete of the year, a CIAC female scholar athlete of the year and an Academic All-State selection. In addition, she served as Student Council President and is a member of the National Honor Society. Mattie is now attending Endicott College where she is playing softball and majoring in Physical Education.

Colin O'Keefe

Colin O'Keefe played basketball for 3 years and baseball for 4 years at WHS and was named Captain of the baseball team in his senior year. Colin excelled in baseball as a pitcher and centerfielder and capped off an extraordinary high school baseball career by leading Waterford to the State Championship game in his senior season. He was named All-ECC and All-State in his junior and senior years. In his senior year, he was named the State Player of the Year by the CT High School Coaches Association, The Norwich Bulletin and The New Haven Register. Colin was also named as the prestigious Gatorade State Player of the Year and Louisville Slugger State Player of the Year. He also earned Rawlings Honorable Mention All-American status. He is now attending Virginia Tech where he is playing baseball and majoring in Business.

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***Congratulations Dad
and the other
Inductees and
Award Recipients!***



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**Congratulations to this year's
Inductees and Award Recipients!**



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Liz Mueller

Liz Mueller was born and raised in Waterford and graduated from Waterford High School in 1993. She attended Mitchell College graduating with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Psychology. She received a Master's Degree of Education in 2008 from Springfield College with an emphasis in clinical mental health. She currently lives in Western Massachusetts and works for a community mental health organization as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor.

Liz began her athletic career by participating in town basketball and softball leagues as well as in the renowned Hershey Track & Field program. At WHS, she excelled in cross-country and indoor / outdoor track. During that time she won multiple Conference, Class, State and New England titles. This included an amazing sweep of the ECC, CT Class M and CT State Open championships in all 3 sports! She also won the New England Regional cross country championship 4 times and the New England Regional indoor / outdoor track championships 3 times.

In 1991, she achieved the highest honor a high school cross country runner can attain by winning the Kinney Shoe – Foot Locker Cross Country National Championship. In that same year, Liz won the National Junior Olympic 800m championship and was 800m Runner-Up in the TAC Junior National Track & Field Championship. Liz remains one of the most accomplished track & field athletes in school history.

In 1998, Liz became interested in the sport of boxing. It didn't take long for her to establish herself and become a successful boxer. In 1999, she won a National Amateur Boxing Championship, a silver medal in the 1st international boxing competition for woman and was a Gold Gloves Champion. Liz turned professional in 1999. She competed in 10 professional fights, culminating in her winning the IWBf World Lightweight Championship in 2001.

During her time as a professional boxer, Liz became interested in community health and the community mental health field. She began working for the New London Health Department in the HIV counseling/testing program which fueled her desire for higher education in the field of social work and counseling. Through her current work as a counselor with a local mental health organization, she helps a number of people work through issues critical to whole-person development.

Awards / Recognition

- 1989 – 1993: 4-time ECC, CT Class M, CT State Open and NE Regional Cross Country Champion
- 1989 / 1993: 4-time ECC, CT Class M and CT State Open Indoor / Outdoor Track Champion, 3-time NE Regional Champion
- 1991: Kinney Shoe / Foot Locker National Cross Country Champion
- 1999: National Amateur Boxing Champion / Gold Gloves Champion
- 2001: IWBf World Lightweight Boxing Champion

Liz is being presented for induction by Bill Kane.



Glenn Rupert

Glenn Rupert came to Connecticut from Pennsylvania in 1965 and began his coaching career by starting a youth wrestling program at Clark Lane Junior High School. The following year, he was named the Head Coach at Waterford High School. Due to the youth program that Glenn started, more incoming freshman started coming out for Wrestling at WHS and the program began to grow. Glenn knew that to fully grow the program, his team would have to wrestle the most competitive teams in the state, which at that time were found in the Southwestern part of CT. He became friends with the late Rod Leyland, the coach at Ledyard and a future CT and National Wrestling Hall of Fame member. Glenn and Rod decided to seek entry into the prestigious Staples Invitational in Westport. Though this was not the easiest route and that success measured by victories would take time, their thought was that the valuable experience gained by wrestling the best teams in the state would enable their teams to reach their goal of becoming conference and state champions.

By the early 1970s, Glenn's hard work began to pay off. Waterford won the first ECC Wrestling tournament in 1971. Waterford teams would continually stay competitive in the ECC and would go on to become State Runner-Up 4 times and State Champion in the 1985 season. In Glenn's 20-year tenure, Waterford produced 44 ECC Champions, 9 Sectional Champions, 24 Class M / Class L State Champions and 9 State Open Champions. The State Wrestling Coaches poll began in 1983 and Glenn's Waterford teams finished 9th in 1984 with a 17-6 record, 9th again in 1985 with a 16-7 record and 3rd in 1986 with a record of 18-3. Glenn's overall coaching record was 201-124-3, a winning percentage of .615.

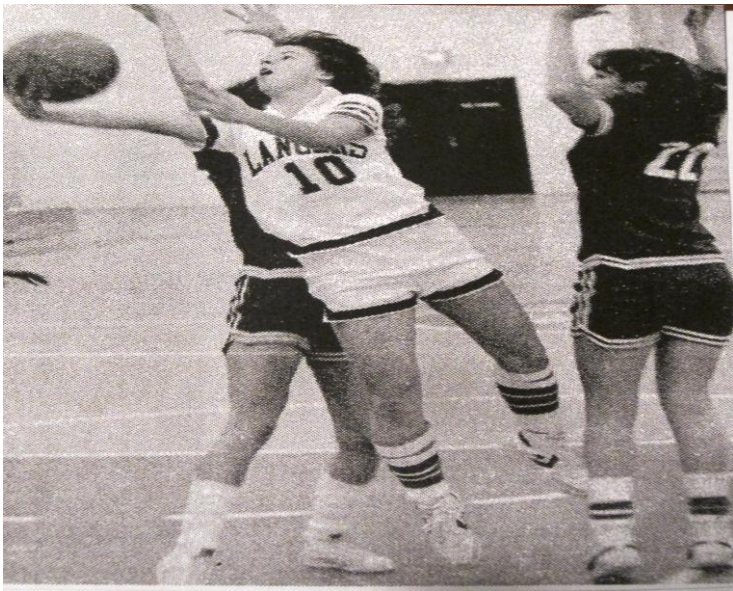
After his coaching career at WHS, Glenn stayed active in CT Wrestling. He was appointed State Chairman for CT by the National Wrestling Federation and served in that role for many years. During his tenure, Waterford hosted the CT National team twice and Glenn served as an Assistant Coach for the team 5 times, travelling to Iowa for the National Freestyle and Greco Roman Championships. Glenn also stayed involved in local Wrestling by serving on the CIAC Wrestling Committee for 4 years.

Glenn would like to thank all who had a hand in his success, including Mr. Francis X. Sweeney, his assistant coaches, the advisor for the GAPW and all of the Wrestlers who had the courage to stay and participate in a most grueling and demanding sport.

Awards / Recognition

- 1982: Voted Connecticut Coach of the Year by his peers
- 1987: Nominated for National High School Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association
- 1987: Honored for 20 years of outstanding service by the United States Wrestling Association
- 2005: Inducted into the Connecticut and National Wrestling Hall of Fames

Glenn is being presented for induction by Bill Caldrello.



Marlene (Morth) Wiggins

Marlene (Morth) Wiggins attended Waterford High School from 1980 to 1984. As a freshman, her athletic presence had an impact immediately on both the basketball court and softball field. Her positive influence lasted well beyond her four years of high school as Marlene was the type of athlete that made her teammates better as they followed her approach to the game. Her accomplishments place her at the top of the list of female athletes of her time.

As a basketball player, Marlene quickly impacted the program as she became the starting point guard as a freshman. She was named All-ECC in 1982, 1983 and 1984. In her senior year, Marlene averaged over 24 points per game and became the all-time scorer in WHS history with 1,334 points (which was before the implementation of the 3-point line). That year, she earned First Team All-State and The Day's Player of the Year honors.

Marlene started every softball game in her WHS career, which totaled 96 games.

Her career batting average was .446. She was named All-ECC and to The Day's All-Area team all four years. She was The Day's Player of the Year in 1984. She earned All-State honors in 1982, 1983 and 1984. Her team won the state championship in 1983, the first in the program's history.

During Marlene's senior year, she was offered full athletic scholarships to many Division I schools, eventually committing to the University of Rhode Island. Marlene had an outstanding freshman year at URI. In basketball, she was selected to the Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team, was a McDonald's Classic 1st team selection and was named URI's freshmen MVP. In softball, she started all 41 games at shortstop and made 1st team All-Atlantic 10 Conference. Unfortunately, in her sophomore year, Marlene had a career ending knee injury the day before her first basketball game.

Marlene is the daughter of Lawrence Morth and the late Catherine "Punkin" Morth. Marlene has a brother, Mark, and a sister, Michelle Broccoli. She is married to Mark Wiggins, and they have three children: Justin and wife Monica, Luke, and Allie. Marlene has been active in youth sports, having coached softball and pre-teen basketball in town. Presently, she is the JV field hockey coach at WHS. Marlene works at Quaker Hill Elementary School as a paraprofessional working with special needs children.

Awards / Recognition

All-ECC: 1981 - 1984 (softball); 1982 - 1984 (basketball)

All-State: 1982 - 1984 (softball), 1984 (basketball)

N.L. Day All-Area: 1981 - 1984 (softball), 1984 (basketball)

N.L. Day Player of the Year: 1984 (softball, basketball)

1985: 1st Team All-Atlantic 10, McDonald's Classic 1st Team, URI Freshman MVP (basketball), 1st Team All-Atlantic 10 (softball)

1992: Inducted into the CT Scholastic and Collegiate Softball Hall of Fames

Marlene is being presented for induction by Jim Cavalieri.



Warren Swanson

Warren Swanson was born and raised in East Hampton, CT and graduated from East Hampton High School. He went on to graduate from Springfield College in 1958, earned a Master of Arts Degree from UConn in 1961 and a PHD from Heed University in 1976. Warren began a long career of teaching and instructing in 1954 at Mitchell College and then as the only civilian Department Director at the Naval Submarine School at the Groton Sub Base. While serving at the Naval Submarine School, Warren was responsible for over 22 years of curriculum and 800 instructors. Among many impressive accomplishments in that role, Warren was selected by the United States Armed Forces to train the Peruvian Navy and Marines in teaching methodology, was selected as the U.S. Navy representative to NASA and co-authored many training manuals for the U.S. Navy.

Warren started a long and successful career in athletics by coaching at Mitchell College. At Mitchell, he was an assistant basketball coach for 4 years and the head coach of tennis for 3 years and of soccer for 10 years. His tennis teams won 2 New England championships and 1 Regional championship.

Warren is best known for his knowledge of and coaching ability in the game of soccer. He has dedicated himself to coaching and promoting soccer traditions at the local, state and national level for the last 53 years. At Mitchell College, his teams won 8 New England Championships, finished as National Runner-Up twice and won 2 National Championships, while also setting a Junior College record of 38 consecutive wins. Warren also coached at Waterford, Ledyard and St. Bernard's High Schools. His love of soccer went beyond coaching as Warren helped establish soccer programs in many area towns, including founding and serving as President of the Waterford Soccer Club. Along with Vic Spera and Dick Chapel, Warren was instrumental in obtaining the use of and clearing the land for "Spera Field" which is the home of the WSC. On a state and national level, Warren started the CT Soccer Coaches Association (CSCA), the Junior College Soccer Coaches Association (JCSCA), served in every role for the National Soccer Coaches Assoc. of America (NSCAA) and was appointed to develop the first Olympic development plan and team, a role for which he was reappointed for 17 years. He has received a commendation from the NSCAA and has a State Cup named for him. In a nutshell, Warren is "Mr. Soccer" to the many soccer players and fans in Southeastern CT and beyond.

Awards / Recognition

Member:	Mitchell College, Junior College and CT Soccer Hall of Fames
Coach of the Year:	Awarded by the CSCA and CJSA
Life Member:	NSCAA, CSCA and CJSA

Warren is being presented for induction by his son, fellow Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame member Gary Swanson.



Dave Sousa

Dave Sousa is a lifelong resident of Waterford, graduating from Waterford High School in 1974. He went on to college where he received his Associate's degree in business from Mitchell College in 1978, his Bachelor's degree in Physical Education / Health from Slippery Rock University in 1980 and his Master's degree in Adaptive Physical Education from Southern CT State University in 1987. He married the former Debbie Barnard, his college sweetheart, in 1980 and they raised 3 children: Zachary, Colby and Tyler.

Dave has been very involved and excelled in athletics throughout his entire life, whether as a player, coach or administrator. As a player at Waterford High School, he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. He was selected the MVP of the 1973 football team which ended up ranked 6th in the state, going undefeated with a record of 9 - 0. Dave started on both offense and defense and had 9 interceptions. He was selected 2nd team All-New Haven Register. In baseball, Dave set school records for home runs, doubles, RBIs and times at bat.

Dave went on to play baseball and basketball at Mitchell College in New London. He was a starting guard on the basketball team for 2 seasons. Dave excelled in baseball where he enjoyed a tremendous career. He had the 3rd highest batting average in the nation during his freshman season. Dave was selected as an “All-New England 3rd Baseman” in each of his seasons at Mitchell. He set 5 school records, including graduating as the all-time leader in batting average (.418).

Dave moved on to a very successful teaching and coaching career after college. He taught for 20 years at Bacon Academy while also serving as Athletic Director for 7 of those years. He began a very successful coaching career as well, both at Bacon Academy and home at Waterford High School. He coached varsity football at WHS, producing 8 winning seasons and 2 ECC Championships. Dave made history by being part of both undefeated football teams in school history by leading the 2000 team to a 9-0-1 record and their 1st ever appearance in the State Football Championship game. Dave also coached Golf teams at both schools, winning 2 ECC and 5 COC Golf Championships. He also coached basketball at Bacon Academy winning 2 COC Boys basketball championships. Dave is currently the Athletic Director at his alma mater, Waterford High School.

Awards / Recognition

- 1973: 2nd team All-New Haven Register Football, Waterford High School MVP
- 1976 - 1978: All-New England 3rd base selection
- 1994: Awarded Coach of the Year by the National Football Foundation
- 1996: Inducted into the Mitchell College Hall of Fame
- 2006: Awarded the Retired Coach Award by the National Football Foundation

Dave is being presented for induction by Jim Cavaliere.



The Cactus Jack Foundation salutes this year's Inductees and Award Recipients! Congratulations on an honor well-deserved!

We would also like to thank all of the members of the Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame for your contributions to Waterford Athletics and the fond memories that you have given to the Waterford community!

Thanks to the Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee for another outstanding job and for your dedication in honoring those who have made special contributions to Waterford Athletics!

Finally, a big thank-you to all of you for your constant support of The Cactus Jack Foundation. We could not do what we do without your help and generosity. It is truly appreciated!



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