



Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame

7th Induction Ceremony
Friday November 23, 2018

Langley's Restaurant at
Great Neck Country Club
Waterford, Connecticut

Platinum Sponsor

The Mortimer Family
and



The Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame would like to thank the Mortimer family and GNCC for their wonderful support of our efforts to honor those who have made special contributions to Waterford athletics. In addition to helping us with the induction ceremony, their support helped us reach a goal of a permanent location to honor the members of the Hall of Fame. A perpetual plaque is now displayed outside the Francis X. Sweeney Field House at Waterford High School to serve as a lasting memory of the inductees.

2018 Induction Ceremony - Program of Events

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

7:00 PM ***Welcome***

Jim Cavalieri, HOF Committee Chair

7:15 PM ***Hall of Fame Inductions/Honorees***

Greg Sweeney

Jody Nazarchyk

Bob Eldridge

Marc Benvenuti

1968 WHS Baseball State Champions

Kerriane Dugan Jensen

Robert Kelley

Melvin Twitty

Rick McGuire

Sam Cheung

The Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame

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

Class of 2002

Howard Christensen
Richard Cipriani
Gerard Rousseau
Francis X. 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

Class of 2010

Marlene (Morth) Wiggins
Liz Mueller
Glenn Rupert
David Sousa
Warren Swanson

Class of 2014

Lee Elci
Ed Evento
Billy Gardner Jr.
Jeff Hedden
Vicki (Bartolucci) Malone
Karlton Perkins
Jim White
1973 WHS Football Team

Class of 2016

Aaron Curry
Stephen Harper
Bridgit (Lawrence) Buscetto
Joe Miller
Kris Morton
Rick Murallo
Chris Podeszwa
Katie Schoepfer

For more information, visit us online or on Facebook at:
<http://www.cactusjackfoundation.org/waterford-athletic-hall-of-fame.html>

www.facebook.com/waterfordcthof



Committee Members

Jim Cavaliere
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 Rik Little
 Jack O'Keefe
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Greg Sweeney

Gregory Scott "Sunny" Sweeney was born at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London. He grew up in Waterford and began his basketball career on the Jordan Elementary School Basketball Courts, as well as in Neilan's backyard, the neighborhood basketball court. Greg attended Waterford High School from 1967 – 1971 where he played basketball for 4 years. Upon graduation from WHS, he attended St. Thomas More to participate in their Post Graduate Degree program. While playing basketball at STM, they won the prestigious New England Prep School Basketball Tournament to close out the year. After graduating from STM, he was offered a full scholarship to play basketball while attending Niagara University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Hotel & Restaurant Management.

Greg worked for The Chart House Restaurants for 15 years in numerous positions, including Opening Manager and General Manager, in several locations throughout the U.S. During this time, he married Linda Clark of Newport, R.I. and together they raised three children, Lindsey, Madison & Brennan. After leaving the Chart House, Greg worked for American Power Conversion as an Account Manager/System Engineer for 14 years. He is currently employed by LEARN and works in an 18-21 Transition Program with students of varying abilities.

While playing at WHS, Greg was able to leave his mark as a team player and leader. He understood how important it was to be part of a team. He felt especially lucky to have been surrounded by great players and coaches, which helped to elevate his game.

Greg averaged over 20 points, 10 rebounds and 4 assists per game in both his junior and senior years and scored over 1,000 points in his career. The Lancers went undefeated in the ECC (12 - 0) during his senior year, when he set a school record of 19 for 19 from the free throw line in one game. Later in the season, he broke that record on a 20 for 20 from the free throw line against St Bernard's during a game when the Lancers were down by 18 points at half time and ended up winning the game by 4 points on a great team effort!

After his senior season, Greg was named to the All-State team. The New London Day proclaimed that Greg was the best all-around basketball player ever to come out of WHS up to that point and also claimed him to be one of the best defensive players in the state.

Awards/Recognitions

All-ECC:	1970, 1971
All-State:	1971
ECC League Champions:	1970, 1971



Jody Nazarchyk

Jody Nazarchyk was born on January 15, 1952 in Hartford CT. Her family moved to West Hartford when she was 10 where she attended St. Timothy's Elementary School and Mount St. Joseph Academy. Jody went on to attend St Anselm's College and the University of Hartford. While at St. Timothy's, her father, John DeAngelis, coached the first St. Timothy's girl's softball team, where Jody played third base. She was a cheerleader for two years at St. Timothy's, four years at Mt. St. Joseph Academy and one year at St. Anslem College. She became active with the Hartford Deanery CYO when she was 14 helping her father run the CYO Sunday basketball games. Jody started coaching when she was 16 when Fr. O'Neil asked her to help Mr. Dematto, an 80-year-old gentleman, coach the St. Timothy's Boy's Baseball team that her Brother Jordy was on with his friends. For the next two years she continued to coach the baseball team, along with track & field and coached the first girls CYO basketball team in 1970.

Jody moved to Waterford in 1972 and worked for 20 years at the Sportsman's Boating Corporation as a Secretary. In 1997 she began working at Martland Healthcare and in 2004 started working at Medtronic where she has been employed as an Administrative Assistant for 14 years.

In 1979, she married her husband Rick and they have a wonderful family, including children Jamie, Rich, Jodie, and Justin, son-in-law, Ajaye and three precious grandchildren Gabriella, Jayson and Aleaze. Her children attended Southwest Elementary School, Clark Lane Middle School and all graduated from Waterford High School.

Jody's many years of volunteer service to the Waterford community include:

- Past President several times for the Southwest School PTA, Clark Lane PTO and being active with the WHS Parent's Advisory Council
- Member of Waterford Parent's Liaison Council since 1988
- Taught Catechism at St Paul's Church for 15 years
- Coached Little League Softball at Waterford South from 1989-1997 and Secretary for several years
- Coached Jr/Sr League Softball from 1993-2014, where she has been Co-President since 1993 when Gene Sutera (Waterford Athletic Hall of Famer) started the league
- Member of the Waterford week Committee from 1992 until Waterford Week ended
- Member of the Waterford Youth Service Bureau BOD for 10 years (Chairperson for 3)
- Member of Waterford Athletic Booster Club since 1993

In 1995, Jody was elected to the Waterford Board of Education where she has served for the past 23 years. She has served as a member of the Waterford School Building Committee, Finance Committee and several other committees over her 23 years. She was also a member of the committee to name the Field House in honor of Fran Sweeney (Waterford Athletic Hall of Famer).

In 1992 she was honored to be chosen Waterford's Citizen of the Year and has also received the Champion for Children award from the Waterford Youth Services Bureau.



Bob Eldridge

Bob Eldridge was born in 1948 in New London where he lived until the age of 8 and played Little League baseball at Bates Wood Park when he was 7 and 8 years old. His family moved to Waterford when he was age 9 and he began playing baseball for Waterford North Little League. His WNLL teams, coached by his step-father Ralph Ruggiero, won 2 WNLL championships and Bob made the all-star team in his 11 and 12 year old years as a pitcher and shortstop. Bob then played in Waterford Babe Ruth where his team, again led by Coach Ruggiero, won the championship all 3 years and Bob made the all-star team in each year.

Bob began an incredible athletic career at Waterford High School in 1962 and went on to earn 7 varsity letters in baseball and football, He also played 2 years of basketball before a knee injury cut short his basketball career. Bob played 4 years of varsity baseball as a pitcher and infielder for Waterford Hall of Fame Coach Gerry Rousseau. During that time, the team won 2 ECC championships and Bob was named All-ECC in his Junior and Senior seasons. Bob played 3 years of varsity football as a quarterback and defensive back under coaches Bill Mignault, Ralph Kehoe and Waterford Hall of Famer Dick Cipriani. During his high school years, Bob also played American Legion baseball during the summer for 3 seasons for Niantic American Legion under Manager Lou Ernst. Led by Bob's pitching and infield play, his teams won 2 zone titles and Bob was honored for his play with induction into the American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996.

Bob signed a professional baseball contract with the Kansas City Athletics in 1967 where he played briefly as a pitcher in the Class-A Midwest League in Burlington, Iowa.

In 1968, Bob was called to military service and served in the United States Marine Corps until 1970. While in the service, he made the Marine Corps National Baseball team as a pitcher. Upon his discharge from the service, he returned home and played 7 years of baseball for Rollie Pier's legendary Vagabonds amateur baseball team.

Bob moved to California in 1978 where he picked up the game of golf. He returned to his CT roots in 1994 where has been playing golf locally ever since.

Awards/Recognitions

All-ECC (baseball):	1965, 1966
American Legion Hall of Fame Inductee:	1996



Marc Benvenuti

Marc Benvenuti was born in New London in 1973 and started swimming competitively at age 6 with the New London YMCA. He attended Waterford High School from 1987 – 1991 where he had an outstanding swimming career, setting several school records and leading WHS to 3 ECC championships. Upon graduation, he attended the Kent School for a Post-Grad year in 1992. Marc then enrolled and earned a BS with a double-major in Biology and Environmental Science at Tufts University while competing for “The Jumbos”. Immediately following graduation, Marc began coaching swimming. Prior to his current position as Head Coach of the Connecticut College Men’s and Women’s Swim Teams, he was an assistant coach at both Yale and Princeton, and also in Australia for a year on a Queensland Government stipend. During his 16 years as Head Coach of the Connecticut College Men’s and Women’s Swim Teams, he also earned a Master’s Degree from New England College in Sport and Recreation Management.

At WHS, Marc was a captain as a senior and led the team to its 3rd ECC team championship in 4 years. Individually, Marc broke the 100 Butterfly ECC Record and still owns 4 school records in the: 100 Butterfly, 50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, and as part of the 200 Medley Relay. In the 100 Butterfly in his junior and senior years, he swept the State Class S, Class M and State Open titles and earned All-State honors both years. He was named The Day's All-Area Swimmer of the Year in 1990 and 1991.

At Tufts University, Marc was a 5-time NCAA All-American and a 3-time New England Champion. He set the 50 Butterfly College Record in 1996 and it stood for 13 years. As a senior, he won the Ted Haartz Most Deserving Senior Award named for the swimmer "whose spirit and determination were an inspiration to his teammates for their 4-year career."

As Head Coach at Connecticut College, Marc inherited two perennially bottom-tier teams in 2002. Since then, he has transformed both the men's and women's teams into NESCAC Conference contenders and NCAA Top 20 teams. He has coached 3 NCAA Champions and 65 NCAA All-Americans. The women's team has gone 140-35-1 (.795%) and his men's team has gone 97-55 (.638%). His swimmers have broken 205 College records en route to winning 35 Individual NESCAC Conference Championships. He has been named NESCAC Coach of the Year 6 times.

Marc is married (Keri Casey) and lives in Waterford.

Awards/Recognitions

The Day All-Area Swimmer of the Year:	1990, 1991
CT All-State:	1990, 1991
State Champion 100 Butterfly:	1990, 1991
State Open Champion 100 Butterfly:	1990, 1991
WHS Record Holder (100 BF, 50/100 FS, 200 Medley relay)	
3-time NCAA New England Champion	
5-time NCAA All-American	
6-time NESCAC Coach of the Year	



1968 Waterford High School Baseball Team

1st Row: Coach Rousseau, George Bonneau, Co-Captain Gary Athenian, Jack McDonald, Co-Captain Gary Workman, Nick Pero, Manager Dennis Cloutier

2nd Row: Ed Windham, Kevin McDougall, Steven Giulietti, Bernie Perkins, Wayne Kittredge, Dave Wilson, Melvin Twitty

3rd Row: Manager William Leader, Don Richmond, Brian Reed, Jimmy LeBlanc, Manager Steve Stanley

The 1968 season was a special one for the Lancers and culminated in the 1st state championship in school history! The team started the season with 4 straight victories beating Westerly (7-2), E.O. Smith (7-4), Westerly again (14-0) and Montville (8-3) behind a strong pitching staff of sophomores Brian Reed and Melvin Twitty and veterans Bernie Perkins and Gary Workman. The Lancers lost their next 2 games to East Catholic (2-4) and Killingly (0-5) before putting together a 5-game winning streak defeating New London (3-0), E.O. Smith (7-6), Fitch (6-5), Stonington (3-0) and Killingly (4-0). Over their last 6 games, they lost 2 close games to St. Bernard's (1-3, 0-1), beat Fitch (1-0), Stonington (7-3) and

Montville (6-0) and lost to New London (0-3). The Lancers ended the regular season with a record of 12-5 (.705) and earned the 12th seed (out of 16) in the CIAC Class M State Tournament.

The Lancers began state play as underdogs against 4th-seeded Farmington who were the 1967 state runner-up and returned 5 starters. Down 4-0 early, George Bonneau homered in the 4th inning to cut the lead to 4-1. In the 5th, Gary Workman led off with a walk, advanced to 3rd on a double by Ed Windham and both runners scored on Gary Athenian's single to make the score 4-3. Twitty reached on a fielder's choice and was driven home by Jack McDonald to tie the game at 4-4. The Lancers took the lead for good in the 6th with RBIs from Bonneau and Steve Giulietti. Workman earned the win pitching 4 1/3 innings of hitless relief.

Their next game was against 6th-seed East Catholic whom they had lost to earlier in the season. Twitty controlled the game tossing a 3-hitter (7Ks) and getting 2 hits at the plate in a 1-0 victory. Nick Pero scored the only run of the game in the 6th inning on a throwing error by East Catholic.

The team was again an underdog in the semi-finals as they played 7th-seeded Masuk. Twitty was dominant on the mound pitching 6 1/3 innings of 2-hit ball with 11 Ks to earn the win with Workman earning the save in a 3-0 victory. With the win, the Lancers advanced to the state championship game for the 2nd time in school history (they previously lost 3-4 in 8 innings to Stonington in 1960).

In the championship game, they played 11th-seeded Morgan (of Clinton) on June 16th at Palmer Field in Middletown. Twitty capped a spectacular run in the state tournament throwing a complete game 3-hit shutout (8Ks) leading the team to a 4-0 win. He pitched out of a 2-out bases-loaded jam in the 1st inning by striking out the batter on 3 pitches and cruised from there. The game was scoreless until the 5th when McDonald led off with a triple and scored on Pero's squeeze bunt to give the Lancers the only run they would need. They added 3 runs in the 6th on hits by Windham, Athenian and Bonneau and a double by Giulietti.



Kerriane Dugan Jensen

Kerriane Dugan grew up in Waterford, attending local schools and played soccer, softball and basketball for the town starting at the age of 5. At WHS, Kerriane played soccer and basketball throughout her career, as well as one year of softball. Her basketball and soccer teams excelled winning ECC titles all 4 years. Basketball was her passion and she left her mark earning 4 varsity letters, 4 All-ECC honors, was named to multiple All-Area teams, and played in the state finals in her sophomore and senior years. In her senior campaign, she joined the 1,000 point club and was recognized as a McDonald's All-American nominee and named to the New Haven Register All State team.

Upon graduation, Kerriane accepted a full basketball scholarship from Central Connecticut State University where she had an immediate impact on the program. As a freshman, she was one of just five players in the nation to lead their team in scoring, rebounding, assists and steals. Throughout her career she was a member of the NEC All-Rookie and NEC All-Conference Teams. She eclipsed the

1,000 point scoring mark at CCSU late in her junior season, went on to score over 1,300 points and is currently 3rd on the CCSU all-time scoring list. Kerriane is also listed in the top 10 all time at CCSU for rebounds, steals, assists, field goals attempted and made, free throws attempted and made, single-season assists and single-game assists. Often undersized for her position, Kerriane left her mark, literally and figuratively, on many taller opponents with her style of play, emphasis on defense, intensity and her work ethic.

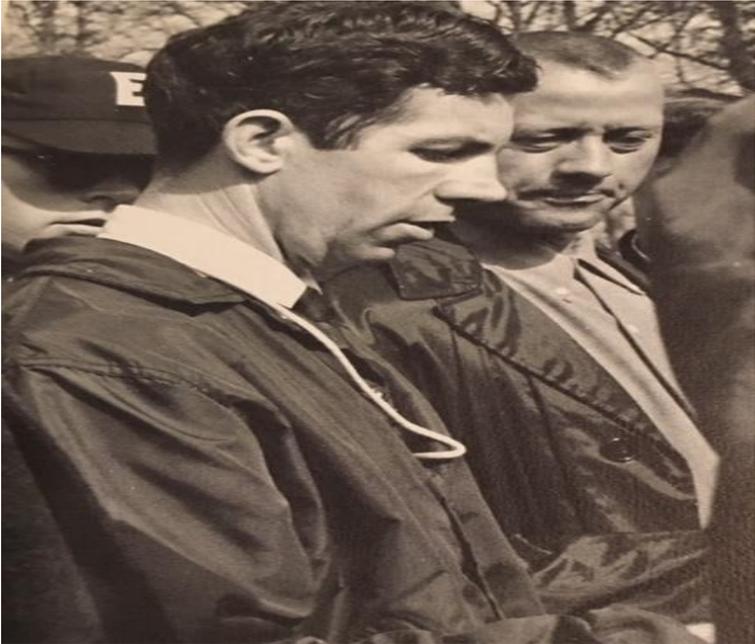
Following her college career, Kerriane became the head Girls basketball coach at New London High School and was part of an historic turnaround. The team she inherited had finished a combined 8-52 in the three years preceding her. In her 1st year, her team achieved a .500 record and qualified for the ECC and State tournaments. In her 2nd season, her team dominated with a record of 24-4, won an ECC title and earned a trip to Mohegan Sun Arena where they won the 1st Girls Basketball State Championship in school history. Kerriane was named the Coach of the Year by the Norwich Bulletin and New Haven Register. More importantly, she built a program and left a legacy at NLHS that girls' sports matter and could flourish given the right leadership and environment. Several of her players followed in her footsteps and played and/or are playing at the Division 1-2 level.

Kerriane credits much of her success to the many coaches and volunteers from Waterford who donated their free time to provide her with a foundation of team work, sportsmanship and leadership and instilling in her the value of a strong work ethic.

Kerriane is married (Evan Jensen), resides in Denver, Colorado and has a son, Hudson, born in August 2018.

Awards/Recognitions

All-ECC (basketball):	2004 - 2007
All-ECC (soccer):	2006
All-State:	2007
McDonalds All-American Nominee:	2007
Northeast Conference All-Rookie Team:	2008
Northeast Conference All-Conference:	2009
The Norwich Bulletin Coach of the Year:	2014
The New Haven Register Coach of the Year:	2014



Robert Kelley

Robert J. Kelley was born in 1933 in New London where he grew up as the middle child of 3 children along with older brother John and younger sister Ellen. He graduated from the former Bulkeley School in 1951 earning varsity letters for 3 years in track and cross-country. Robert was drafted into the United States Army in 1953 and served in the Korean War as a medic. While serving in Korea, he met his future wife Yoshiko while on a leave in Japan. The two kept in touch throughout the remainder of the war and after his return to the states. Once home, he saved his money, returned to Japan and he and Yoshiko were married in 1954. They went on to raise 3 children; Robert Jr., Jeanette and Francis and celebrated 61 years of marriage before Yoshiko's passing in 2015.

Robert attended Central CT State College on the GI Bill and graduated with a degree in Social Science. He began teaching Social Studies at WHS in 1960 and continued until his retirement in 1992.

Robert started a very successful coaching career at WHS in 1962 when he began a 30 year career as the Boy's head cross-country coach. He served as an assistant coach for Boy's outdoor track under Waterford Athletic Hall of Famer Dick Cipriani from 1962 – 1970 before taking over the program as the head coach from 1971 – 1988. Robert also served as the Boy's head indoor track coach from 1972 – 1985.

During his career as head cross-country coach, his teams earned 200+ dual-meet victories and 12 ECC championships. His team won the 1988 Class M state championship, was the Class M state runner-up in both 1974 and 1975 and were the CT State Open runner-up in 1968 and 1975. He was chosen by his fellow coaches as the State C.I.A.C cross-country Coach of the Year for the 1974-1975 season.

As the Boy's head outdoor track coach, his teams had a winning dual-meet record in each of his 18 seasons and won 5 ECC championships. Robert's indoor track teams won 5 ECC championships in the winner-take-all combined conference meet format (no dual-meets).

Awards/Recognitions

ECC Champions (XC):	1965, 1967-1969, 1971-1975, 1977, 1988-1989
Class M State Champions (XC):	1988
Class M State Runner-up (XC):	1974, 1975
CT State Open Runner-Up (XC):	1968, 1975
ECC Champions (Outdoor Track):	1973, 1974, 1975, 1981, 1987
ECC Champions (Indoor Track):	1972, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1982
C.I.A.C Coach of the Year (XC):	1974/1975



Melvin Twitty Jr.

Melvin Twitty Jr. was born in 1952 in New London to parents Melvin Sr. and Fannie where he lived until the age of 10 with his siblings, Paulette, Ronnie and Roderick. Upon moving to Waterford, Melvin joined the Waterford Pee Wee Tigers football program where he played for Coach Haleftiras and became good friends with team QB Pat Haleftiras. Both would go on to have a very positive impact on Melvin's life.

Melvin began his athletic career at Waterford High School as a freshman in 1967 where he played on the varsity baseball team. His career as a dominating pitcher took off in his sophomore season of 1968 when he helped lead WHS to their 1st-ever state championship. In his 1st start that season, he combined with Brian Reed to pitch a 1-hitter in a 7-2 win over Westerly. He also threw a 3-hit complete game shutout of Fitch as the Lancers finished the regular season with 12-5 record, earning a 12th seed in the state tournament. Melvin carried the team in the state tournament pitching 3 consecutive games:

a 3-hit shutout (7 Ks) winning 1-0 win against East Catholic, striking out 11 over 6 1/3 innings to defeat Masuk 3-0 and a 3-hit shutout (8 Ks) in the 4-0 championship win over Morgan.

In his junior year, Melvin played football and was one of the premier running backs in the ECC. He also had another outstanding year on the mound helping the baseball team to a 14-3 regular season record. His personal highlights were pitching a no-hitter against Montville, winning 1-0 and striking out 14 (no walks), and pitching a 2-hitter against Killingly winning 5-1 allowing only an unearned run and striking out 10. In the state tournament, the team lost to eventual champion Lyman Hall 4-3 in 15 innings.

As a senior, Melvin was a co-captain of the football team leading WHS to the 2nd ECC championship in school history. He finished in the top-5 in the ECC in scoring including a memorable game against Killingly where he scored 22 points on 3 TDs and two 2-point conversions. Melvin led the way on the mound for the baseball team which finished with a 16-1 regular season record and won the ECC championship. He struck out 13 batters in a game 3 times during the regular season. In the team's only regular season loss, Xavier defeated Melvin and the Lancers 1-0 scoring only an unearned run. In the state tournament, the team was nipped by Wethersfield 1-0 in 8 innings in the championship game. Melvin pitched all 8 innings giving up only 3 hits and an unearned run.

Upon graduation, Melvin played baseball for 4 years in the Morgan League for Jake Brown. He attended Mattituck Community College playing football for 2 seasons as a RB and kick returner where he played his brother Ron's team, Ferrum Junior College, for the Junior College National Championship in 1974.

Awards/Recognitions

All-ECC (baseball):	1969, 1970
All-ECC (football):	1970



Rick McGuire

Rick McGuire was born on August 29, 1953 in New London to parents William E. and Vivian McGuire. He was raised in Waterford and attended local schools with his sisters Lisa and Randy. He was an outstanding athlete who played youth baseball and football. He played on the 1967 Waterford Babe Ruth all-star team that finished as state runner-up and led the league in batting in 1968 with a .450 batting average.

Rick was a standout football and baseball player for Waterford High School from 1967 – 1971. In his junior year, he was a key contributor for the Lancers football team as a WR/CB where he earned all-ECC honors. On the baseball diamond, Rick played 1st base and helped lead the team to a 16-1 regular season record and ECC championship while earning all-ECC honors. The team made it to the state quarter-finals before losing to Wethersfield 1-0 in 8 innings.

As a senior, Rick again earned all-ECC honors in both football and baseball. He was also named to the All-

State 2nd team for football and participated in the Nutmeg Bowl which was the CT state football all-star game. Rick played summer baseball for Niantic American Legion and helped the team advance to the 1970 state championship game and to win a zone championship in 1971. Rick was the American Legion state batting champion in 1971.

After graduation, Rick played one year of prep football at the Kent School where the team went 10-0. He then attended Wake Forest University where he lettered in both football and baseball. Rick finished his secondary education at St. Thomas University (Miami, FL) earning a BA in Social Science and Education.

Upon graduation, Rick began a 25-year teaching / coaching career in Florida and Connecticut. Included in his coaching duties were stints as an assistant football coach at WHS and assistant and head coach of several football and baseball programs in FL. His 1988 McArthur HS football team went 10-0 and was a regional finalist and his 1989 Fort Pierce Westwood HS football team went undefeated at 10-0. Rick has been head baseball coach at several programs in FL including Chaminade HS and Fort Pierce Westwood HS.

In addition to his coaching career, Rick has been a baseball umpire at many levels, including Babe Ruth, college and professional ball for 30 years. He has worked 15 Babe Ruth state championship games, 2 Babe Ruth SE Regional championships, 1 Babe Ruth World Series and the Stan Musial World Series. He is a member of the Eastern CT Board of umpires and works close to 300 games a year including minor league and MLB spring training games.

Rick lives with his wife, Michele in Fort Pierce, FL, and has a daughter Shauna and grandson Malakai.

Awards/Recognitions

All-ECC (baseball):	1970, 1971
All-ECC (football):	1970, 1971
All-State (football):	1971



Sam Cheung

Sam Cheung was born on July 17, 1979, attended Southwest Elementary, Clark Lane Middle, and Waterford High School, graduating from WHS in 1997. He had a stellar basketball career while playing for WHS earning 1st Team All-ECC honors 3 times, 1st Team Class M All-State honors as a senior and finishing as the school's all-time leader in points and assists. Sam was a 4-year starter, team MVP 3 times, and team captain twice. After graduation, Sam continued his career at the United States Coast Guard Academy where he started for 4 years and was twice named a 1st Team All-New England Men's Athletic Conference player. He graduated as one of the best players in school history, finishing near the top of every major statistical category, scoring over 1000 points and became the Academy's all-time leader in assists. He remains the only player to have led the men's team in both scoring and assists in a single season. He was also twice named team MVP and team captain. Sam's distinguished collegiate career was honored when he was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013.

Upon graduation from the Academy, Sam was commissioned as a United States Coast Guard Officer. During his ten years of service, Sam served as a Deck Watch Officer, Assistant Navigator, and Training Officer and later as an Instructor of Mathematics at the Academy. While serving, Sam also became an assistant basketball coach where he led the program's player development initiatives and helped guided the team's offensive strategies. During those years, Academy teams won back-to-back conference titles and appeared in 2 NCAA tournaments, including an Elite 8 appearance in 2008 – a feat never before accomplished in school history.

Sam is currently an Operations Research Analyst and the Head Coach of the University of CT Avery Point men's basketball team. Professionally over the last 21 years, military and civilian, Sam has received multiple commendation and achievement medals from the US Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard as well as several meritorious team and unit commendations. As Head Coach, he provides young men the opportunity to pursue higher education and the furthering of their athletic careers, as well as giving local kids access and instruction to the game. Sam has been an instructional and player development coach in the Eastern CT region for over 12 years. He has assisted many high school and college players in achieving great personal success and many have moved on to play in college and some even professionally. Sam has assisted several WNBA players, including WNBA Champion and Gold Medalist Kara Lawson, and recently, he became Rookie of the Year and All-Star Chiney Ogwumike's personal player development coach.

Sam holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Academy in Operations Research and Computer Analysis and a Master's of Science in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from the University of Rhode Island. Sam and his wife Jennifer reside in Montville, CT, and they have two children, Jada and Jace.

Awards/Recognitions

All-ECC:	1995 - 1997
Class M All-State:	1997
All-Area, New London Day:	1996, 1997
All-Area, Norwich Bulletin:	1996, 1997
1st Team NE Men's Athletic Conference:	2000, 2001
New England Basketball Hall of Fame:	2013

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 who's mission is 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 and also formed the Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2016, the foundation partnered with Mike Buscetto's "Bash at the Beach" to form the Cactus Jack Pediatric Fund which provides support for children and young people in need throughout SE CT.

The foundation is proud to be able to give back to the community in the same spirit of Cactus Jack himself.

Cactus Jack Foundation Board of Directors

Tim Arsenault	Rick Beaney
Steve Bellos	Mike Buscetto
Tim Gigliotti	Tim Jeffrey
Chris Muckle	Dan Pickett
John Ryan	David Sutera
Jack Voelker	



The Cactus Jack Foundation salutes this year's inductees to the Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame. 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 continued support of The Cactus Jack Foundation. We could not do what we do without your help and generosity. It is truly appreciated!



Great Neck

COUNTRY CLUB