

16th Annual
Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, Inc.
Hall of Fame
Banquet & Induction Ceremony

honoring

Pete Civitello

Mark Consorte

Joe Lizza

Michael Moras

Tim Shea

Vincent Siena Jr.

Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award

Frank Pallone

Tony Mentone Memorial Distinguished Service Award

Matthew F. Mentone

*“To foster and
promote the game of
baseball.”*

October 23, 2024
5:30 p.m.

The Woodwinds
Branford, Conn.

www.southernctdiamondclub.org

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
PETE CIVITELLO
MICHAEL MORAS
FRANK PALLONE**

**AND THE REST OF THE 2024 INDUCTEES INTO THE
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB
HALL OF FAME**

from



**EAST SHORE TRAVEL
LEAGUE BASEBALL**

Co-Directors and Founders

MICHAEL LAMBERTI (SCDC HOF 2016)

SAL PUNZO (SCDC HOF 2017)

CHUCK COYLE (SCDC HOF 2018)

Board Members

TONY NOTARINO (SCDC HOF 2013)

**MICHAEL "TEX" VOLPE
(MENTONE SERVICE AWARD 2018)**

INTRODUCTION

The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, Inc., was formed with one goal in mind -- **to foster and promote the game of baseball** in the region. That simple mission continues with the dedication and volunteer work of its members.

The SCDC obtained its inspiration from a prior organization -- the Greater New Haven Diamond Club. The original club was founded in 1980, but went into a batting slump after 1992. Thankfully, several former members, along with a new group of individuals who believed in the mission, started the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club in 2005.

In 2011, the new club progressed from an informal structure to a full-fledged corporation, obtaining its non-profit status in 2013. The SCDC is a 501(c) (3) organization, with proceeds donated back to the community.

The SCDC spreads the goodwill of baseball through awards, recognition of those who have given to the game, free youth skills clinics, donations to local organizations and more. It is a network of baseball enthusiasts in our region.

The club's two annual signature events are the "No 'I' In Team" high school awards night,

launched in 2005, and its Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, first held in 2008. Each June the SCDC honors more than 30 local high schools, presenting the player on each team chosen as the most selfless by his coach with the John "Whitey" Piurek "There's No 'I' In Team" Award. At that event, the organization also recognizes the George Klivak Team of the Year and the Samuel A. Burrell Jr. Coach of the Year, as voted upon by area coaches.



Tonight, the SCDC continues a tradition started by the Greater New Haven Diamond Club with its annual Hall of Fame Induction, honoring those who have contributed most significantly to area baseball. The honorees are chosen by the

group's Executive Board. Along with carrying forward the GNHDC's Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award, the SCDC added a second special award in 2010 -- the Anthony F. Mentone Distinguished Service Award.

The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, Inc., will continue in its efforts to spread the goodwill of baseball to all who are fortunate enough to be associated with the sport. Tonight's banquet advances the club's efforts to recognize and honor those who have given so much to so many through this great game.

PROGRAM

Master of CeremoniesNed Burt, *SCDC Executive Board*
Pledge of AllegianceEd Klinkhammer, *SCDC Executive Board*
History of SCDC/Introductions.....Ned Burt
Acknowledgements.....Ned Burt

DINNER

Presentation of the ANDREW GASSIRA MEMORIAL UMPIRE AWARD

Presentation Michael Lamberti, *SCDC Executive Board*
Acceptance.....Frank Pallone

Presentation of the TONY MENTONE MEMORIAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Presentation Frank Mentone Jr., *SCDC Executive Board*
Acceptance.....Matthew F. Mentone

Induction of PETE CIVITELLO..... Chris Borelli, *SCDC Executive Board*
Acceptance..... Pete Civitello

Induction of MARK CONSORTE..... Ron Luneau, *SCDC Executive Board*
Acceptance.....Mark Consorte

Induction of JOE LIZZA.....Ron Luneau
Acceptance..... Joe Lizza

Induction of MICHAEL MORAS Tony Notarino, *SCDC Executive Board*
Acceptance.....Michael Moras

Induction of TIM SHEA..... Dan Gooley, *SCDC Executive Board*
Acceptance..... Tim Shea

Induction of VINCENT SIENA JR..... Dan Gooley
Acceptance..... Vincent Siena Jr.

Closing Remarks Rose V. Mentone, *SCDC Executive Director*

SCDC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rich Altieri
Rich Biondi
Chris Borelli
Ned Burt
Dan Gooley

Ed Klinkhammer
Michael Lamberti
Burt Leventhal (*emeritus*)
Ron Luneau
Frank Mentone Jr.

Matthew Mentone
Rose V. Mentone
Fred Norman
Tony Notarino

THE AWARDS

ANDREW GASSIRA MEMORIAL UMPIRE AWARD

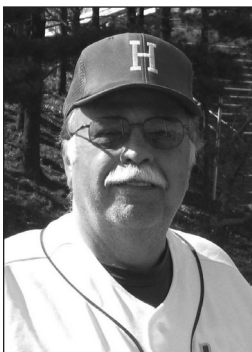


The Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award is awarded annually to a local baseball umpire who personifies the passion, sportsmanship and teachings of Andrew Gassira. It was first handed out by the Greater New Haven Diamond Club in 1980 following Gassira's death the previous year. Those who receive this award are considered part of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame.

Andrew Gassira was a lifelong resident of greater New Haven. Despite the fact that he had no sons, he served several years as a volunteer league commissioner, umpire-in-chief and coach with the Hamden Fathers Baseball Association. As the head umpire, he would assign umpires to games for more than 80 teams, maintain their payroll records, conduct training clinics, attend games, and keep performance ratings on his staff. He supervised the organization's entire officiating program.

Born in 1922, Gassira graduated from Commercial High School and then entered the U.S. Army. Upon discharge, he attended JCC College under the G.I. Bill. He graduated from the Baseball Umpiring School in Bartow, Fla., in 1948 and worked with the New York Yankees. He umpired in the AAA Baseball System in Georgia and upstate New York. After returning home to Connecticut and getting married, he was employed as a draftsman for G&O Radiators for 31 years. Gassira was a basketball coach for the Trowbridge Rec Center in New Haven and also officiated high school and college basketball. He umpired American Legion and Babe Ruth League Baseball, and was a member of the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association and the Connecticut College Baseball Association.

ANTHONY F. MENTONE MEMORIAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



The Anthony F. Mentone Memorial Distinguished Service Award is awarded annually to a local individual who has an impeccable reputation for integrity and dedication to his/her community and the American way of life, as exemplified by Tony Mentone. The honoree must also have contributed to fostering and promoting local baseball. Recipients of this award are considered part of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame.

Tony Mentone spent his life helping others, often through the game of baseball. A 1963 graduate of Notre Dame High of West Haven, he was a member of the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association from that year until his death in 2009. He served as that group's president and sub-varsity commissioner.

Mentone joined the Greater New Haven Diamond Club during its infancy, eventually serving as its vice president. He was named the winner of the 1991 Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award. He later played a large role in reviving the club as the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club in 2005 and was inducted into its Hall of Fame posthumously in 2010.

Mentone spent many years as a volunteer in the Hamden Fathers Baseball Association, serving at various times as a coach, league director, president, and umpire-in-chief. He helped found the HFBA's Challenger League for children with special needs. He went on to become the Assistant District Administrator for Connecticut District 4 Little League, and umpired at the 1998 Eastern Regional Little League Tournament in Bristol, Conn. In April 2010, Hamden Fathers Baseball/Softball named the snack bar at Bassett Field in Mentone's honor.

Mentone was active in his local community, volunteering for several civic organizations including Civitan and the UNITAS Club. He served as a member of the Hamden Legislative Council, and was later an assistant football, girls' basketball and baseball coach at Hamden High School. His wife, Rose, is the executive director of the SCDC.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB HALL OF FAME

The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony is held annually in October to honor individuals and groups who have contributed to fostering and promoting the game of baseball in greater New Haven. The Hall of Fame includes players, teams and organizations, coaches, umpires, broadcasters, journalists, and community volunteers.

Since the SCDC gained its motivation from a prior organization, the Greater New Haven Diamond Club, it decided to pay tribute to the Hall of Famers from the GNHDC from 1980 to 1991 by inducting them into its own Hall of Fame. The SCDC held its initial Hall of Fame Banquet in 2008, and the event has continued every year since (with the exception of 2020 due to COVID-19).

2024 HONOREES

Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award

FRANK PALLONE



Frank Pallone's passion for baseball umpiring took root when he worked his first game at age 13.

In the late 1960s, Pallone would officiate Shelton Little League contests after playing in his Babe Ruth League games on an adjacent field. Later, while spending 10 years coaching in various youth leagues in Wallingford, he would

volunteer as an umpire to assist the leagues.

It was during his work in Wallingford that a member of the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association suggested he umpire high school games. He joined the GNHBUA in 1994.

Pallone spent 30 years as a GNHBUA member. During that time he was selected for several Southern Connecticut Conference postseason games and CIAC state tournament contests. He also worked championship games in the American Legion State Tournament, the Connecticut Collegiate Baseball League, and the National Adult Baseball Association under the GNHBUA umbrella.

Pallone served the GNHBUA as its member representative, secretary, and eventually president. In 2023, he switched gears, joining the Fairfield County Chapter of Approved Baseball Umpires, the Central Connecticut Baseball Umpires Association, and the East Shore Travel League board. Earlier this year he was named the chair of the FCCABU Better Officiating Committee.

For the last two years, Pallone has been an instructor for the FCCABU's Rookie Umpire School. He recently became the umpire assigner for the NABA as well as for Stratford Fall Baseball.

Pallone is a graduate of Bunnell High School, and attended Central Connecticut State University as a

business major. He worked as a sales executive and sales manager in the consumer-packaged goods and technology industries before semi-retiring in 2021.

Pallone lives in Shelton with his wife, the former Cathie Iassogna. Cathie is a cousin of Major League Baseball umpire Dan Iassogna. The Pallones have four children -- Michael and Kelly (Frank's) and Jessie and Jenna (Cathie's); Frank has five grandchildren -- Molly, Derek, Brian, Gianna, and Mikey.

Previous Winners

1980	Henry Roche
1981	Anthony "Peaches" Lombardo
1982	Joseph Murray
1983	Fred Ghirardini
1984	John Suski
1985	Jack Garrity
1986	George Klivak
1987	Paul Swords
1988	Rudy Raffone
1989	Ed Rapuano Sr.
1990	Bill Mahon
1991	Tony Mentone
1992	Arnie 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*
2016	Elmer Deschaine
2017	Stan Konesky Jr.
2018	John Adamovich
2019	Larry DeLeo
2021	Frank Mohr
2022	Dave Pittman
2023	Kathleen Morrison

2024 HONOREES

Tony Mentone Memorial Distinguished Service Award

MATTHEW F. MENTONE



Matthew Mentone has been involved in his community from a young age. As a teenager, he helped with many of his parents' projects. For instance, he volunteered at the Bassett Park concession stand during Hamden Fathers Baseball Association action, and joined his father on the field as an HFBA assistant coach.

Mentone's connection to sports and volun-

teerism continued during his collegiate years at the University of New Haven. He was the sports director of the campus radio station, WNHU. In that role, he was privileged to call play-by-play for both the 1997 NCAA Division II football national championship game and the 1998 D-II World Series. He was also the sports editor of the campus newspaper, *The Charger Bulletin*.

Upon graduating from UNH, Mentone served 10 years as vice president of the Middletown Men's Softball League. Following the passing of his father, Tony Mentone, in 2009, Matthew joined the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Executive Board as treasurer.

Mentone has worked diligently to modernize the SCDC. He took the lead in creating the group's first website and assisted in updating its bylaws and operational procedures. In 2013, he formed the organization into a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Tony Mentone was instrumental in establishing the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, and after his death, Matthew and his mother, Rose, vowed to keep it afloat. It has truly become a family affair. Rose Mentone is the group's executive director, and Matthew's uncle, Frank Mentone Jr., is a board member. Both are previous winners of the Tony Mentone Memorial Distinguished Service Award,

and Tony himself was elected to the SCDC Hall of Fame in 2010. Matthew's brother, Mark, handles the group's publicity efforts.

In addition to his work with the SCDC, Matthew donates his time as a coach in the Southington South Little League and as a youth travel basketball coach. He was a longtime volunteer for Junior Achievement, co-leading a yearly event with close to 100 high school students. He is a three-time honoree of the employer-based President's Volunteer Service Award program for volunteering 100+ hours in a year.

Mentone is also active in the local college sports scene. He has been the official scorekeeper for Yale University home basketball games since 2000. He is a longtime member of Timing Is Everything, an organization which provides table crew officials for collegiate athletics events.

A Hamden native, Mentone resides in Durham with his wife, Pamela, and works in the insurance industry. He completed a B.S. degree in management of sports industries in 1999 and an MBA in 2000, both from UNH.

Previous Winners

2010	Frank Mentone Jr.
2011	Ned Burt
2012	Dave Ruotolo
2013	Salvatore Coppola Sr.
2014	Steve Pacelli
2015	Rose V. Mentone
2016	Pat Mailhouse*
2017	Bill Rhone
2018	Michael "Tex" Volpe
2019	Jon Mendes Jr.
2021	Ron Rosarbo
2022	Harry O'Neill
2023	Denis Haley

* *posthumous*

2024 HONOREES

PETE CIVITELLO



Pete Civitello has contributed to local baseball in a variety of ways.

Civitello is a 1994 graduate of North Haven High School. He participated in only one year of high school baseball, instead supporting his family through his mother's cancer diagnosis. He played varsity basketball for NHHS, and pursued his passion for baseball in the summers via the North Haven Senior Babe Ruth League.

After beginning his collegiate journey at Southern Connecticut State University, Civitello transferred to nearby Albertus Magnus College, where he played basketball and baseball. A Second-Team All-Great Northeast Athletic Conference pitcher for coach Joe Tonelli, he captained the 1998 Albertus baseball team to the GNAC championship. Civitello was the Falcons' starting pitcher for the conference championship game, and was named to the all-tournament team.

Civitello played three seasons in the West Haven Twilight League for A&R Upholstery before venturing into coaching both sports. In baseball, he got his start as a volunteer with the Max Sinoway Little League. He was subsequently hired by Bob Turcio to coach with the Connecticut

Bombers program. Prior to the 2003 season, he was appointed the head coach of Guilford High School, a position he held for 10 years.

Civitello's tenure at Guilford was highlighted by his 2007 squad which captured the Southern Connecticut Conference Hammonasset Division championship, the SCC Tournament crown, and the CIAC Class L state title. GHS achieved a final state ranking of No. 2, and Civitello became the first winner of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club's Sam Burrell Coach of the Year Award. Guilford repeated as division champion in 2008, was ranked seventh in the state, and was named the SCDC George Klivak Team of the Year.

Civitello was the varsity boys' basketball coach at North Haven High from 2007-12. He guided NHHS to the program's first SCC Championship in 2010, becoming just the second coach to have won SCC titles in two sports. He later served as the pitching coach for North Haven American Legion Post 76, and spent two years as a certified umpire with the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association.

Since 2016, Civitello has been the co-owner of Northeast Clutch Baseball. He, partner Paul Carangelo, and their staff instruct and mentor youth baseball players from ages 8-18. The program's teams participate in the East Shore Travel League as well as in regional and national showcase tournaments. Northeast Clutch has provided numerous scholarships to players seeking a travel baseball experience, and has successfully assisted several players with their secondary school choices and college commitments.

Civitello earned a B.A. degree in sociology from Albertus Magnus in 1998. He possesses a master's degree from the University of New Haven (2003) and completed his sixth-year 092 degree at Southern Connecticut State University in 2012. He is currently the Director of Secondary School Leadership for Meriden Public Schools following stints as assistant principal at Meriden's Washington Middle School and Platt High School.

Civitello and his wife, Carissa, reside in East Haven. They have two children -- Amato and Dyllan.

2024 HONOREES

MARK CONSORTE



A lifelong baseball player and coach at the youth, high school, college and adult amateur levels, Mark Consorte has contributed to local sports for more than three decades.

Consorte is a 1988 graduate of Notre Dame High School of West Haven. As a senior, he earned All-All Connecticut Conference and all-state honors. Consorte captained Notre Dame to the 1988 ACC championship. He also played basketball for the Green Knights.

Consorte is the all-time home run leader at Wesleyan University, belting 22. An all-New England selection following his senior campaign of 1992, he captained the Cardinals to that year's ECAC Division III New England title. Wesleyan also won two "Little Three" crowns during his career. Consorte is a member of the Wesleyan Baseball Wall of Fame.

Consorte forged a 32-year career in the West Haven Twilight League, playing continuously from age 19 to 50. He was a player-coach on the Peschell's Bakery team that won the 2003 NABF national championship. He was honored with the WHTL Gold Bat Award in 2022, and remains on the league's Board of Directors.

Consorte is active in his community both on and off the fields of play. He is a former assistant coach of baseball, basketball and golf at Notre Dame, and coached baseball and basketball in several West Haven youth sports programs. He was also the athletics director at West Haven's Our Lady of Victory School.

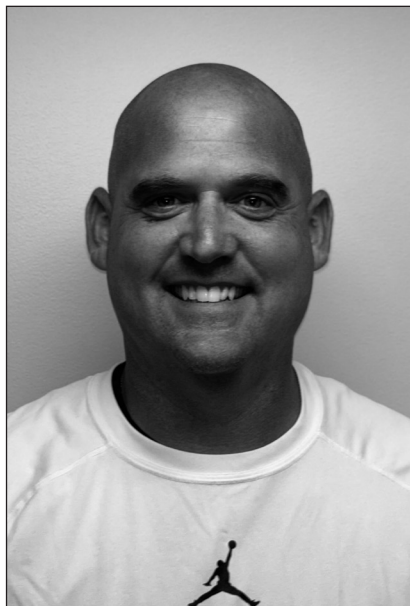
Outside of athletics, Consorte is a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus. A former catechist at Our Lady of Victory parish, he is currently an active parishioner at Holy Infant Catholic Church in Orange. He was presented the Sons and Daughters of Italy Community Service Award in 2018, and was the Grand Marshal of the 2024 Greater New Haven Italian Heritage Festival.

Consorte owns a B.A. degree in government from Wesleyan (1992) and an M.S. in education from the University of New Haven (1998). He completed his sixth-year degree in educational administration at Southern Connecticut State University in 2001. Consorte has taught advanced placement U.S. government and politics at West Haven High School since 1996, and has been WHHS's social studies department chair for the last 23 years. He serves on the Honors Committee and as the faculty advisor for student government and for the debate team.

A lifelong West Haven resident, Consorte recently celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary with his wife, Carla. Their twin sons, Michael and Matthew, are both recent graduates of the University of Notre Dame.

2024 HONOREES

JOE LIZZA



Joe Lizza's journey to the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame is a testament to his talent and dedication. His induction celebrates his contributions to baseball and his lasting impact on the game.

As a freshman at Derby High School, Lizza first made an impact on the boys' basketball team, earning significant playing time as a freshman and cracking the starting lineup as a sophomore. While those accomplishments were an indicator of his skill and potential, his athletic prowess quickly became most apparent in baseball.

Lizza was a four-year starter at catcher for the Red Raiders, playing for SCDC Hall-of-Fame Coaches John De-Francisco and Steve Reilly. As a freshman, he played a pivotal role in Derby's run to the 1992 CIAC Class S

Championship. Lizza hit six home runs, including four grand slams, that season and was named all-Valley.

Lizza twice hit .400+ during his time at Derby. For his high school career, he totaled 15 home runs, more than 60 RBI, and 80+ hits. He was a four-time All-Valley, three-time all-Class S, two-time all-Housatonic, and two-time all-state selection.

Lizza played for another Hall-of-Fame coach, Frank Vieira, at the University of New Haven. He was a part of the 1998 Charger squad that captured the NCAA Division II Northeast Region championship and advanced to the D-II World Series. A captain as a senior for UNH, Lizza batted better than .300 for his Charger career.

Lizza graduated from New Haven in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in management of sports industries before going on to earn a teaching certificate in physical education. He is the K-8 physical education and health coordinator for Danbury Public Schools.

Lizza, who lives in Southbury, was formerly on the coaching staffs of Newtown and Shelton High Schools. He was the chief operating officer of the charitable Strike 3 Foundation founded by Boston Red Sox executive and former MLB pitcher Craig Breslow. Lizza, his high school teammate Chris Reuther, and his nephew Jason Ostrowski recently opened Housatonic Athletic and Wellness Center, a sports performance and wellness facility, in Newtown.

2024 HONOREES

MICHAEL MORAS



Michael Moras is well-known in greater New Haven baseball circles as a player, mentor, coach and friend.

Born and raised in Orange, Moras played for Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall-of-Fame coach Sal Coppola at Amity Regional High School. He was an all-state selection following his senior season of 2004.

Moras is the all-time leader in runs batted in at the University of New Haven with 169. As a sophomore, he played on the 44th and final Charger team led by famed coach Frank “Porky” Vieira, helping UNH to an NCAA East Regional tournament appearance.

Moras was a four-time all-conference and four-time all-region catcher for UNH. He was voted the 2005 New York Collegiate Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year. During his junior campaign, he batted .374 and set the school single-season record of 70 RBI. Moras established another Charger mark that year with 12 RBI during a victory over Assumption -- a game in which he had five hits, including three home runs and two grand slams. He was selected to the 2007 Daktronics Division-II All-America Third Team.

A .344 career hitter as a collegian, Moras collected 226 hits, including 25 home runs, and scored 144 runs in 175 games. He set the UNH career record with 53 doubles (broken the following year). He was inducted into the University of New Haven Athletics Hall of Fame in 2019.

Moras was chosen by the New York Mets in the 20th round of the 2008 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. He played five professional seasons, including three in the Mets’ system, reaching Class AA with Binghamton in 2010. He completed his pro career with the independent Bridgeport Bluefish of the Atlantic League.

Since 2012, Moras has been the owner and operator of The Grind Baseball and Softball Training Facility in Orange. The Grind, which also sponsors youth travel baseball teams for ages 10-18, moved into a new 17,000-square-foot complex in 2023.

Moras possesses a bachelor’s degree from UNH, conferred in 2008. He resides in Orange with his wife, Dana, and their children Michael, Ryan and Sienna.

2024 HONOREES

TIM SHEA



The baseball program at Southern Connecticut State University has become synonymous with the name Tim Shea. He has been affiliated with SCSU for more than four decades as a student-athlete, instructor, and coach.

Shea recently completed his 23rd season as the Owls' head coach, owning a career record of 567-388-8. On May 1, 2019, he became the winningest coach in program history when he captured his 467th victory.

Shea took over as head baseball coach after serving 11 years as an assistant to Joe Bandiera. He has led Southern Connecticut to seven NCAA Tournament appearances, including regional championships and trips to the Division-II World Series in 2005 and 2011.

Shea's Owls have posted nine 30-win seasons and 17 with 20 victories or more. He has coached more than 120 all-conference players, 35 all-region performers and seven all-Americans. Shea is a three-time Northeast-10 Conference Coach of the Year and a three-time D-II Regional Coach of the Year, earning both honors in 2005, 2008, and 2010. In 2005 he was also honored with the New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association Coach of the Year Award.

As a player, Shea was a two-year captain for the Owls. He was a second-team all-conference selection in 1986, and led Division II nationally in doubles per game during his senior season of 1987. He previously taught in Southern Connecticut's special education department.

Shea played football and was an all-state selection in baseball at Notre Dame High School of West Haven. A former assistant coach in both sports at Notre Dame, he taught for 14 years in the Milford public school system. He has also coached with the Connecticut Owls AAU program, capturing consecutive national championships in 2006 and 2007. He was presented with the West Haven Twilight League's Gold Bat Award in 2006.

Shea owns bachelor's and master's degrees in special education from Southern. A West Haven native, he resides in Myrtle Beach, S.C., with his wife, Vicky. They have three adult children -- T.J., Tyler, and Briana -- and two granddaughters, Lucy and Lola. In 2010, Shea became the first SCSU head coach to coach his child, with T.J. joining the Owls for four seasons.

2024 HONOREES

VINCENT SIENA JR.



While playing for three Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame coaches, Vincent Siena was a prominent slugger at West Haven High School, Quinnipiac College, and in the West Haven Twilight League.

A West Haven native, Siena is a 1982 graduate of WHHS. He was a three-year starter at shortstop for coaches John “Whitey” Piurek and George Hanchette and a two-time all-District League honoree. He was also named All-League in soccer and captained both sports during his senior year.

Siena enjoyed a standout career for Quinnipiac under coach Dan Gooley. He started at third base as a freshman in 1983 and helped the Braves to their only NCAA Division II World Series appearance.

Siena moved to center field for the rest of his college career but his offensive game was not affected. He was a D-II All-New England selection as a sophomore. He capped his time at Quinnipiac by batting .397 during his senior season, earning team Most Valuable Player and First Team All-New England Collegiate Conference honors while repeating as all-New England.

Siena left Quinnipiac as the program’s all-time home run leader, a record he held for 15 years. He still sits third on the Bobcats’ career lists for homers (34) and runs batted in (137). Siena is a member of the Quinnipiac University (1990) and West Haven High School (2013) Athletic Halls of Fame.

Siena participated in the West Haven Twilight League for 25 years beginning in 1981, later spending many years as a player/manager. He guided teams to five league championships and eight trips to the finals, and is a three-time WHTL Most Valuable Player. A winner of the league’s Sportsmanship Award, he was honored with the WHTL Gold Bat in 2012.

Siena is the owner of Vincent Siena Construction. He and his wife of 34 years, Debbie, live in Woodbridge along with his mother and biggest fan, Jane, age 93. The Sienas have two adult children, Vincent III and Nadia. Vincent III, a former New York Mets draftee who played five seasons of professional baseball, lives in Berlin, Germany, and is engaged to be married to Breanna Shepherd in July 2025. Nadia is engaged to be married to John Uscilla in November 2024.

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

Greater New Haven Diamond Club 1980 - 1991

1980

"Jumping" Joe Dugan
Francis "Huck" Finn
Frank "Beauty" McGowan
Walter "Pop" Smith*
"Smoky" Joe Wood

1981

Stephen S. O'Brien
John "Whitey" Piurek
Daniel Y. Stewart
Richard Tettlebach
George Weiss*
West Haven Twilight League

1982

Bill Ahern
Emmons J. "Chick" Bowen*
Dr. James W. Moore
Frank "Spec" Shea
Matthew "Pop" Shortell
John Vietch

1983

Dom Aitro*
Art Ceccarelli
Ray Legenza
Phil McLean
Eddie Wilson*

1984

Bob Barthelson
Joseph Degale
Ken MacKenzie
James "Big Jim" Sheehan
Frank "Porky" Vieira

1985

John Daughan
Bob DeMayo
Ray Hartmann
Ray Tellier Sr.*
John White
Emmons Bowen Babe Ruth League

1986

Vito DeVito
Pat Panza
Edward Torello
Joe Yotch
New Haven Cardinals

1987

Gene Casey
A. Bartlett Giamatti
Bob Greenwood

1988

James F. "Doc" Gilhuly
Edward Irons
George Klivak
Robert Neubauer
Carl Tufts

1989

Vincent Carbone
William Douglas
Hank Luzzi
Joe Mattei
Mickey Milici

1990

Al "Doc" Aguzzi
Sam Burrell
Paul "Topsy" Del Gobbo
Andrew Gassira*
Joe Tonelli Sr.

1991

Joe Benanto
Phillip Del Vecchio
Judge James Doherty
George Hanchette
Rev. Matthew Robert Shanley

* *posthumous*



Frank Vieira
(Inducted 1984)



Joe Tonelli Sr.
(Inducted 1990)

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

Southern Connecticut Diamond Club

2008-present

2008

Tom Fahy
Jerry Gambardella Jr.*
Ed Goldstone
Dan Gooley
Burt Leventhal
Mel Zeidenberg

2009

John L. Carusone
Augie Garbatini
Ed Rapuano Jr.
Vincent Virgulto
George Wadley*

2010

George Grande
Warren Howe
Ed Lewis
Tony Mentone*
Ken Perrone

2011

Scott Burrell
Vin DiLauro
Joe Guglielmo
Ed Marocco*
Rev. Owen Sanderson
Tom Yankus

2012

Jon Capone
Mike Freda
Rich Marazzi
Mike Reilly
Dave Solomon*
Manny Williams

2013

Butch Abel
John Anquillare
Dan Ford
Earl Mathewson
Bob Moran
Tony Notarino

2014

Roger Beale
Noel Kinski
Bill Marioni
Pat Paulson
Phil "Skippy" Scarpellino
Hamden Plainsmen

2015

Sal Coppola
Pfc. Edward Duel*
Mike Giordano
Frank Kafka
Mike Vacca
1954 Hamden Medics

2016

Matt Altieri
Dick Jeynes
Michael Lamberti
John Stuper
Ed Sylvia

2017

Rich Balzano
Thomas "Tinker" Blake*
Chuck Burghardt
Ray Ciarleglio
John Peccerillo
Sal Punzo
1972 North Haven Post 76 team
1977 Hamden HS team

2018

Chuck Coyle
John DeFrancisco
Ed DiPersio
George Dummar*
Bill Mrowka
Lou Verdi
1992 Cheshire HS team
1993 Cheshire HS team

2019

Fred Geier Jr.
Howard Gura
Bob Kelsey
Tom Marcucci
Ed McCarthy
Walt Novak
Mike Proto

2020

No banquet - COVID 19

2021

Jocelyn Chang
Charlie Flanagan
Jim Guercia*
Bob Mirto

2022

Donna Caldeira
Bob Cuozzo
"Coach" George DeMaio
Tony Golino*
Steve Reilly
Dave Ryan*

2023

Mike Anquillare
Al Carbone
Steve Kesses
Matt Merullo
Jim Pascarella
Joe Roche

* *posthumous*



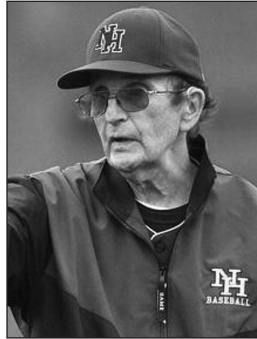
George Grande
(Inducted 2010)

LIVING LEGENDS

There are seven living members of the original Greater New Haven Diamond Club Hall of Fame, which held induction ceremonies from 1980-1991. The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club is proud to recognize them tonight.



Frank Vieira
Inducted 1984



Bob DeMayo
Inducted 1985



Rudy Raffone Jr.
Gassira Umpire Award 1988



Joe Tonelli Sr.
Inducted 1990



Joe Benanto
Inducted 1991



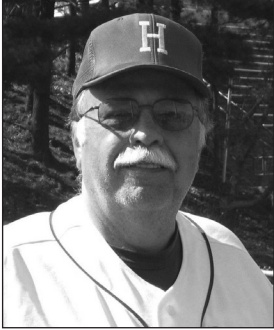
George Hanchette
Inducted 1991



Arnie Mann
Gassira Umpire Award 1992

IN MEMORIAM

The following members of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Executive Board have passed away since the SCDC's inception in 2005.



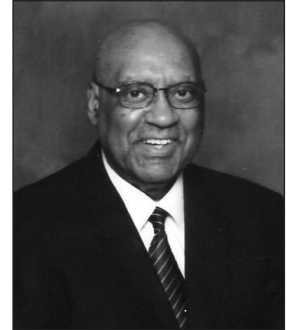
Tony Mentone
1945-2009



Mel Zeidenberg
1925-2018



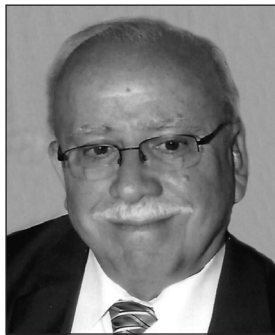
Ed Rapuano Sr.
1937-2021



Sam Burrell
1932-2022

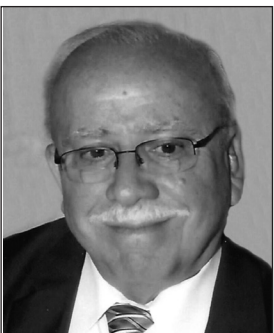


Vin Virgulto
1941-2023



Joe Mattei
1937-2024

The following members of the Greater New Haven Diamond Club/Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame have passed away since our last induction ceremony on October 12, 2023.



Joe Mattei
1937-2024
Inducted 1989



Ed McCarthy
1946-2024
Inducted 2019



Jim Pascarella
1951-2023
Inducted 2023

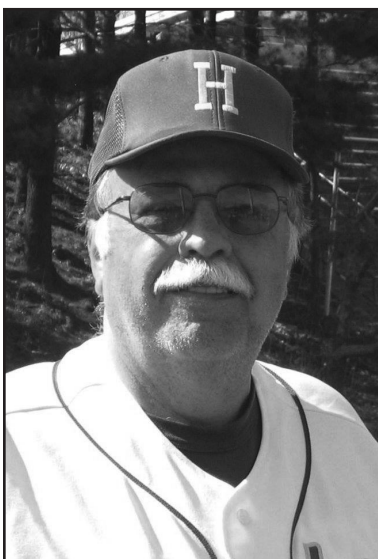


Philip Scarpellino
1944-2024
Inducted 2014

In Loving Memory of **ANTHONY F. MENTONE**



November 9, 1945 -- October 20, 2009

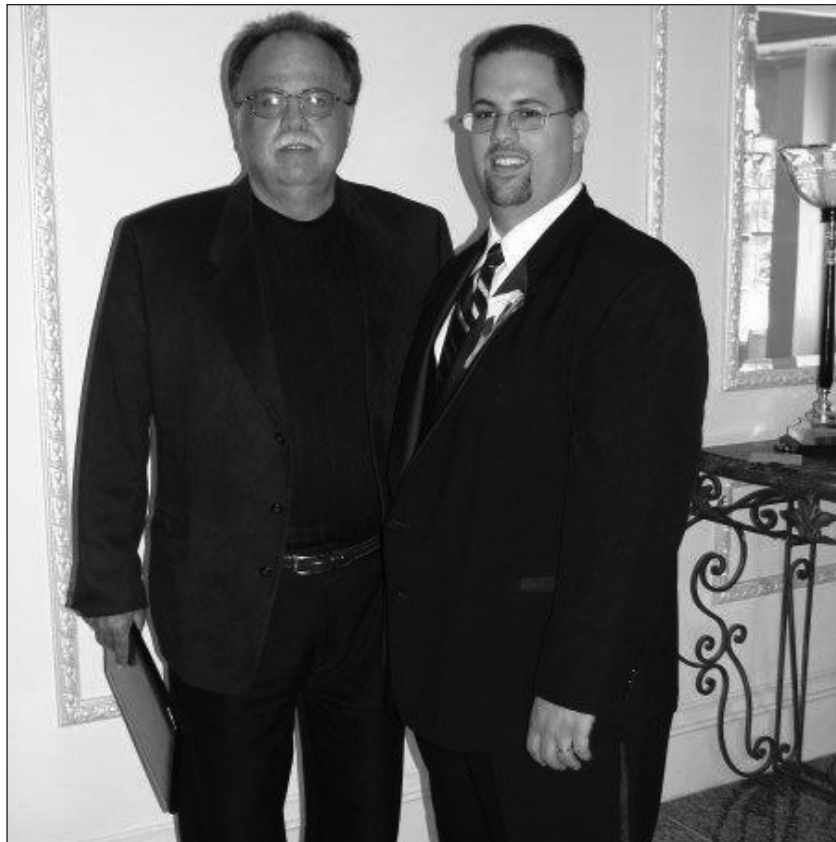


- * Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach, Hamden High School
- * Assistant District Administrator, Treasurer, and Rules Interpreter, Connecticut District 4 Little League
- * Member, Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association 1963-2009. Served as President and Sub-Varsity Commissioner
- * Umpire-in-Chief, President, League Director and Coach, Hamden Fathers Baseball/Softball Association
- * Member, National Babe Ruth Umpires Association
- * Vice President, Greater New Haven Diamond Club
- * Recipient, 1991 GNHDC Andrew Gassira Umpire Award
- * Selected to umpire at 1998 East Regional Little League Tournament in Bristol, Conn.
- * Inducted into SCDC Hall of Fame, 2010

Matthew,

We are so proud! You have inherited and embodied the love of volunteerism and community from your dear father.

You are so deserving of being named a recipient of this award created in memory of Anthony Frank Mentone!



**Love,
Mom and Mark**

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT
DIAMOND CLUB
THE LEGACY CONTINUES**

***CONGRATULATIONS TO
MATTHEW MENTONE***

***AS HE RECEIVES THE
TONY MENTONE
DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD.***

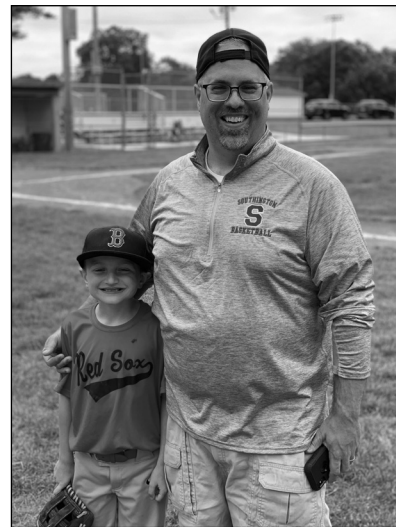
Very well deserved.

Your dad would be very proud!

God Bless!

Uncle Frank and Aunt SueAnn.

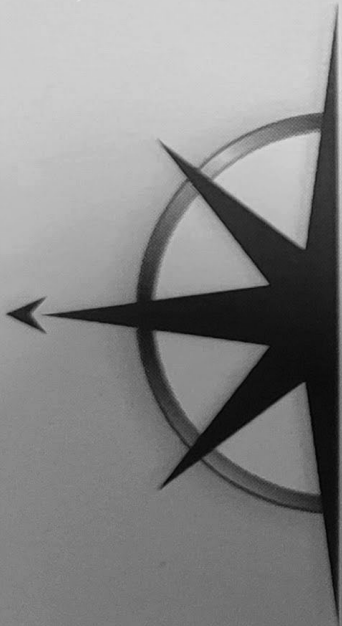
“Coach is one of the greatest titles anybody can have. They impact kids’ lives in a way that no other teacher does.” --Phil Knight



**Congratulations Matt!
We are so proud of you!**

--Pamela, Joe & JoAnn, Sal, Tricia, Joey & Marco

**Congratulations
to all
award recipients
from
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Attorney At Law

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Congratulations to all the award recipients at this year's Hall of Fame Dinner!



Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association

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you game ready. Classes start in January!

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**Congratulations to the 2024 Hall of Fame recipients!
Best wishes to our West Haven Twilight League alumni:**

MARK CONSORTE

Gold Bat 2022

TIM SHEA

Gold Bat 2006

VINCENT SIENA JR.

Gold Bat 2011

The West Haven Twilight League is an unlimited-age, wood-bat baseball league consisting of current college players and post-college players. We are a member of the National Amateur Baseball Federation. All games are played at Quigley Stadium in West Haven.

www.WHTL.org



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Congratulations to the Hall of Fame inductees!

Member Schools: Amity Regional, Branford, Career Magnet, Cheshire, Daniel Hand, East Haven, Fairfield Prep, Foran, Guilford, Hamden, Hillhouse, Jonathan Law, Luralton Hall, Lyman Hall, Mercy, North Haven, Notre Dame, Sacred Heart Academy, Sheehan, Shelton, West Haven, Wilbur Cross, Xavier

#BeALeader

www.SouthernConnecticutConference.org

Congratulations Joe Lizza!

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**The Southern Connecticut
Diamond Club thanks
and welcomes back all
members of our Hall of Fame
attending tonight's banquet!**

**Congratulations to the
2024 Southern Connecticut
Diamond Club
Hall of Fame Inductees!**

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SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS & RECREATION WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE SCSU BASEBALL HEAD COACH TIM SHEA '87 ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB HALL OF FAME

TIM SHEA

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024

Dad,

We are so incredibly proud of you today as you are inducted into the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame. Day in and day out, we witness the passion, dedication and love you have for the game. You've shown us that success comes from hard work, perseverance and always giving your best both on and off the field.

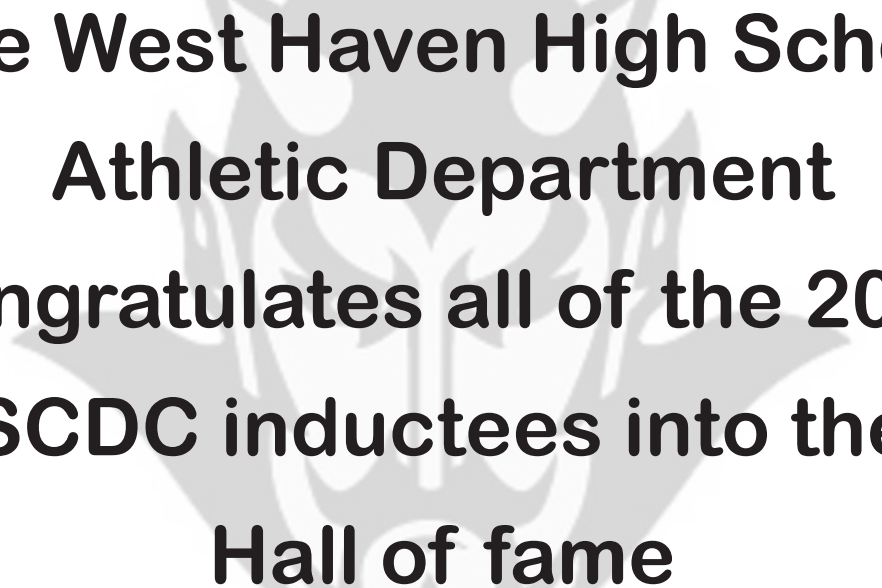
You are our hero, our role model and the greatest dad we could ever ask for. Thank you for teaching us to chase our dreams, just like you have chased yours. We love you to the moon and back and are honored to call you our dad.

With all our love,
Michael, Ryan, and Sienna.

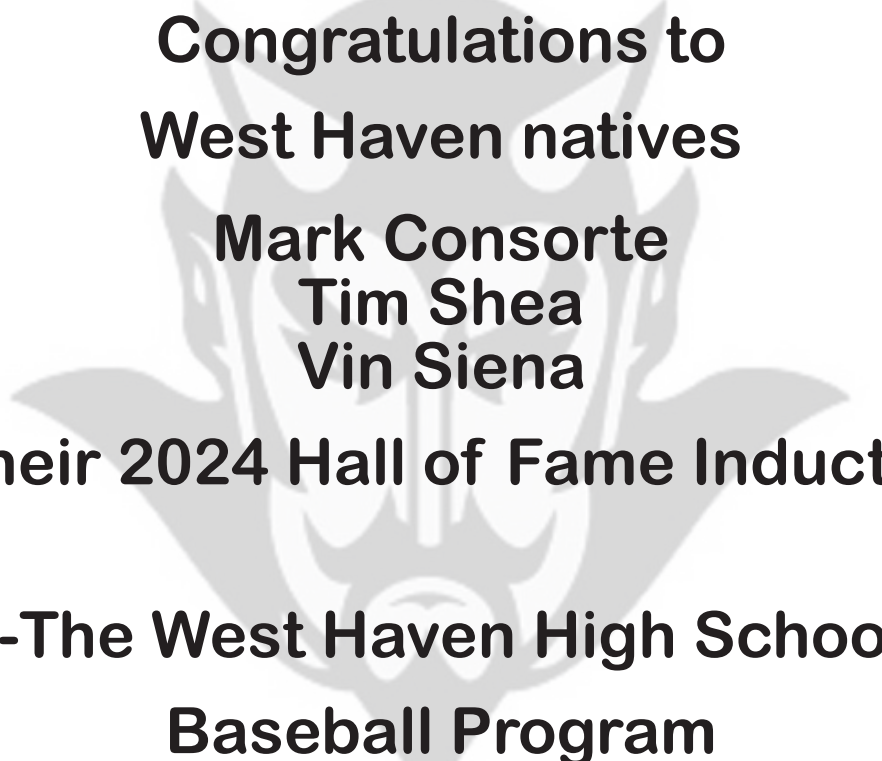


Congratulations to tonight's Hall of Fame inductees!

**--St. Trofimena Society
of Wooster Square
*Est. 1908***



**The West Haven High School
Athletic Department
congratulates all of the 2024
SCDC inductees into the
Hall of fame**



**Congratulations to
West Haven natives
Mark Consorte
Tim Shea
Vin Siena
on their 2024 Hall of Fame Inductions
--The West Haven High School
Baseball Program**

Congratulations

MARK CONSORTE

**Southern Connecticut
Diamond Club Hall of Fame
2024**

**--West Haven High School
Social Studies Department**

Congratulations

JOE LIZZA

**on your induction into the
Southern Connecticut Diamond Club
Hall of Fame**

Classmate, teammate, and friend.

--Mike Cannici

Working smoke detectors save lives.



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Congratulations to Frank Pallone!



**CONGRATULATIONS
MICHAEL MORAS
AND ALL 2024 AWARD WINNERS**

FROM

TONY NOTARINO

**SCDC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2013**

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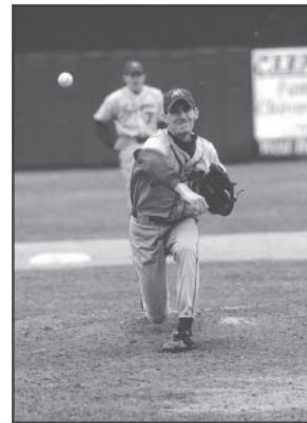
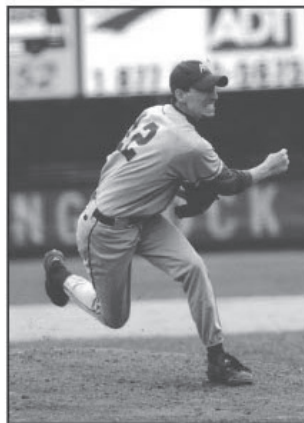
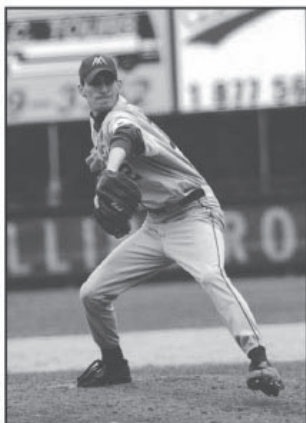
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**In
Loving Memory
of
VIN
VIRGULTO**

CONGRATULATIONS TO PETE CIVITELLO '99



2024 Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame recipient



To download photographs of tonight's banquet, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/SCDC-Flickr>

Compliments of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club!

SCDC IN THE COMMUNITY

The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club is a volunteer-run organization. The SCDC has been involved in numerous community outreach efforts, including youth skills clinics, sponsorship of events, and awards dinners.

Proceeds raised by the SCDC are donated back to the local baseball community. For donation requests, please visit www.southernctdiamondclub.org/contact-us.html and tell us more about your organization and how the funds will be used.

Here are just some of organizations and initiatives that have been supported:

American Legion Baseball - donations to support local posts

Connecticut Collegiate Baseball League teams

DonorsChoose.org campaigns related to baseball

Frank Vieira Endowed Scholarship at the University of New Haven

Hamden Education Foundation - for a yearly scholarship awarded to a senior baseball player

Joseph Mattei Endowed Scholarship at Quinnipiac University

Local athletics Halls of Fame

Local Little Leagues

New Haven Register Fresh Air Fund

Samuel A. Burrell Jr. Scholarship at Southern Connecticut State University

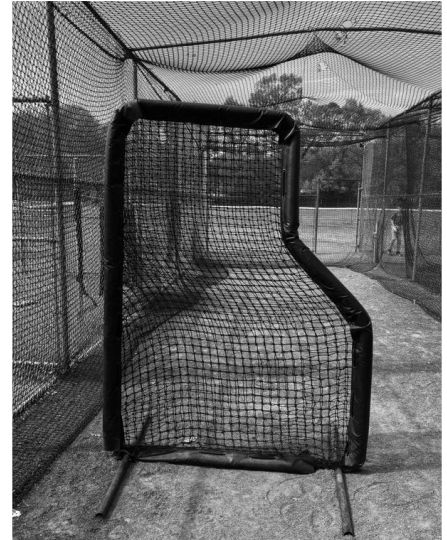
Various local charitable baseball tournaments

Various sports foundations

West Haven Baseball

West Haven Twilight League

Westville Youth Baseball



Donated to a local Little League.

**2025 'No I In Team' Banquet
Sunday, June 8, 2025, 11 a.m.
The Woodwinds, Branford**

Congratulations to all of the
award recipients and their families!



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**CONGRATULATIONS
COACH PETE CIVITELLO AND
ALL OF THE 2024 INDUCTEES!**



Congratulations

**TO THE 2024
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

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