

*15th Annual*  
**Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, Inc.**  
**Hall of Fame**  
**Banquet & Induction Ceremony**

*honoring*

**Mike Anquillare**

**Matt Merullo**

**Al Carbone**

**Jim Pascarella**

**Steve Kesses**

**Joe Roche**

*Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award*

**Kathleen Morrison**

*Tony Mentone Memorial Distinguished Service Award*

**Denis Haley**



*"To foster and promote the game of baseball."*

**October 12, 2023**

**5:30 p.m.**

**The Woodwinds  
Branford, Conn.**

[www.southernctdiamondclub.org](http://www.southernctdiamondclub.org)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
JIM PASCARELLA  
AND THE REST OF THE 2023 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 greater New Haven. 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 Ceremonies .....Ned Burt, *SCDC Executive Board*  
Pledge of Allegiance .....Ed Klinkhammer, *SCDC Executive Board*  
Invocation.....Rev. Owen Sanderson, *Christ Lutheran Church*  
History of SCDC/Introductions.....Ned Burt

## DINNER

### Presentation of the ANDREW GASSIRA MEMORIAL UMPIRE AWARD

Presentation .....Ed Klinkhammer  
Acceptance.....Kathleen Morrison

### Presentation of the TONY MENTONE MEMORIAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Presentation ..... Rose V. Mentone, *SCDC Executive Director*  
Acceptance.....Denis Haley

Induction of MIKE ANQUILLARE ..... Ron Luneau, *SCDC Executive Board*  
Acceptance.....Mike Anquillare

Induction of AL CARBONE .....Rich Biondi, *SCDC Executive Board*  
Acceptance..... Al Carbone

Induction of STEVE KESSES..... Joe Mattei, *SCDC Executive Board*  
Acceptance..... Steve Kesses

Induction of MATT MERULLO ..... Chris Borelli, *SCDC Executive Board*  
Acceptance..... Matt Merullo

Induction of JIM PASCARELLA..... Mike Lamberti, *SCDC Executive Board*  
Acceptance.....Jim Pascarella

Induction of JOE ROCHE..... Dan Gooley, *SCDC Executive Board*  
Acceptance..... Joe Roche

Closing Remarks .....Rose V. Mentone

Benediction ..... Rev. Owen Sanderson

# SCDC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rich Altieri  
Rich Biondi  
Chris Borelli  
Ned Burt  
Dan Gooley

Ed Klinkhammer  
Mike Lamberti  
Burt Leventhal (*emeritus*)  
Ron Luneau  
Joe Mattei

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 assisted in founding the Greater New Haven Diamond Club, eventually serving as its vice president, and 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.

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).

# 2023 HONOREES

## Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award

### KATHLEEN MORRISON



Kathleen Morrison is the first female winner of the Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award.

Morrison has been a member of the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association for 20 years, first joining the organization while an undergraduate student at Quinnipiac University. In addition

to high school baseball, she has worked American Legion games, the West Haven Twilight League, and the Connecticut Collegiate Baseball League under the GNHBUA umbrella.

Morrison garnered her first CIAC state tournament assignment in 2022. She has worked the postseason championships of the Shoreline Conference and the Southern Connecticut Conference, and was chosen to the 2021 and 2023 U-15 American Legion state championship crews.

Since 2018, Morrison has been the head of officials for Baseball For All, a national organization with the goal of building gender equity in baseball. In this role, she recruits, trains and assigns female umpires for regional and national girls' baseball tournaments. She has also worked three Boston Red Sox Women's Fantasy Camps.

Morrison recently completed her second season as a member of the College Baseball Umpire Assigning Organization, working NCAA Division II and Division III games throughout the northeast region. She was chosen for the umpiring crew of the 2023 New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association All-Star Game.

A native of Somerset, N.J., Morrison completed a bachelor of arts degree in film and video production from Quinnipiac in 2003. She owns an M.S.

degree in mathematics education from Southern Connecticut State University (2016) and a sixth-year diploma in educational leadership from Quinnipiac (2023).

The former Kathleen Deutsch, Morrison lives in North Haven with her husband, John -- also a GNHBUA member -- and their sons Walter, 8, and Liam, 6. She is a mathematics teacher at Eli Whitney Technical High School in Hamden.

#### *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

*\* posthumous*

# 2023 HONOREES

## Tony Mentone Memorial Distinguished Service Award

### DENIS HALEY



Denis Haley marked his 50th year of involvement in youth baseball in 2023. He has an extensive history of service to the sport as a umpire, coach and administrator in Greater New Haven.

Haley's first exposure to Little League Baseball came in 1973, when, at the age of 18, he um-

pired his first game. He quickly became a regular as a umpire and eventually joined the Little League coaching ranks as well. In 1987, his long tenure as a volunteer administrator began when he was elected the president of Milford International Little League.

Four years later, Haley was asked by new Connecticut District 4 Little League Administrator Dave Ruotolo to join him and Tony Mentone on their staff. He has been with District 4 ever since.

From 1990-2018, Haley served as the Assistant District Administrator. In 2009, upon Mentone's death, he added Umpire-In-Chief duties. He has been the District Administrator since 2019.

Outside the Little League ranks, Haley spent nearly two decades on the coaching staff of Milford American Legion Baseball Post 196, working alongside Cliff Bugyi. Led by Bugyi and Haley, Milford reached the Connecticut finals three times, winning state and regional championships in 2012.

Haley is still active as an umpire and has enjoyed a prominent career as a sports official. From 1989-2019, he worked high school base-

ball as a member of the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association. He was selected to officiate two Eastern Regional Little League Tournaments in Bristol, Conn. (1995 and 2010).

Haley's officiating career has also covered the sports of softball, football, and basketball. He worked the Big League Softball World Series in 1993 in Mesa, Ariz., and the 2003 Senior League Softball World Series in Louisville, Ky.

Haley is the Tournament Director for the Little League Junior Softball Eastern Regional Tournament. Connecticut District 4 has hosted the event since 1993, and staged its 30th regional this past summer.

Originally from Brattleboro, Vt., Haley is a 1974 graduate of Warren Harding High School of Bridgeport. He has forged a long career locally in retail management, including 17 years as a department manager at McDonald's and 12 as a receiving and operations manager for Borders Books. Haley lives in Milford with his wife, Judy.

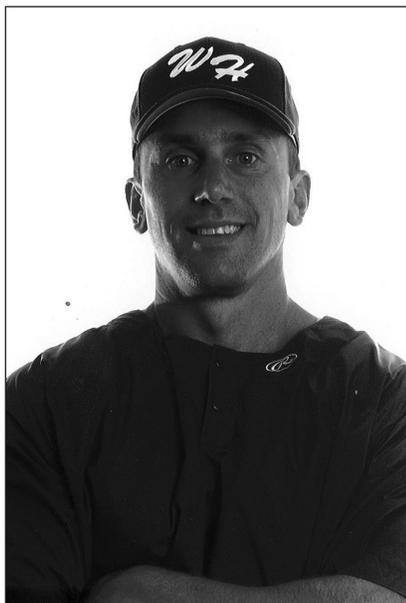
#### ***Previous Winners***

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.
2020	<i>no banquet - COVID 19</i>
2021	Ron Rosarbo
2022	Harry O'Neill

*\* posthumous*

# 2023 HONOREES

## MIKE ANQUILLARE



A second-generation member of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame, Mike Anquillare won state titles as both a player and a head coach at West Haven High School.

As a sophomore at West Haven, Anquillare was a member of the Blue Devils' 1984 ice hockey and baseball teams which both won CIAC Class LL championships. He was a captain of both squads in 1985-86, and earned all-state honors in baseball as the Westies again reached the Class LL finals. Academically, he graduated ninth in the West Haven Class of 1986.

Anquillare was a four-year starter at Division-I Fordham University, helping the Rams to three Metro-Atlantic Athletic Conference championships and three NCAA Tournament appearances. Named a Fordham captain as a senior in 1990, he was voted All-MAAC and All-New York.

Upon returning home, Anquillare enjoyed a 17-year run in the West Haven Twilight League, playing on five league championship teams. He was the WHTL's regular-season Most Valuable Player in 1990 and its playoff MVP the following year, and is a five-time winner of the league's Irving

O'Connor Award for most outstanding first baseman. He received the WHTL's Gold Bat Award in 2005.

A successful coach in his own right, Anquillare has worked on the staffs of three other SCDC Hall-of-Famers, obtaining his start as a graduate assistant under Frank Vieira at the University of New Haven. At age 24, he gained his first head coaching opportunity, taking over the reins of Platt Technical High School of Milford. He guided the Panthers to the 1994 Connecticut Vo-Tech Conference championship.

He then returned to his alma mater, serving as a West Haven High assistant for four seasons under both George Hanchette and Jon Capone. In 2000, Anquillare was named the Blue Devils' head coach, and remained in that position for 15 years. His teams won the 2003 Southern Connecticut Conference championship and three SCC Quinnipiac Division titles.

His tenure was highlighted, however, by WHHS capturing the 2009 Class LL crown. With a 21-5 won-lost record, the Westies were voted No. 1 in the state. Anquillare was chosen the Area and State Coach of the Year by the *New Haven Register*, and the SCDC recognized him with its Sam Burrell Coach of the Year Award.

Anquillare, whose combined coaching record is 236-162, was inducted into the West Haven High School Hall of Fame in 2014. He has also coached in several youth sports organizations. He and his father, John, are the fourth parent-child combination in the SCDC Hall of Fame, joining Sam and Scott Burrell, Ed Rapuano Sr. and Jr., and Dave Ruotolo and Jocelyn Chang.

Anquillare completed a B.S. degree in management from Fordham in 1990. He possesses an MAT in physical education and business education from Sacred Heart University and a 6th year certification in intermediate administration and supervision from Southern Connecticut State University. A longtime teacher at Carrigan Middle School, he is currently the co-Athletics Director at WHHS and the K-12 District Coordinator for physical/health education for West Haven Public Schools.

Anquillare and his wife, Stacey, reside in North Haven. They have two children -- Michael and Alexandra.

# 2023 HONOREES

## AL CARBONE



Al Carbone has been a prominent figure in the greater New Haven sports scene for more than a quarter century, most notably as the commissioner of the Southern Connecticut Conference. That appointment followed an award-winning scholastic, collegiate and amateur baseball career.

Carbone first made a name for himself in the area as a student-athlete at East Haven High School. An all-Housatonic League selection in both basketball and baseball, he batted a then-school-record .493 and was 8-2 as a pitcher during his final baseball season of 1991, earning CHSCA All-State honors.

The left-handed Carbone was a four-year starter at pitcher and first base for Trinity College. He garnered All-ECAC and All-New England recognition -- and pitched a no-hitter -- during his senior 1995 campaign. Carbone played 10 seasons in the West Haven Twilight League for Shoreline Masonry, winning five league titles and two Most Valuable Player awards.

In 2004, Carbone was named the second commissioner of the SCC, succeeding Bill O'Brien. Among many accomplishments, he led the development of the conference's first website, has seen the league win hundreds of state championships, and has overhauled the SCC's scheduling and expanded its championship opportunities. He actively promotes the conference via its digital and social media channels. Containing 23 full member schools, the SCC is celebrating its 30th season.

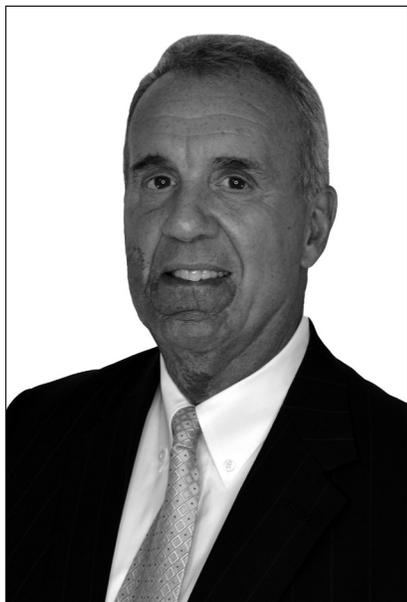
Carbone is a member of the East Haven High School Hall of Fame and is a West Haven Twilight League Gold Bat recipient. While employed by Quinnipiac University, he was a key part of the athletics administration team that propelled the Bobcats into Division I in 1999. Carbone serves as the publicity chairman of the Walter Camp Football Foundation and for more than 15 years was an adjunct professor at the University of New Haven.

Carbone possesses a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Trinity (1995) and an MBA in sports management from UNH (2004). After six years working in college athletics administration, he was hired by United Illuminating in 2001. He is currently the Director of State Government and Community Relations for AVANGRID's three Connecticut utilities.

Carbone and his wife, Tracey, reside in Trumbull. They have three children -- Calyn, Maura and Nolan.

# 2023 HONOREES

## STEVE KESSES



Steve Kesses showed early promise as an athlete, and delivered on that ability at all levels of play.

It was not long in his life before Kesses displayed a knack for the big moment on the sports stage. At the age of 10, he was the national champion of the 1965 NFL Ford Motor Company Punt, Pass and Kick Competition. He went on to attend North Haven High School, and was a standout in football and baseball. During his senior year of 1972-73, he was a high school All-American in both sports.

Kesses was chosen in the seventh round of the June Major League Amateur Draft by the Philadelphia Phillies, but chose to attend Duke University on a football scholarship. He also played baseball at Duke, where he was coached by MLB Hall-of-Famer Enos Slaughter. During the summer following his sophomore season, he was named to the Cape Cod League All-Star Team.

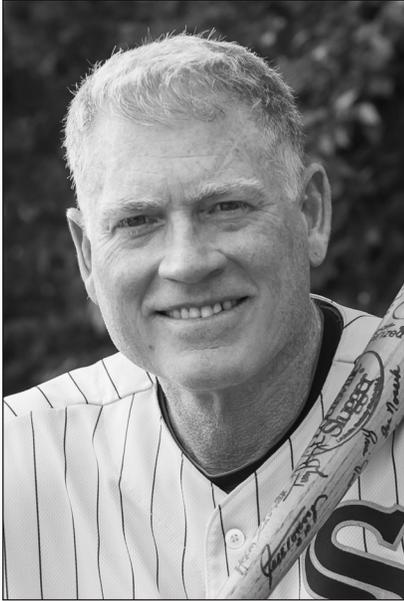
Kesses was entered into the January 1976 MLB draft and was selected in the first round of the secondary phase by the New York Mets. That summer, he was an all-star once again, chosen to the showcase game for the Class-A Carolina League.

Kesses played two seasons in the Mets' minor-league system. He then returned to Duke and completed his bachelor's degree in 1980. He has been employed as a financial advisor since 1981, currently with Gateway Financial Partners of Glastonbury. In 1997, he was inducted into the North Haven High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Kesses and his wife, Wanda, live in Woodbridge. They have three children -- Kasey, Kortney and Kyle.

# 2023 HONOREES

## MATT MERULLO



Matt Merullo played in six Major League seasons for three teams. Since then, he has remained active in the game of baseball in both paid and volunteer positions.

Raised in Ridgefield, Conn., Merullo was an all-state selection in both baseball and football at Fairfield College Preparatory School before graduating in 1983. He then played for three years at the University of North Carolina. During the summers following his freshman and sophomore campaigns, he competed both in the Cape Cod Baseball League and for Team USA.

Following his junior season at UNC, Merullo was selected by the Chicago White Sox in the seventh round of the 1986 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. From 1989-95, he was a catcher, first baseman and designated hitter for the White Sox, Cleveland Indians (now Guardians) and Minnesota Twins.

After his playing days, Merullo continued his association with professional baseball. He spent 13 years as the Arizona Diamondbacks' Supervisor of Northeast Scouting and three more as a manager in the Baltimore Orioles' minor-league system. Since 2000, he has been an instructor in the MLB Players Alumni Association's Legends for Youth clinic series.

More recently, Merullo has lent his knowledge to local area talent. He was a volunteer assistant coach for Fairfield University in 2022, and in 2023 was a volunteer on his son Nick Merullo's Guilford High School staff. In the latter position, he helped the Grizzlies to the Southern Connecticut Conference championship and a runner-up finish in the CIAC Class L Tournament.

Merullo was inducted into the Fairfield Prep Athletics Hall of Fame in 2021. He is a third-generation professional baseball player. His grandfather, Lennie, played for the Chicago Cubs, while his father, Len, was a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates' organization. His son, Nick, appeared in the Orioles' farm system, making four generations of Merullos in the professional ranks.

Merullo and his wife, Chris, live in Madison. They have three children -- Nick, Allie and Carly -- and a grandson, Liam.

# 2023 HONOREES

## JIM PASCARELLA



One of the University of New Haven's early baseball stars, Jim Pascarella helped usher the Chargers into the NCAA.

Pascarella played football, basketball and baseball at East Haven High School. After graduating from EHHS in 1968, he attended UNH on a baseball scholarship.

During Pascarella's collegiate career as a second baseman for UNH, the Chargers posted a combined won-lost record of 104-22 (.825). New Haven reached postseason play following each of his seasons.

Prior to his senior year, UNH changed national affiliation from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics to the NCAA. Pascarella helped the 1972 Chargers earn a selection to the NCAA East Regional Tournament for the first time.

In 1970, Pascarella enjoyed a breakout season, batting .314 with five home runs and 50 runs scored, helping UNH to a 24-9 record and the program's second NAIA World Series appearance. The 50 runs scored remain among the Chargers' top 10 single-season totals.

Pascarella was selected as an NAIA All-American in 1971 after hitting .353 with five homers and 32 RBI. He capped his career by batting a team-best .371 in 1972. He left UNH as the program's all-time leader in runs (121) and home runs (14) and second in hits (143).

Pascarella was selected by the Texas Rangers in the 23rd round of the 1972 Major League Baseball June Amateur Draft and played for three years in the Rangers' minor-league system. He then began a career with Tilcon Connecticut, Inc., and remained with the company for 49 years before his recent retirement.

Pascarella was inducted into the East Haven High School Hall of Fame in 2001 and the University of New Haven Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016. He spent several years volunteering with Annex Little League, East Haven Little League, and Rocky Hill Youth Baseball.

Pascarella and his wife, Betsy, live in Branford. They have four children -- Cara, James, Felicia and D.J.

# 2023 HONOREES

## JOE ROCHE



Hamden native Joe Roche enjoyed a successful amateur baseball playing career that continued well into adulthood. He also spent nearly a decade as a volunteer youth coach.

Roche got his start in the game by participating in the Hamden Fathers Baseball Association. He went on to play for Hamden High School, and spent his scholastic summers toiling for Hamden American Legion Post 88. During his final year of Legion ball, he was the recipient of the Ed Duel Sportsmanship Award.

Roche remained in Hamden to pitch for Quinnipiac College. As a senior he was a co-captain of the Braves' 1977 squad. Roche still ranks among QU's all-time top 10 with a career earned-run average of 3.13. He was also a member of Quinnipiac's inaugural varsity men's ice hockey team, which took to the ice for the 1975-76 season.

It was during his Quinnipiac days that Roche began a long association with the McLean Tiernan squad of the West Haven Twilight League. He played 19 seasons for McLean Tiernan -- including 11 as a player/coach -- and was a member of 12 league championship teams. He was the league's Most Valuable Player in 1982, and was named its top hitter and top pitcher twice each. Roche was a 1997 recipient of the WHTL's Gold Bat Award.

Roche also won two championships outside the Twilight League. He played for Connecticut Home Insulation in the 1974 Connecticut Collegiate Summer League and for Katz Sports of the 1979 Meriden Silver City League.

From 1988-1996, Roche was simultaneously a volunteer coach with Hamden Fathers Baseball and Hamden Youth Hockey. He was later the president of the Hamden High Penalty Box Club.

Roche graduated *cum laude* from Quinnipiac in 1977 with a B.S. degree in accounting, and earned an MBA from the University of Bridgeport in 1986. A certified public accountant and certified internal auditor, he worked professionally in supply integration and supply chain management, most recently as a self-employed consultant.

Roche and his wife, the former Lynn Sablitz, live in Wallingford. They have two sons, Brian and Sean, and six grandchildren.

# 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

Edwin Cannavan  
Ed "Shrimp" Flynn  
Col. Herb Metcalfe  
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



*A. Bartlett Giamatti (Inducted 1987)*

# HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

## Southern Connecticut Diamond Club

### 2008-present

#### 2008

Tom Fahy  
Jerry Gambardella  
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 "Skip" Scarpellino  
*Hamden Plainsmen*

#### 2015

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

#### 2016

Matt Altieri  
Dick Jeynes  
Mike 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\*

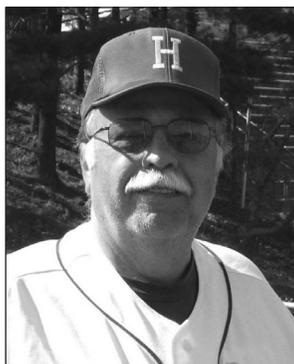
\* *posthumous*



*Dan Gooley  
(Inducted 2008)*

# IN MEMORIAM

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



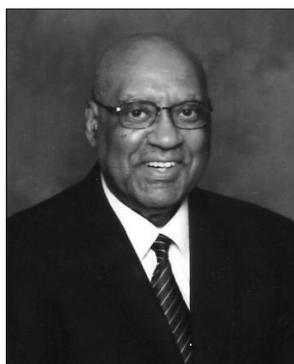
**Tony Mentone**  
1945-2009



**Mel Zeidenberg**  
1925-2018



**Ed Rapuano Sr.**  
1937-2021



**Sam Burrell**  
1932-2022

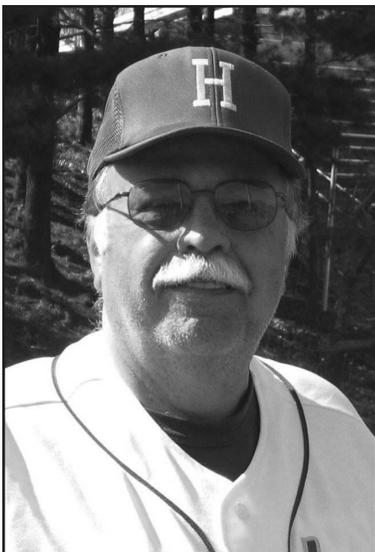


**Vin Virgulito**  
1941-2023

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

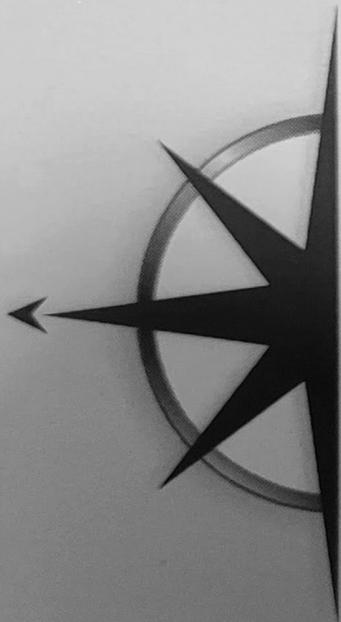


**November 9, 1945 -- October 20, 2009**



- \* 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

**Congratulations  
to all  
award recipients  
from  
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Congratulations to all the award recipients  
at this year's Hall of Fame Dinner,  
especially our sister Kathy Morrison  
on receiving this year's  
Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award!



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Congratulations, Mom!

We're so proud of the 2023  
Andrew Gassira Memorial  
Umpire Award winner.

We love you!

-- Walter and Liam



#### Connecticut District 4 Leagues

Annex LL

East Haven LL

Milford LL

Branford LL

Hamden Fathers LL

Orange LL

West Haven LL

Cheshire LL

Max Sinoway LL

Walter "Pop" Smith LL

The leagues of Connecticut District 4 would like to congratulate our District Administrator, DENIS HALEY, on receiving the 2023 Anthony (Tony) Mentone Award for his many years of Distinguished Service to the Leagues, Players, Umpires and Volunteers he serves.

Connecticut District 4 would also like to congratulate all of the other award recipients.

***Congratulations!***

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**Good Luck!**

**-The  
Roche Family**



# **WEST HAVEN TWILIGHT LEAGUE**

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**Congratulations to the 2023 Hall of Fame recipients!  
Best wishes to our West Haven Twilight League alumni:**

***MIKE ANQUILLARE***

**MVP 1990**

**Gold Bat 2005**

***AL CARBONE***

**MVP 1995, 1997**

**Gold Bat 2007**

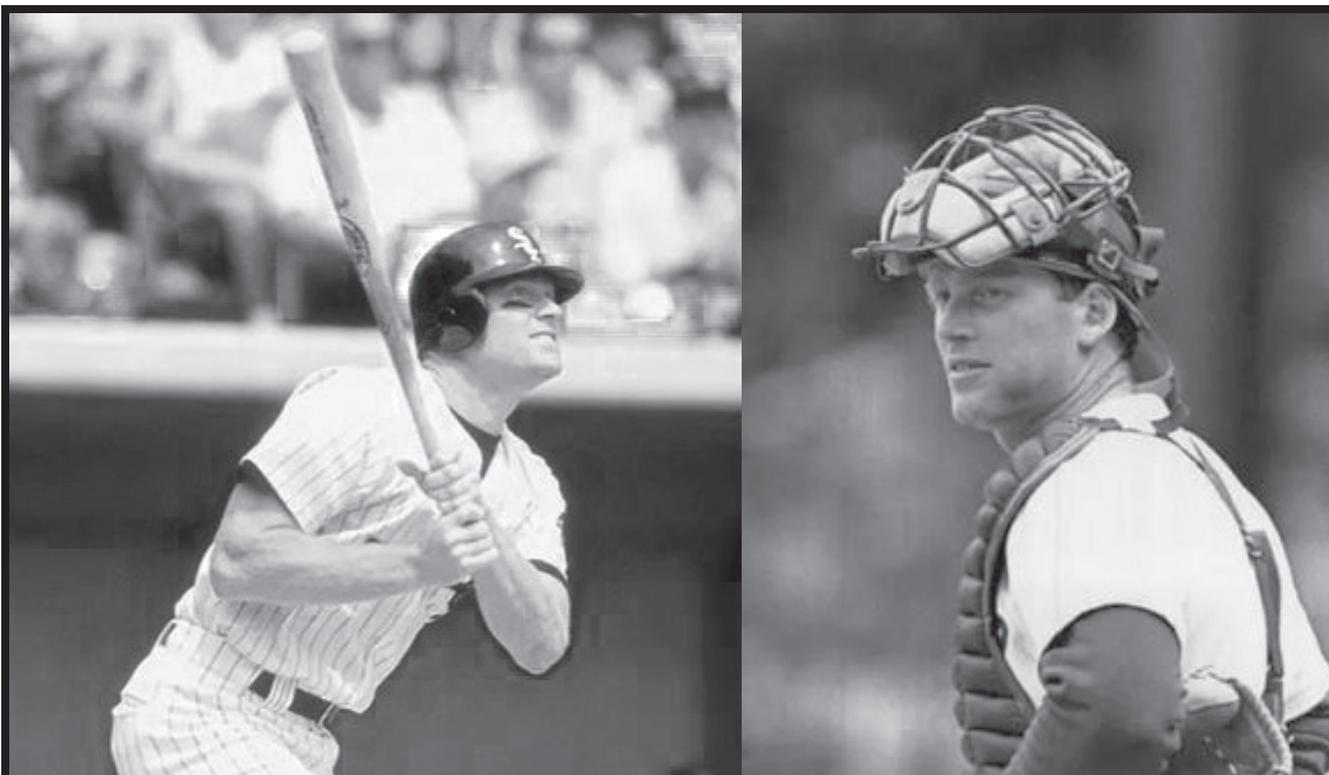
***JOE ROCHE***

**MVP 1982**

**Gold Bat 1997**

*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](http://www.WHTL.org)**

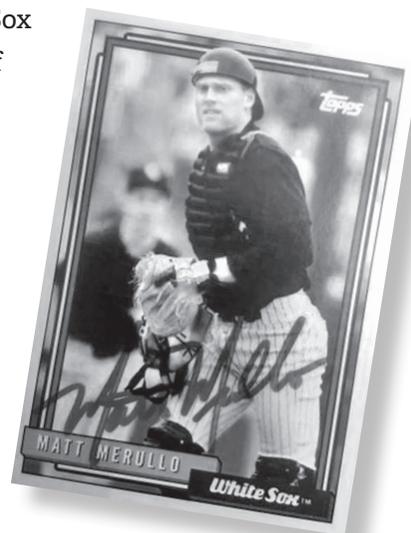


## FAIRFIELD PREP SALUTES Matt Merullo, Class of '83



**Matt Merullo** starred behind the Fairfield Prep plate for the Jesuits, wielding a dangerous bat as well as a strong throwing arm. He was offered a scholarship to North Carolina, where he continued to excel and was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in 1986. Merullo played parts of

six seasons with the White Sox, Indians and Twins, compiling a lifetime .234 batting average with seven home runs and 34 RBI in 223 games. His best season was in 1991 with Chicago, when he hit .229 with five round-trippers and 23 RBI in 80 games. In 2021, Matt was inducted into Fairfield Prep's Athletic Hall of Fame. Congratulations, Matt, a true Prep athletic legend!



Fairfield College  
Preparatory School

[FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG](http://FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG)



# **Southern Connecticut Conference**

*Celebrating its 30th year in 2023-24  
28 state baseball champions since 1995*

## ***Congratulations to the Hall of Fame inductees!***

### ***Mike Anquillare***

*former head coach and current  
co-athletic director at West Haven HS*

### ***Al Carbone***

*SCC Commissioner*

***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

**[www.SouthernConnecticutConference.org](http://www.SouthernConnecticutConference.org)**

*Congratulations to*

**Mr. Mike Anquillare**

*for being inducted into the*

Southern Connecticut Diamond Club  
Hall of fame

from

The West Haven High School  
Athletics Department

and

The West Haven Public Schools  
Physical Education Department

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---



Former Cheshire High School coaches and SCDC Hall-of-Famers Bill Mrowka (l.) and Burt Leventhal following Mrowka's induction in 2018. *(Photo by Ned Burt)*

Allie,

A well-deserved award for your accomplishments.

We are proud of you!

-- Sandy & Al Carbone

Fairfield Prep salutes **Al Carbone**  
for his standout baseball career and  
strong, professional leadership as  
SCC Commissioner since 2004!  
Congratulations, Al!



Fairfield College  
Preparatory School

**FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG**

# **Congratulations to**

# **AL CARBONE**

**from**

# **The Branford High School Track and Field Program**

---

Congratulations to 2023  
Southern Connecticut Diamond Club  
Hall of Fame Inductee

## **Al Carbone**

*Commissioner of the Southern Connecticut Conference*

---

Connecticut Orthopaedics celebrates you and all of tonight's esteemed inductees for your unwavering dedication to the game of baseball!

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
JIM PASCARELLA**

**FROM**

**TONY NOTARINO**

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

---

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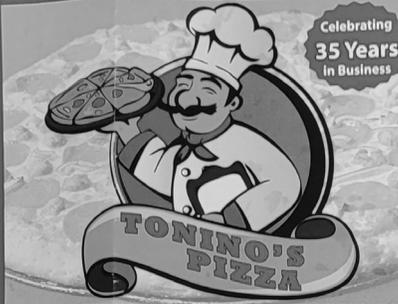
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**Happy Birthday!**

**MICHAEL LAMBERTI**

**SCDC Executive Board  
 SCDC Hall of Fame 2016**

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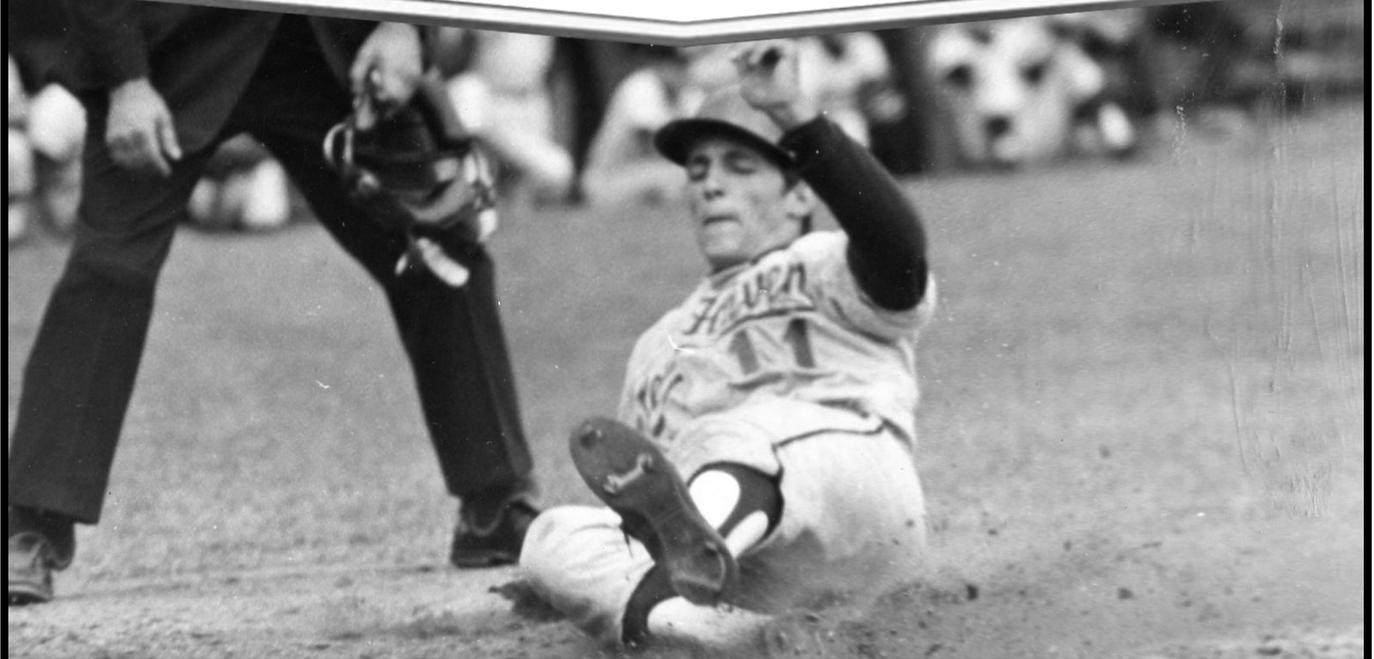
**Michael "Tex" Volpe  
203.980.9272**



*Congratulations*

*Jim Pascarella*

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN  
BASEBALL 1969-72**



***Compliments of...***

**Bob DeMayo**

*GNHDC Hall of Fame 1985*

**George Grande**

*SCDC Hall of Fame 2010*

**Tom Marcucci**

*SCDC Hall of Fame 2019*

**Harry O'Neill**

*Mentone Service Award 2022*

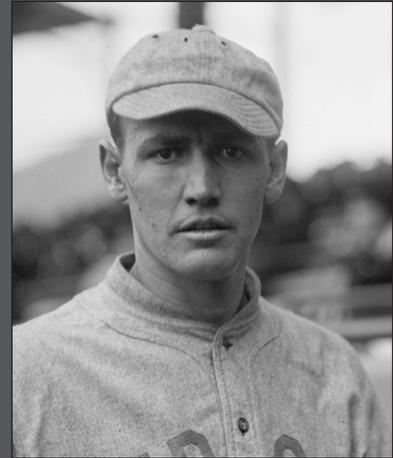
**Ed Sylvia**

*SCDC Hall of Fame 2016*

**“Wherever I was I played baseball. That’s all I lived for. When I sat up on the front seat of that covered wagon next to my father, I was wearing a baseball glove. That showed anybody who was interested where I wanted to go.”**

**-- “SMOKY” JOE WOOD,**  
Greater New Haven Diamond Club  
Hall of Fame, Class of 1980.

*(Source: Baseball: The Biographical Encyclopedia via  
BaseballAlmanac.com)*



**“When I first started, kids brought a glove on the bus. Now it’s a body bag... I don’t know what they heck they put in there... That part’s all different. But I think kids are pretty much the same. You treat them right, lay out the expectations, you’re fair, and they respond.”**

**-- BOB DeMAYO,**  
GNHDC Hall of Fame  
Class of 1985

*Source: New Haven Register  
May 2, 2011; written by  
DAVE SOLOMON,  
SCDC Hall of Fame  
Class of 2012*



Congratulations to all of the  
award recipients and their families!



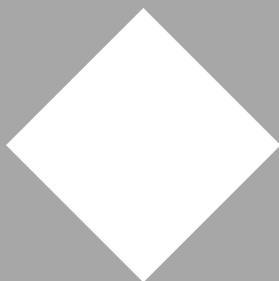
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CONGRATULATIONS,  
**AL CARBONE**  
Class of 1995



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To download photographs of tonight's banquet, visit

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

Compliments of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club!