

# The Hall of Fame Induction

sponsored by

the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, Inc.



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

October 17, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Monticello's Restaurant  
S. Broad St., Meriden

# **LARRY DELEO**

***The East Shore Travel League Board  
of Directors, owners, umpires and  
staff would like to congratulate you on  
receiving this very prestigious  
Andrew Gassira Umpire Award.***

**Larry, you truly deserve this award with everything  
you've done for baseball, children and the East  
Shore Travel League program.**

**God Bless you tonight and always,**

**MICHAEL LAMBERTI**

**CHUCK COYLE**

**SAL PUNZO**

**TONY NOTARINO**

# INTRODUCTION

The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, Inc. is a non-stock corporation which was originally organized in 2005 as an informal organization. Its motto was "To foster and promote the game of baseball." The Southern Diamond Club got its motivation from a prior organization, known as the Greater New Haven Diamond Club. This former organization was founded in 1980, but went into a "batting slump" after 1992.

Thankfully, several former members, along with a group of new dedicated individuals, still believed in the motto, and started the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club in 2005. What these men started has blossomed into a full-fledged network of baseball people helping others enjoy the game. In 2011, the organization went from an informal group of baseball enthusiasts to a full-fledged, non-stock corporation.

In 2005, the club was established with the Whitey Piurek "No I in Team" awards for area high school baseball players. 2008 marked the first Hall of Fame Awards Dinner of the Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, honoring those who have done great things for baseball in the region. The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club also decided to pay tribute to the Hall of Famers of the disbanded Greater New Haven Diamond Club by inducting them all as Hall of Famers into their own organization.

The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club, Inc., has and will continue in its efforts to spread the goodwill of baseball to those fortunate enough to be associated with it. It will continue in its efforts to recognize and award those who have given so much to so many through this great game.

## THE ANDREW GASSIRA MEMORIAL UMPIRE'S AWARD



Andrew Gassira was a lifelong resident of the New Haven area, who passed away in October, 1979.

Despite the fact that he had no sons, he spent evenings and Saturdays each year fulfilling his role as League Commissioner, Umpire in Chief, coach and teacher for the 83 teams making up the Hamden Fathers' Baseball Association. He would line up umpires, keep their payroll records, conduct training clinics, attend games, keep performance ratings on his staff and supervise the entire program.

Born in 1922, Gassira graduated from Commercial High School, entered the U.S. Army, was discharged, and then entered J.C.C. College under the G.I. Bill. He graduated from the Baseball Umpiring School in Bartow, Florida, in 1948 and worked with the New York Yankees. He umpired in the AAA Baseball System in Georgia and upstate New York. He then got married and went to work for G & O Radiators where he became a draftsman and worked there for 31 years.

Gassira was a basketball coach for the Trowbridge Rec Center in New Haven and also refereed high school and college basketball.

He umpired in American Legion and Babe Ruth Leagues. He was a member of the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association, the Connecticut College Baseball Association, and the Hamden Fathers' Baseball Association.

# PROGRAM

Invocation.....Rev. Owen Sanderson, *Christ Lutheran Church*  
Pledge of Allegiance .....Ed Klinkhammer  
History of SCDC ..... Samuel A. Burrell Jr.  
Master of Ceremonies .....Ned Burt

## DINNER

### Induction of the ANDREW GASSIRA MEMORIAL UMPIRE AWARD

Presentation .....Fred Norman  
Acceptance ..... Larry Deleo

### Induction of TONY MENTONE MEMORIAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Presentation ..... Sam Burrell and Rose Mentone  
Acceptance ..... John Mendes Jr.

Induction of FRED GEIER, JR.....Joe Mattei  
Acceptance ..... Fred Geier, Jr.

Induction of HOWARD GURA..... Burt Leventhal  
Acceptance .....Howard Gura

Induction of BOB KELSEY ..... Dan Gooley  
Acceptance ..... Bob Kelsey

Induction of TOM MARCUCCI.....Chris Borelli  
Acceptance.....Tom Marcucci

Induction of ED MCCARTHY.....Ron Luneau  
Acceptance .....Ed McCarthy

Induction of WALT NOVAK.....Rich Altieri  
Acceptance.....Walt Novak

Induction of MIKE PROTO.....Frank Mentone  
Acceptance..... Mike Proto

Closing Remarks..... Rose V. Mentone

Benediction ..... Rev. Owen Sanderson, *Christ Lutheran Church*

## COMMITTEE

Rich Altieri  
Chris Borelli  
Samuel A. Burrell Jr.  
Ned Burt  
Dan Gooley  
Ed Klinkhammer  
Michael Lamberti  
Burt Leventhal  
Ron Luneau

Joe Mattei  
Frank Mentone, Jr.  
Matthew Mentone  
Rose Mentone  
Fred Norman  
Tony Notarino  
Vincent Virgulto

# Andrew Gassira Memorial Umpire Award



**LARRY DELEO**

Larry DeLeo has been umpiring since 1989. He started his career umpiring in the West Haven Little League. Then, he moved up to West Haven Babe Ruth. DeLeo ended up working high school baseball, American Legion and the West Haven Twilight League for 17 years.

He umpired 17 NABF national quarter-final games, all behind the plate. He was also the umpire-in-chief for the Twilight League for 19 years, and on the East Shore Travel League Board he scheduled games for four additional years.

DeLeo won awards for the West Haven Babe Ruth chief umpire, the Fred Ghirardini Umpire Award and a Gold Bat Award from the Twilight League.

Besides umpiring, DeLeo also coached Senior Legion for two years. He also bowled for 18 years, hitting a score of 300 twice, serving on three state championship teams. DeLeo is a lifetime member of the Greater New Haven Baseball Umpires Association and serves as a rules interpreter for the East Shore Travel League.

DeLeo is the father of Christine DeLeo & Lauren Plumy and the grandfather of Raeland and Asa.

## Anthony “Tony” Mentone Distinguished Service Award



**JOHN MENDES, JR**

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

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

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

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



**FRED GEIER, JR**

Fred Geier Jr. played on area All-Star teams in 1957 and 1958. He played for the Goatville AC's, pitched for St. Rose and played on the Wyatt Oilers in 1960. A graduate of Wilbur Cross High School in 1961, he played baseball three years for Coach Bill Clancy.

He received the 1960 Savitt Award for pitching batting practice for Hamden HS which was about to play in the state championship. He played one year for the American Legion Post 47. In 1960 he received an invitation to try out for the St. Louis Cardinals, but tried out for the Detroit Tigers.

Geier played for the West Haven Twilight League (best ERA) for Giordano Brothers and received the Gold Bat Award. He played for Ray Tellier, coach of the collegiate Allstars. Geier also played for the Hamden Townies from 1963-1966, receiving the MVP Award in 1963. He served as assistant coach for American Legion Post 88 with Joe Lyons in 1964.

Geier joined the N.H.F.D. in 1966, was appointed lieutenant in 1973 and retired in 1997. He received the Medal of Merit and several Unit Citations. He worked at the Yale Drama School and served as President of the Knights of St. Patrick from 1992-93 and is presently a member of the Hibernians.

Geier is married to his wife Pat for 55 years. They have two sons, Tim and Keith. Tim and his wife Eileen have three sons, Dan (who received the SCDC "There's No I in Team" award in 2010) Sam and Ben.



**HOWARD GURA**

It can be said that Howard Gura believes the only colors that matter are orange and black. As a 1966 graduate of Shelton High School, he excelled as a 3 sport athlete, serving as captain of both the baseball and football teams. Even though he was the leading scorer in both football and basketball, baseball proved to be his most successful undertaking. He was voted to the All-Housatonic League Team in baseball 3 times: 1964, '65, and '66. Howard was a 4 year starter and compiled 83 hits, including 28 in an 18 game season in 1966. As a senior, with a lack of pitchers on the team, Howard moved his success to the mound. He responded with a 6-2 record, a majority of the team's 10 wins that year. He finished his high school career with 8 HRs and .402 overall average. Howard played collegiately at UConn under Coach Larry Panciera and distinguished himself as a leadoff batter and center-fielder until graduating in 1971.

Howard's entire 37 year professional career was as an educator and administrator with the Shelton Public Schools. He began coaching as an assistant with his high school baseball coach, and SCDC Hall of Famer, Joe Benanto. Shelton's prowess as a baseball program was difficult to match, winning 4 state titles in the 1970s : '72, '73, '74 and '76. Howard was named head coach of the Shelton girls' basketball program in 1979. He had tremendous success, winning 328 games and the 1985 state title. He was also an assistant football coach at the school, celebrating a title in 1988. Being a coach of a state championship team in all three sports he participated in, is a feat he still proudly celebrates.

Last Fall, Howard was inducted into the CT High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. In 2017, he was selected as a member of the inaugural class of Shelton High School's Hall of Fame

Howard and his wife, Judy, have two children: Holly Betz and Scott Gura (a teacher and current head baseball coach in Shelton) and 4 grandchildren: Kaylee, Mia, Jenna and Lacey Gura.



**BOB KELSEY**

Robert Kelsey graduated from Eli Whitney Technical School in 1969 where he played varsity baseball. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1970 - 1972. He earned a B.S. Degree from the University of New Haven in 1983. Kelsey was employed as a Veterans Employment Representative and Business Services Coordinator with the CT Department of Labor from 1972 - 2008.

He began his volunteer baseball career in 1983 as team manager and assistant coach with American Legion Post 47 in New Haven. After eight years with Post 47 he became the first head coach of the Cheshire Reds Mickey Mantle baseball team. Then in 1993 Kelsey was selected team manager and head coach of Cheshire Legion Post 92. He held both positions from 1993 - 1998 and continues to serve as team manager to the present day.

During his tenure with Post 92, his teams won eleven Zone Championship Titles and in 2014 won the American Legion State Championship. In 2012, Kelsey was selected CT American Legion "Contributor of the Year" and in January 2019 inducted into the CT American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame.

Kelsey has been married 45 years to his wife JoAnn who has always supported his passion for promoting youth baseball. They have two children Jodie and Bryan and are blessed with four grandchildren Gianna, Trent, Athena and Zachary.



### **TOM MARCUCCI**

Tom Marcucci retired from Notre Dame High School in June of 2018 after having dedicated his life's work, 48 years to be precise, to the school's mission. A dedicated and loyal teacher, coach, and administrator at his alma mater for parts of six decades, Marcucci served two stints as head football coach as well as coaching the baseball team from 1973-1994.

As head baseball coach for 22 seasons, he compiled a 334-138 record, including a Class LL title in 1985. He coached 17 all-state players and had countless move on to play at the collegiate level. A select few also went on to play professional baseball. Notre Dame won 6 All Ct Conference championships and 2 District League titles during his tenure. His 1985 team defeated previously unbeaten Fairfield Prep 5-4 to win the Class LL title at Palmer Field in Middletown.

Marcucci's two tours as the Green Knights head football coach totaled 25 years. He stepped aside in 2016 with a career record of 179-82-6. His first run as head coach started in 1982 and lasted until 1998, winning the Class L title in 1991. He returned for the 2009-2016 seasons, guiding Notre Dame to five playoff berths and the 2009 Class L title in his first year back at the helm. He coached 41 all-state selections, including Tarek Saleh '93 who would go on to play five years in the NFL, and countless others who went on to play collegiately as well.

A 1966 Notre Dame graduate, Tom graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1970. He would return to his alma mater in the fall of 1970 as a social studies teacher and assistant football coach. He would continue on to hold roles as Assistant Principal for Student Life before serving his last 12 years as Notre Dame's Athletic Director. He was inducted into the school's prestigious Knights of Honor Hall of Fame in 1990.

A 2003 Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame inductee, Tom was named a Coach of the Year seven times by various organizations, five times for football and twice for baseball.

Tom and his wife Patricia have been married for forty seven years. They have 3 children and 14 grandchildren,



**ED MCCARTHY**

Ed McCarthy played baseball at Notre Dame High School, under Coach Ray Tellier S. and St. Joseph's College with Coach Dick Pawlow. He served as head coach at St. Joseph's High School in Trumbull from 1974-1983. During this time, his teams made it to the state tournament all ten seasons, winning the Class S title in 1976 and the Class M title in 1980.

McCarthy served as assistant coach at SCSU from 1984 to 1990, working with head coach Joe Bandiera.

From 1991-93 he served as an area scout for a major league scouting bureau ( Connecticut and Rhode Island area). He then served as an assistant scout for the Houston Astros from 1994 to 1996 under supervisor Tom Mooney.

McCarthy also was head football coach for 44 years at St. Josephs and West Haven High Schools

He is married to Marilyn McCarthy and is the father of father of Kerry Olivieri, and sons Ed Jr., Tim and James.



**WALT NOVAK**

At the age of four, Walt Novak's dad took him to his first Yankee game. When Joe DiMaggio rubbed his head, it began a love affair with baseball that has lasted seventy three years and grows stronger every day. Under the tutelage of his dad, Novak became a pretty good outfielder.

As a youngster, he played for the Hill/Amvets Little League. At 4' 9" and 72 pounds he needed an edge so he worked on his speed, his ability to catch fly balls (thanks to his dad) and his knowledge of the game.

Going to Sacred Heart grammar school, Novak played under Coach Bowen (who had faith in the little guy) and started him in centerfield. With a love of the big diamond and the game he excelled and it was on to Notre Dame High School in West Haven where he played for the legendary coach Ray Tellier where he learned to be held accountable for all his on and off the field decisions.

Going from one legend to the next, Novak went to Quinnipiac where he played for Burt Kahn. He was drafted in 1962 by the St. Louis Cardinals where he played minor league ball for a few years.

He began his coaching career at Holy Cross, started the baseball program in New Fairfield and after a tour in Viet Nam as a Combat Medic, Novak had several other baseball involvements until he landed the head coaching job as Branford High School where he won a State Championship, 5 Housatonic Championships and one SCC Championship. His team also ranked third in New England.

Novak then moved on to be an assistant coach at Career High School for more than ten years. At Career, the team was in the Class S but played a competitive schedule against mostly LL teams. They reached the State tournament in all but one year and Walt received the Assistant Coach of the year award.

The last few years, Novak has returned to Branford as a pitching coach and continues to give private lessons. He is grateful to his grandchildren; Ricky, Heather, Nicole, Carl & Kellie for letting him be a part of their lives both on and off the field. He is grateful to his wife Dottie and he thanks God for everything in life.



**MIKE PROTO**

Mike Proto graduated from North Haven High School in 1975. During his high school career, he played freshman football, and lettered in basketball and baseball. As a member of the baseball team under legendary coach, Bob DeMayo, he was a 3-year starter as a pitcher, compiling a career record of 23-3. He was named to the All-Housatonic League Team in both his junior and senior year. He played in the Senior All Star Game and was the winning pitcher in the State Championship Game against New Britain, 1-0, pitching a 2-hit shutout.

Proto attended the University of New Haven and graduated summa cum laude in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He was awarded a Master of Science Degree in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University in 1988. Proto served the community of North Haven for 38 years as a special education teacher and retired in June 2019. He has coached Freshman Baseball at North Haven High school since 1979, and was named Assistant Coach of the Year in 1994 by the CIAC.

In addition to coaching baseball, Proto has also coached football, and was the Varsity Basketball coach at North Haven for 14 years from 1981 to 1994. His basketball teams won the Housatonic League Championship in 1984 and 1985 and the team he coached in 1989 was the runner-up in the 1989 Class M State Championship. He was selected as the Tap-Off Coach of the Year in 1985 and was named New Haven Register All-Area Coach of the Year in 1989.

Proto resides in North Branford with his wife Linda and has two sons, Matt & Ryan. Ryan and his wife, Liz, have recently become parents to Mike's first grandchild, Katherine.

**PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE ANDREW GASSIRA MEMORIAL UMPIRE'S  
AWARD**

- 1980** HENRY ROCHE
- 1981** ANTHONY "PEACHES" LOMBARDOZZI
- 1982** JOSEPH MURRAY
- 1983** FRED GHIRARDINI
- 1984** JOHN SUSKI
- 1985** JACK GARRITY
- 1986** GEORGE KLIVAK
- 1987** PAUL SWORDS
- 1988** RUDY RAFFONE
- 1989** EDWARD RAPUANO SR.
- 1990** WILLIAM MAHON
- 1991** ANTHONY F. MENTONE
- 1992** ARNOLD MANN
- 2008** WENDELL GOLDSMITH
- 2009** ED KLINKHAMMER
- 2010** RICH ALTIERI
- 2011** BILL RICCIO
- 2012** JOHN "BUDDY" CHERNOVETZ
- 2013** FRED NORMAN
- 2014** TONY GINETTI
- 2015** RALPH BERNARDINI (posthumously)
- 2016** ELMER DESCHAIINE
- 2017** STAN KONESKY, JR.
- 2018** JOHN ADAMOVITCH



## PREVIOUS INDUCTEES OF THE GREATER NEW HAVEN DIAMOND CLUB

### 1980

"JUMPIN" JOE DUGAN  
FRANCIS "HUCK" FINN  
FRANK MCGOWAN  
WALTER "POP" SMITH  
"SMOKEY" JOE WOOD

### 1981

STEPHEN S. OBRIEN  
JOHN "WHITEY" PIUREK  
DANIEL Y. STEWART  
RICHARD TETTLEBACH  
GEORGE WEISS  
WEST HAVEN TWILIGHT LEAGUE  
EDWIN CANNAVAN  
COL. HERB METCALFE  
ED "SHRIMP" FLYNN

### 1982

WILLIAM "BILL" AHERN  
EMMONS BOWEN  
DR. JAMES MOORE  
FRANK "SPEC" SHEA  
MATTHEW "POP" SHORTELL  
JOHN VIETCH

### 1983

DOM AITRO  
ART CECCARELLI  
RAY LEGENZA  
PHIL MCLEAN  
ED WILSON

### 1984

ROBERT BARTHELSON  
JOSEPH DEGALE  
KENNETH MACKENZIE  
JAMES SHEEHAN  
FRANK VIEIRA

### 1985

RAY HARTMANN  
BOB DEMAYO  
RAY TELLIER  
E. BOWENS B.R. LEAGUE  
JOHN WHITE  
JOHN DAUGHAN

### 1986

NEW HAVEN CARDINALS  
VITO DEVITO  
PASQUALE "PAT" PANZA  
EDWARD TORELLO  
JOSEPH "JOE" YOTCH

### 1987

GENE CASEY  
A. BARTLETT GIAMATTI  
ROBERT "BOB" GREENWOOD

### 1988

GEORGE KLIVAK  
JAMES F. "DOC" GILHULY  
ROBERT NEUBAUER  
EDWARD IRONS  
CARL TUFTS

### 1989

VINCENT CARBONE  
WILLIAM DOUGLAS  
HENRY HANK" LUZZI  
JOSEPH M. MATTEI  
MICHAEL "MICKEY" MILICI

### 1990

SAM BURRELL  
JOE TONELLI, SR.  
PAUL "TOPSY" DEL GOBBO  
AL "DOC" AGUZZI  
ANDREW GASSIRA

### 1991

PHILLIP DEL VECCHIO  
JUDGE JAMES DOHERTY  
JOSEPH BENANTO  
GEORGE HANCHETTE  
REV. MATTHEW ROBERT SHANLEY

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB

### 2008

TOM FAHY  
GENNARO "JERRY" GAMBARDELLA  
ED GOLDSTONE  
DAN GOOLEY  
BURT LEVENTHAL  
MEL ZEIDENBERG

### 2009

JOHN L. CARUSONE  
"AUGIE" GARBATINI  
ED RAPUANO, JR.  
VINCENT VIRGULTO  
GEORGE WADLEY

**PREVIOUS INDUCTEES OF THE  
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB**

**2010**

GEORGE GRANDE  
WARREN HOWE  
ED LEWIS  
ANTHONY MENTONE (posthumously)  
KEN PERRONE

**2011**

SCOTT BURRELL  
VIN DILAURO  
JOE GUGLIELMO  
ED MAROCCO (posthumously)  
OWEN SANDERSON  
TOM YANKUS

**2012**

JON CAPONE  
MIKE FREDA  
RICH MARAZZI  
MIKE REILLY  
DAVE SOLOMON  
ERNIE "MANNY" WILLIAMS

**2013**

JIM "BUTCH" ABEL  
JOHN ANQUILLARE  
DAN FORD  
EARL MATHEWSON  
BOB MORAN  
TONY NOTARINO

**2014**

ROGER BEALE  
HAMDEN PLAINSMEN  
NOEL KINSKI  
BILL MARIONI  
PAT PAULSON  
PHIL "SKIP" SCARPELLINO

**2015**

1954 HAMDEN MEDICS  
SAL COPPOLA  
PFC. EDWARD DUEL (posthumously)  
MIKE GIORDANO  
FRANK KAFKA  
MIKE VACCA

**2016**

MATT ALTIERI  
DICK JEYNES  
MIKE LAMBERTI  
JOHN STUPER  
ED SYLVIA

**2017**

RICH BALZANO  
THOMAS "TINKER" BLAKE (posthumously)  
CHUCK BURGHARDT  
RAYMOND "RAY RAY" CIARLEGLIO  
JOHN PECCERILLO  
SAL PUNZO  
HAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL TEAM OF 1977  
AMERICAN LEGION TEAM OF 1972 -  
(NORTH HAVEN POST 76)

**2018**

CHUCK COYLE  
JOHN DEFRANCISCO]  
ED DIPERSIO  
GEORGE DUMMAR (posthumously)  
BILL MROWKA  
LOU VERDI  
CHESHIRE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM OF 1992  
CHEDHIRE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM OF 1993

**PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE  
TONY MENTONE  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

- 2010 FRANK MENTONE JR.
- 2011 EDWARD C. "NED" BURT
- 2012 DAVE RUOTOLO
- 2013 SAL COPPOLA SR.
- 2014 STEVE PACELLI
- 2015 ROSE V. MENTONE
- 2016 ROBERT "PAT" MAILHOUSE  
(posthumously)
- 2017 BILL RHONE
- 2018 MICHAEL "TEX" VOLPE



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Congratulations to all  
the Award recipients and  
their families



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M. Cristine Burt

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*The Southern Connecticut Diamond Club Hall of Fame Honors  
Those who have contributed to the game of Baseball in the  
local Greater New Haven area.*

## **Congratulations to the 2019 Hall of Fame Recipients**

**Fred Geier Jr., Howie Gura, Bob Kelsey, Tom Marcucci,  
Ed McCarthy, Walt Novak, Mike Proto**

**Congratulations also to Larry Deleo for the Andrew Gassira  
Memorial Umpire Award  
and  
John Mendes for the Tony Mentone  
Memorial Distinguished Service Award.**

*The West Haven Twilight League, providing Amateur Baseball in  
Southern Ct. since 1933. We are an unlimited age wood bat  
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Congratulations to All the Recipients!

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Shelton High School Athletic Department  
recognizes the accomplishments of

# Howard Gura

On his Diamond Club Hall of Fame induction.

We are Proud of you!



---

## **ED MCCARTHY**



***CONGRATULATIONS FROM  
ALL YOUR FRIENDS AT  
WEST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL***

Congratulations to all  
of “the baseball best”  
and our brother

**LARRY DELEO**



**Greater New Haven Baseball  
Umpires Association**

Congratulations to all award  
winners of  
the Southern Connecticut Diamond  
Club's  
Hall of Fame  
from  
Samuel A. (Sam) Burrell, Jr.  
Founding Father  
Greater New Haven Diamond Club

---

Coach Tom Marcucci

Congratulations from your family!  
Love,  
Pat, Michael, Emily, Stephanie, Paul, Tara,  
Paul,  
Madeline, John, Theresa, Josephine, Anthony,  
James, Thomas,  
Molly, Elizabeth, Anne, Amelia, Thomas,  
Brendan, Andrew

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ALL  
AWARD WINNERS**

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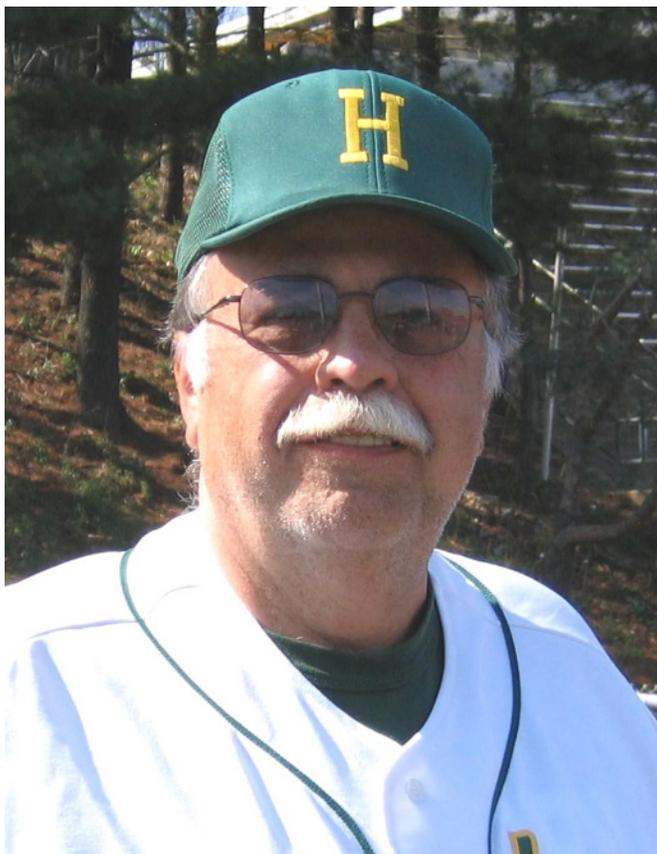
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
ANTHONY F. MENTONE



NOVEMBER 9, 1945 - OCTOBER 20, 2009

Volunteer baseball coach for Hamden High School  
Assistant district administrator for CT District 4 Little League  
Former treasurer and rules interpreter for CT District 4 Little League  
Member, Greater New Haven Umpires Association since 1963  
Former president, GNHBUA  
Sub-varsity assignor, GNHBUA  
Former umpire-in-chief for Hamden Fathers' Baseball Assoc.  
Member, National Babe Ruth Umpires Association  
Former vice president of Greater New Haven Diamond Club  
Recipient, Andrew Gassira Umpire of the Year Award



## ***Congratulations, Dad!***

It's such a privilege to watch you receive the Tony Mentone Memorial Distinguished Service Award tonight, recognizing your 20+ years of dedication and service to the youth of our community.

Over the course of those 20+ years, we've watched you do so much more than coach. We've watched you be a mentor and role model, teaching your players so much more than just baseball — teaching them about hard work, dedication, sportsmanship, perseverance, how to achieve goals and how to bounce back after defeat. Those weren't just skills that shaped great baseball players, but invaluable life lessons that shaped honorable young adults. When you take a step back and think about all of the lives you've helped shape over the course of your coaching career, it's extraordinary!

We are the ones that get to call "Coach John" our Dad, and for that, we are lucky every day.

Our family always has, and always will be — the original J & K Baseball Cards!

We love you and are so proud of you!

John, Kar, Danny

Sharon & Jason

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Papa — I'm so happy I can stay up past my bedtime to clap and cheer "Yay Papa!" for you tonight!

I love you so much!

Your #1 fan,

!!



***John Mendes Jr.***

***2019 Recipient***

***Tony Mentone Memorial Distinguished Service Award***

# CONGRATULATIONS

***WALT NOVAK***

on your well-deserved success

We are all so happy for you.

**WITH LOVE FROM YOUR  
FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

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**Working smoke detectors save lives.**



**Don't let your dreams go up in smoke.**

To see a list of all inductees, or to nominate someone to our Hall of Fame, go to our website:

[www.southernctdiamondclub.org](http://www.southernctdiamondclub.org)  
and please “like” us on

FACEBOOK

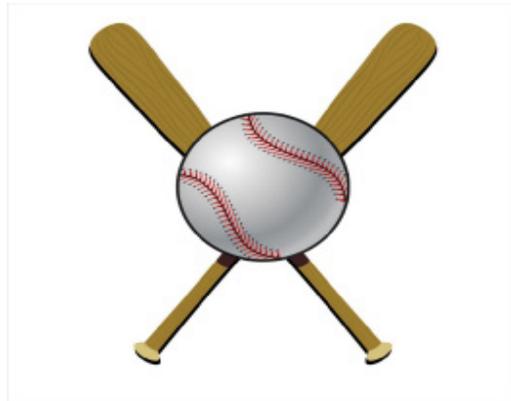
**For photos of tonight’s dinner,  
go to**

**[www.diamondclubbaseballdinners.shutterfly.com](http://www.diamondclubbaseballdinners.shutterfly.com)**

Also, if you buy through AMAZON, consider going through AMAZON SMILE, where your purchase earns the SCDC a small profit percentage. Just type in SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT DIAMOND CLUB for name of charity.

***Thank you to the Diamond  
Club  
and congratulations to all  
of the recipients.***

***The Geier Family.***



**THE HAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL  
BASEBALL DIAMOND CLUB  
AND BOYS BASEBALL TEAM**

**Extend Special Congratulations to  
the 2019 Southern Connecticut  
Diamond Club Hall of Fame Honorees**

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**PHOTO  
FROM 2019  
NO 1 IN TEAM AWARDS BANQUET**



**PHOTOS  
FROM 2018 SCDC  
HALL OF FAME DINNER**



