

NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME

New Jersey Chapter

**24TH
ANNUAL
HALL OF FAME**



**INDUCTION
BANQUET**

**The Westin Hotel
Princeton, NJ**

**September 28, 2025
1:00 PM**

ALEXANDER G. SIDAR JR.

*Congratulations on your induction
into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.*

*A wonderful Wrestler, Coach, Referee,
Leader, Husband, Dad, Grandpa,
and Friend to many.*

All these years gone, but not forgotten.

South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame



Congratulates

RON HAMRICK



on your induction into the
National Wrestling Hall of Fame – NJ Chapter
and to
All the 2025 Inductees

*We thank you for your years of commitment and dedication to the
many youth you have guided over the years and to the great sport of wrestling.
Your efforts have been an inspiration to all of us.*

Class of 2025 **INDUCTION CEREMONY PROGRAM**

September 28, 2025

WELCOME

Ken Bernabe, Master of Ceremonies, Executive Board Member
Class of 2013 National Wrestling Hall of Fame-NJ Chapter

INTRODUCTION OF HONOREES

"The Class of 2025"

"RED CARPET WALK"

Ken Bernabe, Master of Ceremonies, Executive Board Member
Previous Year's Inductees in Attendance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All Attendees

OPENING REMARKS & WELCOME

Howie O'Neil, President, NWHOF-NJ
Class of 2009 National Wrestling Hall of Fame-NJ Chapter

INVOCATION

Howie O'Neil, President, NWHOF-NJ
Class of 2009 National Wrestling Hall of Fame-NJ Chapter

BANQUET MEAL

Full Course Dinner with Dessert

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Howie O'Neil, President, NWHOF-NJ
Ed Glassheim, Executive Board Member, NWHOF-NJ
Robert Shernce, Class of 2019 National Wrestling Hall of Fame-NJ Chapter

LIFETIME SERVICE

Doug Bower
Joseph Forte
Edward Gibbons
Ronald Hamrick
Carmine Rossi
Alexander Sidar (Deceased)

CLOSING REMARKS

Ken Bernabe, Master of Ceremonies, Executive Board Member
Class of 2013 National Wrestling Hall of Fame-NJ Chapter

Message from the Executive Director of the NWHOF



Dear Wrestling Friends,

On behalf of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame & Museum, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this very special celebration that will recognize, honor and enshrine the newest members of the New Jersey Chapter.



Across this nation, the sport of wrestling is blessed with communities that recognize and support the importance of offering opportunities to male and female wrestlers of all ages, sizes, backgrounds and abilities. Behind each opportunity is a committed group of coaches, referees, volunteers and contributors who make practices, dual meets, tournaments and wrestling camps possible. These dedicated individuals are why we are here today.

We believe that each of our honorees has a story worth preserving and sharing at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame & Museum. Today's ceremony allows us all to join together to honor and applaud those who have helped to build the proud wrestling tradition you have in this state. Each inductee's story represents not only the success of the person enshrined by the state chapter, but also the lives changed and positively impacted because of the honoree's commitment and passion for the great sport of wrestling.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025 inductees along with my sincere gratitude to the volunteer leaders that plan this wonderful celebration and operate the New Jersey Chapter year after year. And finally, to those of you here supporting an honoree and attending this event for the first time, we're glad you're here. Hopefully our mission will inspire you to advocate for this great sports history and heritage in your own communities.

Sincerely yours in the spirit of preserving, recognizing and inspiring,

Lee Roy Smith

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NWHOF

405 W Hall of Fame Avenue, Stillwater, OK 74075
P 405.377.5243 • F 405.377.5244 • E lsmith@nwhof.org • www.nwhof.org



Congratulations to the Class of 2025 Inductees

Message from the President of the NWHOF – NJ Chapter



Welcome,

On behalf of the New Jersey Chapter- National Wrestling Hall of Fame, I'm would like to welcome you to the 24th Hall of Fame Annual Banquet Induction Ceremony to celebrate the Class of 2025. This year's class is another outstanding group of men who have dedicated their lives to our great sport of wrestling. It is our honor to recognize their dedication, achievements and contributions. Each of our Lifetime Service Honorees have inspired many through their example. They have guided so many of our youth both during their coaching career and in their everyday life. They are great role models for wrestlers past, present and future. Today let us take time out to show our appreciation to these outstanding men who have helped make New Jersey Wrestling one of the premier wrestling states in the

USA and to celebrate our love for the sport of wrestling.

In a world where so much of our ethics, and mores have begun to disappear, our Inductees have tried to guide our youth in understanding what is important in life and teach them how to approach their future and be persistent in continuing for a pursuit of excellence, not only on the mat but in our everyday life. As recognition and appreciation for their dedication to wrestling and the youth of our great state as well as their contributions to help make New jersey one of the premier wrestling states in the USA, the New Jersey Chapter-National Wrestling Hall of Fame would like to say Thank You for your extraordinary service. As you look out from the Dais today, you should have a sense of pride as you view the impact you have made by the many families, wrestlers, and friends who are in attendance today or who have sent their congratulations. Thank You!!!

The New Jersey Chapter has had another successful year, culminating with today's Induction Ceremony, the highlight of the organization's existence. Since the inception of the New Jersey Chapter in 2001, we have inducted over 131 Lifetime Inductees, nineteen Outstanding Americans and eight Medal of Courage Honor Award winners. I would like to thank the Board of Directors and Associate Directors for their efforts in continuing to recognize outstanding individuals for their accomplishments and dedication as well as preserving New Jersey wrestling history. Thank you.

In closing I'd like to thank you, the fans and families, who are the backbone of our sport, for your efforts and for giving up your time to come and honor our six extraordinary Inductees for their dedication, leadership and impact on New Jersey wrestling. Each of these inductee's names will be permanently placed and displayed on the State Chapter Wall in the John Vaughan Hall of Honors at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Now, sit back, reminisce, renew old friendships, listen to the acceptance remarks and most importantly, be sure to congratulate each of our outstanding inductees and their families. Enjoy the day!

Sincerely,

Howie O'Neil

PRESIDENT, NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME-NJ CHAPTER

NJ Chapter Awards Camp Scholarships to Student Wrestlers

In 2020, the NJ Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame started a scholarship program that provided financial assistance to wrestlers from the Garden State to attend a camp or clinic of their choosing. It is with great pride that we announce the winners of this year's wrestling scholarships! Below is a brief profile of the scholarship winners:

Daniel Cabarcas Daniel is currently in the ninth grade and attends Immaculata High School. He has been wrestling for 10 years.

Logan Forgath A sophomore at Parsippany Hills High School, Logan has been wrestling for 9 years.

Nicholas Ricevuto Nicholas is a freshman at Warren Hills High School. He has 5 years of wrestling experience.

Marco Santos Currently in the seventh grade at Branchburg Middle School, Marco has been wrestling for 5 years.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Chair – Ed Gibbons

Members: John DeMarco, Paul Franklin, Andy Matter,
Bucky Rehai, Bob Shernece

NWHOF & Museum – 2025 Board of Directors – NJ Chapter



(Standing, L-R): Paul Franklin, Ken Bernabe, Terry Alvarez, Mike Cunningham, Mike Lamparillo, John Marinelli, Pete Frampton, Leo Quinones, Ed Gibbons
(Seated, L-R): Bob Shernce, Howie O'Neil, Joel Melitski, Ernie Finizio, Ted Resnick, Dave Kinney, Bucky Rehai, John Allen, Frank Sica, Ed Glassheim

John Allen★

Lt. Col. Terrence Alvarez★

Ken Bernabe – Vice President, Nominations**

Barry Burtnett★

Bill Clarke

Dr. Sam Crosby – Director Emeritus★

Mike Cunningham**

John DeMarco★

Ernie Finizio – Past President**

Paul Franklin

Peter Frampton – Secretary**

Bob Fredrick – Director Emeritus★

Bill Garbarini

Ed Gibbons

Steve Gironda – Past President

Ed Glassheim*

John Hangey

David Kinney★

Mike Lamparillo

John Marinelli*

Andy Matter

Matt Menkowski

William Miron – Treasurer**

Howie O'Neil, Jr. – President**

Oscar Orellana*

Leo Quinones

Bucky Rehai★

Ted Resnick**

Bill Savage★

Robert Shernce**

Frank Sica*

Guy Talarico

Mike Weilmann

Norm Winter★

**Executive Board Member*

† Deceased

★NWHOF-NJ Past Inductee

SAVE THE DATE, MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

NJ CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME



23rd ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Wednesday, JULY 22, 2026



9:00am TEE TIME • SHOTGUN/SCRAMBLE MERCER OAKS GOLF COURSE, WEST WINDSOR, NEW JERSEY

Join us for a day beginning with a hot/cold brunch followed by 18 holes of golf with challenges to WIN PRIZES, and a DINNER/BUFFET to follow with a SILENT AUCTION, 50/50, and OTHER GIFTS!

“One goal of the chapter’s golf outing is to seek and raise contributions, donations, and gifts to provide wrestling camp and clinic scholarships to deserving youth who seek to improve and enhance their skills in the sport of amateur wrestling.”

As a result of our efforts, our chapter will also make contributions to selected veterans and relief organizations, such as the NJ Vietnam Memorial, as well as children’s hospitals, such as St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald House.

Contact: KEN BERNABE, *Golf Outing Co-Chair*
bernabekenjb@aol.com or 732-991-3984

ED GLASSHEIM, *Golf Outing Co-Chair*
glassheim@yahoo.com or 609-947-5885

Past Honorees

CLASS OF 2001

Michael Caruso (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Sam Coursen (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Sam Crosby (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Ernie Finizio (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
John K. Johnston (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Michael Schibanoff (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Tom Seitz (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
John Vogeding (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]

CLASS OF 2002

Michael DiPiano (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Herbert E. Farrell (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Robert Fredrick (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Russell K. Riegel (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Walter Shallcross (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
T. Ralph Williams (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]

CLASS OF 2003

Roy Baker (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Frank A. Bennett (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Frederick F. Buechel MD (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Frederick K. Christ (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
David Edinger (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
John Goles (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Richard Alan Matarante (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Gerard R. Sachsels (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
John K. Welch (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2004

Salvatore Peter Cascio (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Robert H. Dalling, Sr. (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Francis James Dunn (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Gary W. Kehler (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
John Pepe (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
C. Norman Winter (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2005

John M. Allen (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Vince Fitz (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Judge Julio M. Fuentes (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Anthony J. Gentile (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Joseph J. Krufka (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Jon Loysen (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Robert Mizerek (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2006

Barry Burnnett (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
John DeMarco (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Harry E. Lake (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Arthur O. Marinelli (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Richard C. Mirshak (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
William Rehai (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
James Russell Wright (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2007

Wilfred E. Cann (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Jan Dutt (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
John W. Harford (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Sam Mills (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Fred Pierro (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
John Sacchi (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Lt. Col. John R. Suter USMC (Ret.) (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Harold Vandermark (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]

CLASS OF 2008

Gene D'Alessandro (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Jeff Hull (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Dave McMahon (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
John Nemetz (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Anthony Petrillo (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Ted Resnick (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
John Tettis (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]

CLASS OF 2009

Gerry Bandola (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
John French (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Tony Grifa (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Mike Leta (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Harold "Howie" O'Neil, Jr. (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
William "Bill" Savage (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Dr. Neil Thompson (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Raymond Vohden (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]

CLASS OF 2010

Joseph Cervino (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Paul Mauriello (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Herbert Palmer (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
George Reid (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Dr. Arthur J. Sachsels (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Gary Vittorio (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Jack Welch (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]

CLASS OF 2011

Gene Barber (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
George T. Coker, USN (Ret.) (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Greg DeMarco (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
David Dunlop (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Ken Scott (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Dennis Smith (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Len Zanowicz (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]



Full biographies of all honorees can be found on our website. Visit www.nwhof.org/newjersey or scan this QR Code. You can find a free red laser app at the App Store or on the internet.

Past Honorees

CLASS OF 2012

Howard "Joe" Foulk (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Ron Fox (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
David Icenhower (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Kenneth Pagach (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Warren Reid (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Dr. James Frederick Wenz (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Stanley Woods (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2013

Ken Bernabe (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Harold Dow (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
David Kinney (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Gerry Nisivoccia (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Gary Papa (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Bernard Reider (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2014

Denny D'Andrea (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
John Harmon (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
H. Clay McElDowney (Outstanding American)
Joel Melitski (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Russell Minuto (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Fred Stueber (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2015

Michael J. Buggy (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
William J. Burke, Jr. (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Chester Dalgewicz (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Richard E. Iacono (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Frank A. Mosier (Outstanding American)
John Semar (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2016

Samuel Appello (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Henry Boesch (Outstanding American)[†]
William Henderson (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
G. Thomas Hutchinson (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Louis Jasmine (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Dr. Mark R. McLaughlin (Outstanding American)
Deane D. Oliver, Jr. (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Al Reinoso (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2017

Ron C. Brooks (Medal of Courage)
Roy L. Fennimore (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Michael P. Frick (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Steven John Jastrabek (Outstanding American)
Gary Kessel (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Edward Kochajki (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
William Miron (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2018

Jeff Buxton (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Robert Hogan (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Jack Kinner (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Dr. Joseph Nisivoccia (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Gary Taylor (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Mark Whitford (Medal of Courage)

CLASS OF 2019

Tony Caravella (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Daniel Mahony (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Vincent Russo (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Robert Sherne (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Richard Voliva (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]

CLASS OF 2021

Lt. Col. Terrence Alvarez (Outstanding American)
Ronald Grigoletto (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
John Illengwarth (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Lin Jastrabek (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Joseph Luongo (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
William Pavlak (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Fred Piotrowsky (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2022

Dr. Michael Deehan (Outstanding American)
Darryl Burley (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Pete Frampton (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Ernie Monaco (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Ralph Ross (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Richard Scorese (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]

CLASS OF 2023

Dr. Walter Grote (Outstanding American)
Michael Cunningham (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Joseph Dougherty (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
V. Miller Preston (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Michael Suk (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
William Voliva (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

CLASS OF 2024

Richard Attonito (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Kevin Carroll (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
Jay Doyle (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Rocco Forte (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)[†]
Kenneth Hart (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)
John Sanders (Lifetime Service to Wrestling)

[†] Deceased



Two years ago, Doug Bower was the recipient of the Harry E. Lake Award for "Contributions to New Jersey Wrestling."

And now he is being inducted into the New Jersey Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for "Lifetime Service to Wrestling."

Where to begin.

The road to these honors began to take shape when he wrestled for Wall Township High School and continued onto Trenton State College (The College of New Jersey) where he graduated in 1978.

At Wall he was a District and Region champion, a 3-time district finalist, and once finished 8th in the states.

It didn't take long to begin his coaching career as he was named head coach at Pt. Pleasant Beach High School where he went 12-3 in 1978-79. From there he was an assistant at Holmdel before taking the Howell job coach and would record a 152-52 before stepping down in 1993.

At Howell his team won a District 21 title and produced 25 District champs. At Howell they won 8 division titles, had 25 district champs, 7 Region champs and 2 state medalists. He was named District Coach of the Year twice and once Shore Conference Coach of the Year.

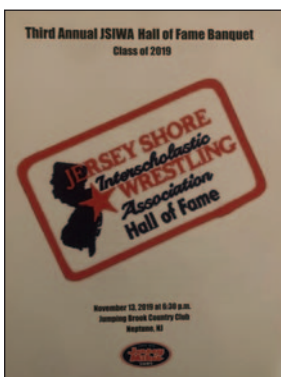
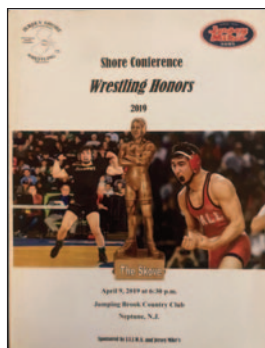
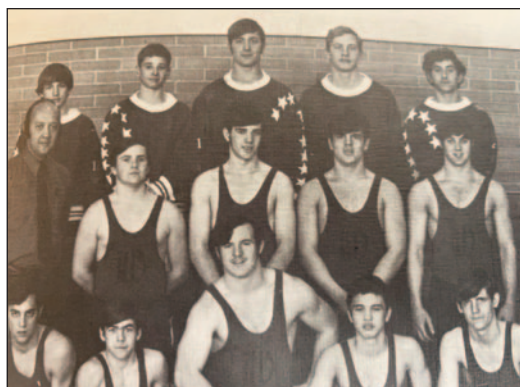
He went on to be a member of the New Jersey Wrestling Coaches Association, the Shore Chapter's Wrestling Officials Association, is in the Region 6 Coaches Association Hall of Fame and was awarded the NJSIAA Service Award for Wrestling.

He assisted in running the state championships for 15 years and was involved in the state seeding process for 38 years while developing criteria for districts and regionals leading up to the state tournament.

He was also Executive Director and creator of the Coaches Association, has been a member of the NJSIAA State Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Jersey Shore Interscholastic Wrestling Association.

He also ran various district, region and youth wrestling tournaments.

Doug lives with his wife Lynda in South Wall. They have three children: Jodi, Jeff and Steve, and five grandchildren.





As a high school wrestling coach for 22 years, a wrestling official for 21 years and 15 years as a member of the Region 5 ranking committee, Joe Forte has for years been a welcomed member of the sport.

Now he is a welcomed member of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, honored for Lifetime Service.

A member of the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Forte won more than 200 matches at the high school level, where he coached at Manchester High School, Middlesex and Pingry, totaling more than 200 victories

Wrestling for both Bridgewater-Raritan High School and Trenton State College (now Trenton College of New Jersey), his interest in the sport was a family affair. His brother Bob also wrestled for Trenton State and went into coaching, as did their brother Rocky, who wrestled for Bloomsburg State and is also a member of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Along the way Joe also coached a state champion at Middlesex High School (heavyweight Jack Wilson), and at Manchester coached Bruce Baumgartner who went on to be an Olympic champion. Another success story was coaching Mark McLaughlin at Pingry, who would be a high school All-American and a two-time college All-America.

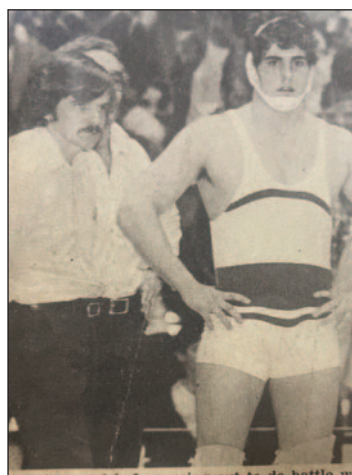
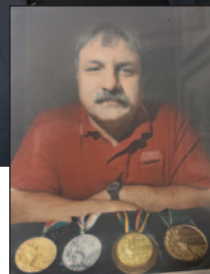
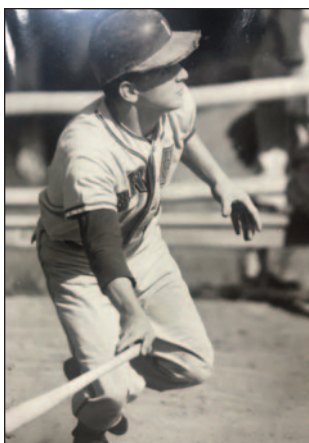
He is now Dr. McLaughlin.

While at Pingry, Forte produced four county champions, three district champions, two regional champions and a state champion.

He is also in the school's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Forte was involved in more than wrestling, coaching golf teams at Pingry as they accomplished more than par with 400 victories. Pingry would win the first New Jersey Girls Golf Championship.

Joe and his wife Sharon live in Dallastown, Pa. He has a stepson J.R. Wolsey, 43, and his wife Katie, and a stepson Nicolas Wolsey, who passed away. They also have two grand kids, Milo and Coraline.





His story began in Brooklyn, N.Y. and ended in Union, N.J. What transpired in between is the reason he is receiving this honor.

Following a successful wrestling career at Garden City High School in Hempstead, N.Y., Ed took his wrestling skills to Springfield College in Massachusetts where he competed from 1972-76.

After getting his MA at the University of Michigan, he went on to teach and coach at Bryant High School in Queens, then onto Hunter College as an assistant from 1979-80. In 1979 he was the New York City PSAL Coach of the Year. He also coached a New York City All-Star team.

In 1981 he was hired as assistant coach at Caldwell High School in New Jersey and then took the head coaching position in 1983. He coached there until 1998.

At Caldwell his teams were conference champions, District 8 champions, and North Jersey Section 2 Group 2 champions. He would be named Region 2 Coach of the Year, and in 1999 was inducted into the Region 4 Hall of Fame.

He would be secretary of the State Wrestling Coaches Association. During his career he also became the New Jersey Coaches Association State Ranking Chair, where he would serve 10 years. He went on to establish the Caldwell Tournament, and was Director of the Essex County Wrestling Tournament as well as the Caldwell Tournament.

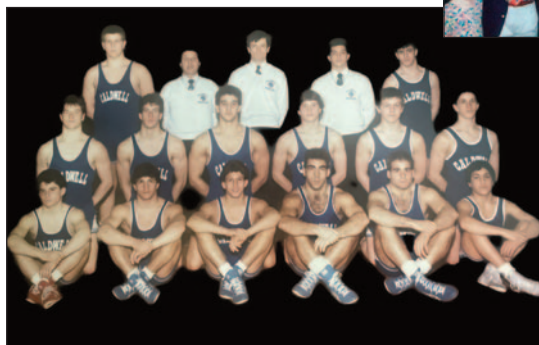
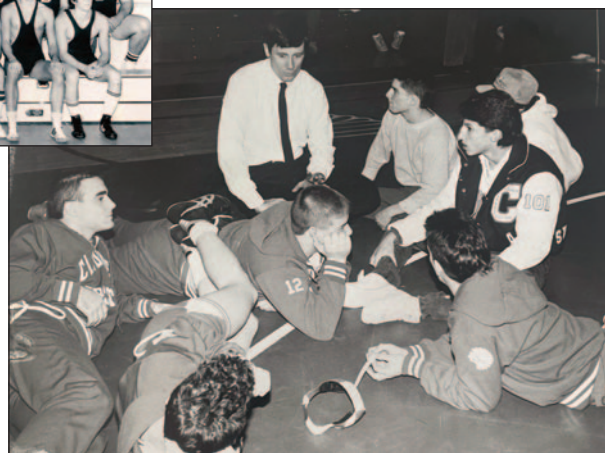
From 1989 to 1994 he was Director of the North Jersey Wrestling Camp.

In his career he has also been Secretary of the New Jersey Wrestling Coaches Association, Director of the North Jersey Wrestling School, a member of the NJSIAA State Wrestling Committee, and was head coach of the Northern Division in the Garden State Games.

An athletic director at two high schools, he retired after 10 years as Principal at Union High School.

He is currently a member of the New Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame Executive Board.

Retired, he and his wife Mary Ellen live in Boalsburg, PA. They have three children: Edward Jr., Eileen, and Kathryn.





Ron Hamrick is in the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame, the South Jersey Coaches Hall of Fame, and the Collingswood High School Athletic Hall of Fame. You can now add a Lifetime Service award by the New Jersey Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

His accomplishments began at Union City High School in Pennsylvania, where he not only excelled in wrestling, but also in football and track. In wrestling he was a team captain, sectional champion and first team All-Erie County. In football he

was a team captain and two-time All-County. Also a three-year letter winner in track, he was then awarded Male Athlete of the Year.

Ron went on to wrestle at Edinboro (PA) State College, wrestling all four years and twice serving as team captain. He was a two-time Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference winner, a two-time Eastern Regional winner, a two-time National Division II qualifier, then awarded the Sox Harrison award as the Outstanding Male Athlete in 1983.

He earned a master's at Springfield College in Massachusetts where he also served as an graduate assistant wrestling coach.

He arrived at Collingswood High School in 1985, stepping into a position that was held by four coaches in the past four seasons. He was head coach the next 25 years, with 22 winning seasons.

For 22 years he also coached freshmen football, as well as boys and girls track 13 years.

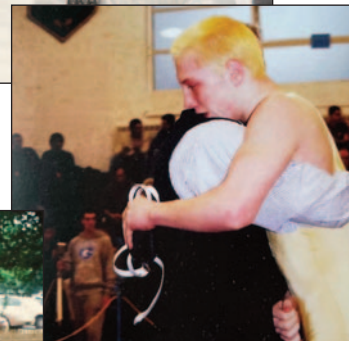
His varsity record was 414-142-1, putting him 8th for all-time wins in South Jersey history.

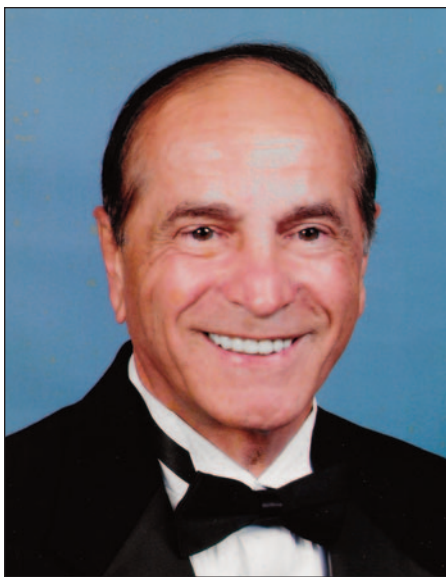
He would coach 68 district champions, 14 region champions and two state champs. His teams would win three district titles and two Group II sectional titles and two Colonial Conference championships.

Five times he was named District Coach of the Year and was honored as a Region 7 Coach of the Year.

He was also Director of Athletics for the Collingswood School District 12 years and retired as Vice Principal.

He and his wife Lynda have three children: Jesse, Eric and Samantha.





When it comes to wrestling, few have been involved as much as Carmine Rossi.

By the time he was a junior in high school, Rossi was winning an NJSIAA championship at Roxbury High School. He was the first state champion at the school, as well as in Morris County.

Although a football injury prevented him from wrestling senior year, he received a scholarship to wrestle at Bloomsburg. After wrestling several matches as a freshman, an arm injury ended his wrestling career, though he remained involved by practicing and working out with the team.

Rossi went on to coach at both the high school and middle school levels, as well as in youth levels. He later became a member of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association.

He caught the coaching bug as he did his student teaching at Berwick High School in Pennsylvania, where he was asked to assist with the wrestling team.

From there he was hired by Dover High School, and by his sixth season his team finished 12-0. He coached there from 1964-80, with two teams winning district titles.

In 15 seasons he coached 18 district champions, 6 regional champions, a runner-up and two state champions. He was inducted into the Roxbury High School Hall of Fame and a year later the Region I Hall of Fame.

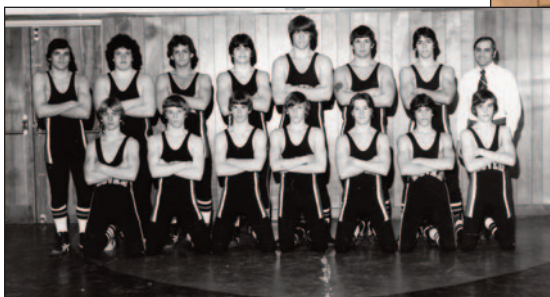
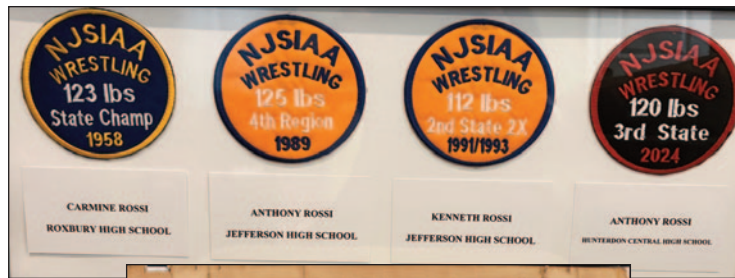
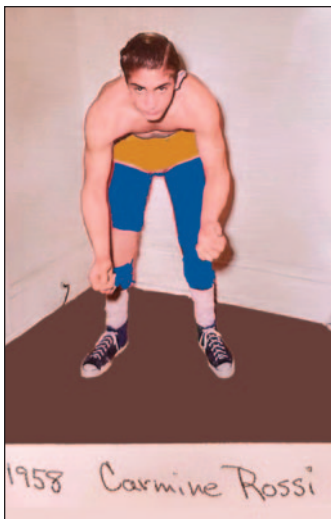
He would start a youth wrestling team after high school practice, started a middle school wrestling team, and started the Dover Holiday Tournament that continues to this day. In the summer of 1970 he started and became Director of Champion Wrestling Club, where he trained more than 850 youth and high school wrestlers over nine years.

In 1980 he was diagnosed with colon cancer.

"Training from my wrestling helped me maintain a positive attitude and make it through some difficult years," he said.

Following his recovery, he began coaching the Jefferson Youth Wrestling Team from 1983-1990.

Retired, he now lives in Florida with his high school sweetheart Judith. They have two sons, Anthony and Kenneth, and a daughter Michelle.





He served his sport as a wrestler, a coach and an official. Even more impressive is having served his country.

Al Sidar, who passed in 1997, received his highest honor having been awarded the prestigious Mirshak Award for "Excellence in Officiating" in 1988.

He wrestled at Thomas Jefferson High School (now Elizabeth High), where he placed 4th in the states, then enrolled at Rutgers in 1940. He competed for the Scarlet Knights three seasons before entering the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he would be a

single engine flying instructor and helicopter pilot. In 1945 he attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, then returned to Rutgers where he was named captain of the wrestling team as a senior.

Sidar began coaching immediately at Rutgers-Newark, then moved back to New Brunswick to coach the RU freshmen and jayvee. He embarked on his officiating career, which he would do from 1947 to 1963.

For 17 straight years he officiated the NJSIAA state finals. Beginning in 1950 officials were selected by the state coaches, and Al was chosen to officiate the state finals every year until his retirement, in addition to countless dual meets.

In 1968 he was made an "Honorary Member" of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association.

Away from the mat, Al would be named Admissions Officer at Rutgers, was the Executive Director of the College Entrance Examination Board, President of the New Jersey Association of Colleges and University, Dean of Somerset County College, as well as Dean of Waynesburg College.

Adding to his legacy was the establishment of the National Higher Education Consultant Organization for scholarship programs for businesses and corporations.

Back in 1949 he had the honor of writing the first wrestling instructional article to be printed in the Scholastic Coach magazine. He would author a total of six articles.

His last coaching position was re-establishing the wrestling program at Gill-St. Bernard's School.

No surprise he's been recognized for Lifetime Service to Wrestling.

He and his wife Jean had three children: Alexander 3rd, Elizabeth and Thomas.



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The National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Stillwater, Oklahoma, gratefully accepts the following donations for each honoree:

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In Memoriam



GENE BARBER

Gene Barber, a member of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, passed away Jan. 15.

A 1969 graduate of Paulsboro High School, his wrestling career would span more than 40 years before retiring as head coach of Absegami High School in the 2010 season. His own high school career included a District 29 championship while being named the OW.

From there he succeeded at the college level, placing second in the Junior Nationals for Camden County College in 1971. More success followed at Trenton State College (now the College of New Jersey) where he would be a two-time College Division All-America, including a third-place finish in the DIII in 1972 and 1973.

A career in coaching began in 1977 at Absegami High School, where he was also hired as a physical education teacher. Over a span of 33 years his team's compiled a record of 507-137-4. His teams won four Group IV championships, was ranked No. 1 in the state three years and ranked as high as No. 4 in the country. From 2001 through 2004 his squads went 22-0, 20-0-1, 23-0 and 23-0.

They won six South Jersey Group IV Sectional titles, had eight individual state champions, 16 100-win wrestlers, 46 Region champs and 129 District champs. The teams won 18 Cape-Atlantic titles, and he was Region 8 Coach of the Year five times and New Jersey Coach of the Year once.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Kathy Barber, and children Matt, Gena and Michael.



DENNIS D'ANDREA

Denny D'Andrea, a member of the New Jersey Chapter Hall of Fame, died Jan. 18. He was 74.

Born in Jersey City, he graduated from Raritan High School in Hazlet, graduating in 1968 where he excelled in football, wrestling and baseball.

A graduate of Glassboro State College in 1972, he began his coaching career as a volunteer at Manalapan High School. His first head coaching position was at Freehold Boro. He returned to Manalapan as its head coach in 1977 where his teams won the Shore Conference Tournament and District championships in 1981 and 1982.

After five years he took a significant career move by becoming an assistant coach at Brick Memorial, where for 20 years he helped the Mustangs win 10 Sectionals, 18 Districts, five Group championships, and 12 Shore Conference championships, including 10 straight. Denny also assisted coaching football and baseball at Brick. Between Manalapan and Brick he coached five State champions, 44 Region champions and 120 District champions.

After a brief retirement he concluded his career coaching St. John Vianney for six seasons, where in 2019 the school produced its first state champion in Dean Peterson. Seven of his wrestlers went on to be head coaches.

Over his career he was named NJ.com Wrestling Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Hall of Fame at both Manalapan and Raritan high schools. In 2014 he was inducted into the New Jersey Chapter Hall of Fame, and was the recipient of the Harry E. Lake Award, and in addition to coaching, he also taught for 40 years.

He leaves behind his wife Eileen, his children Mickey and Kelsey, and brother Anthony.



ANTHONY PETRILLO

Anthony Petrillo, a member of the New Jersey Chapter of the Wrestling Hall of Fame, passed away June 8. He was 96.

The Mount Holly resident graduated from G.A.R. High School in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. in 1946, went on to Mansfield University and eventually earned his master's degree from Rutgers University in 1962.

He began his coaching career at the age of 22, beginning as a football coach at Canisteo High School in New York. In 1957 he moved to New Jersey and coached football at Pemberton Boro High School. He then coached at Rancocas Valley High School, where he taught Physics and coached wrestling and football.

Petrillo was head wrestling coach for more than 27 years, during which time he went on to receive numerous awards while compiling a record of 191-101-4.

His teams won three Burlington County Tournament titles, had 17 consecutive winning seasons, one undefeated season, seven Burlington County League championships and five District titles, and coached 51 individual District champs, 6 Region champions and 4 state finalists.

In 1981 Coach Petrillo was awarded the Harry E. Lake Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to New Jersey High School Wrestling. He would also be inducted into the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1985, then in 1992 was inducted into the Rancocas Valley Regional High School Hall of Fame. He was later inducted into the South Jersey Coaches Hall of Fame.

Petrillo would also serve on the Executive Committee of the South Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame, the South Jersey Coaches and Officials Executive Committee, the New Jersey State Wrestling Executive Committee, and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Committee.

Predeceased by his wife Millie, he is survived by four children, and several great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.



GARY VITTORIO

Gary Vittorio, a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and a long-time wrestling coach at Parsippany High School in New Jersey, died Jan. 5 at age 87.

Raised in Watertown, N.Y., he went on to receive a Bachelors degree in Physical Education. From there he attended Penn State to pursue a Masters. He settled in Parsippany, where he taught science, physical education and health, as well as pursuing an advanced degree at Seton Hall University.

A three-sport athlete in high school, he started the wrestling program at Parsippany in 1960. Twenty-five years later he retired with a record of 201-104-5. His team's accomplishments included eight conference titles, four Districts and nine Holiday titles. His wrestlers won 55 Holiday championships, 48 District championships, two state championships, as well as five other state medalists. His 1970 state champion, heavyweight Roy Baker, went on to National Hall of Fame status.

Vittorio went on to serve as Region President for the New Jersey Wrestling Coaches Association, and was also founder of the Morris County and Parsippany Holiday Tournaments. He was inducted into the Parsippany High School Hall of Fame, the Morris County Hall of Fame, Region 3 Hall of Fame, and was also Coach of the Year in both District 9 and Region 3.

Eventually he became an active member of the New Jersey and National Education Associations and was an early leader of the Teachers Union in Parsippany. In 1960 he left the classroom to become the high school's Student Activities Director. Initially coaching football and cross country, his passion was wrestling, where he became an innovator and ambassador in the sport.

He leaves behind his wife Joan, four children, 11 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, as well as one brother.

Congratulations to the NJ Chapter Wrestling Hall of Fame Class of 2025

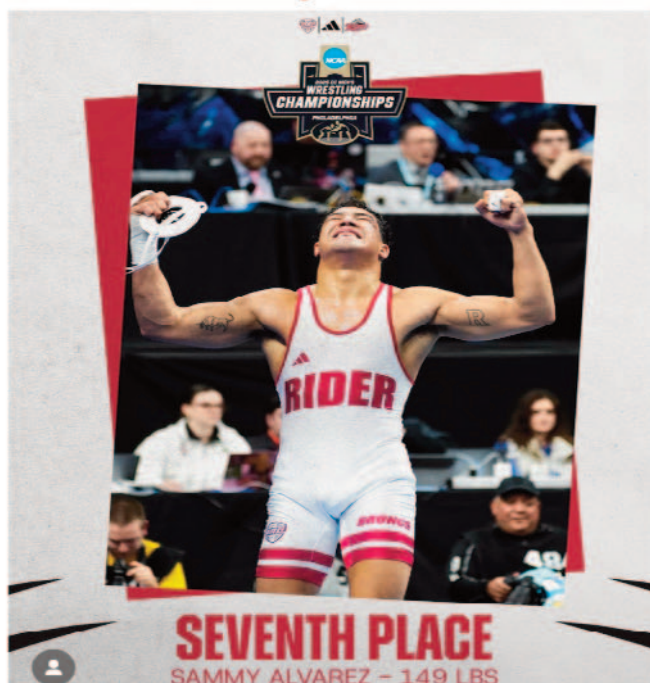


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"Coach Forte is the best coach I have had in my life. As a leader myself, I hope to honor his role modeling on a daily basis when I lead at work and at home."

*-Dan Sciubba, Chairman of Neurosurgery,
North Shore Hospital*

"Coach Forte was more than just an outstanding wrestling coach—he was a mentor who inspired me to believe in myself, push past my limits, and enjoy every moment on the mat. His passion for the sport and unwavering belief in all of his athletes left a lasting mark on my life."

-Major Jay Antonelli (Ret.), USMC

"Coach always pushed me to my limits on the mat and also showed a caring side with mentoring lessons of successes and failures."

-Tom Rusen, Harrington Construction

"Coach Forte pushed us past our limits, believed in us more than we believed in ourselves, and taught lessons that reached far beyond the mat."

-The Hon. Sander D. Friedman, NJ Superior Court Judge

"Like so many others, Coach Forte profoundly impacted my life. My experience with him is a part of my DNA and I still draw upon it daily."

-Chip Baird, CEO of 2seventy Bio, Inc.

"Coach Forte didn't just make me a better wrestler - he made me a better surgeon. He didn't just make my life better - he made thousands of patients' lives better."

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His leadership built not only championship teams, but also strong young men whose lives were shaped by his example of discipline, hard work, and respect.

Coach Gibbons’ legacy extends far beyond the mat—his lessons in perseverance, teamwork, and character continue to inspire generations of athletes, families, and the entire Caldwell community.

“Once a Chief, Always a Chief. Thank you, Coach, for a lifetime of inspiration.”

**With gratitude and admiration,
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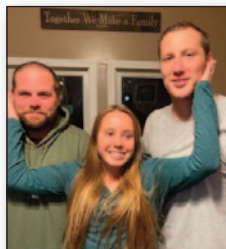
On being inducted into the
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You have given so much and have endless
dedication and love for the sport of wrestling.
Your love of wrestling is 2nd only to being a
wonderful husband and father.

We are so proud of you and Love you!!

Lynda, Jesse, Eric & Samantha



**Congratulations to Joe Forte
for the honor of your
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Amazing Coach, Mentor, Friend

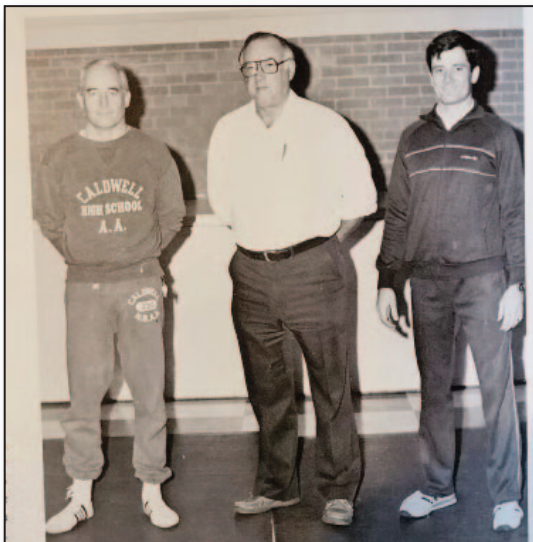


**With love and admiration,
Mark McLaughlin**

Congratulations, Coach Gibbons

Your dedication to Sportsmanship, Academic Achievement,
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James Caldwell High School

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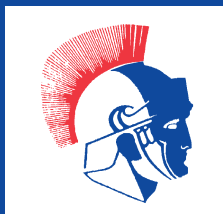
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Love, Ruth and Dale White



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