

CENTRAL ISLIP SPORTS



HALL OF FAME

INDUCTION CEREMONY

September 20, 2014

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Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony 2014

Welcome Tom Black

Brunch

Guest SpeakerMr. Brett MacMonigle
Principal, Central Islip High School

Inductees into the Central Islip Hall of Fame 2014

Bill Balsamo	Mike Mos
Doug Carpluk	Jeff O'Keefe
Jack Cassidy	Frank Pagnotta
Joe Feller	Tom Reilly
Richie Flynn	John Shaughnessy
Celeste Grier Johnathan	Richard Tharpe
George Linneman	John Tice

Mile Medley Relay Team

Closing Remarks



Bill Balsamo 1977

“Now pitching for Central Islip, number 14, Bill Balsamo; number 14 Balsamo! Considered by many to be the most well rounded baseball player produced by Central Islip, Bill grew up constantly honing his skills at various levels of little league before reaching high school. The hard throwing right handed was the programs dominant pitcher and a consensus All-Star and

tournament selection that featured an outstanding curve ball not often seen in junior ball. A King Charles, Uncle Charlie or Big Deuce!

Bill started high school in 1973 and won varsity letters in baseball for all four years. He was an All-League selection his junior and senior years and made All-County in his final year. He compiled an amazing 35-2 record on the mound and hit for a .375 average in the lead off slot during his tenure as a Musketeer. He earned tryouts with the Tigers, Dodgers and Mets.

After graduating, Billy went on to play for Doling College, where he received a scholarship for his talents. Bill played 2 years for the Golden Lions after playing minor league ball for two years for the Tigers and Dodgers. IN 1978, he rated .370 and pitched two no-hitters. In 1981, he his .356 and hit two consecutive home runs against Stony Brook University.

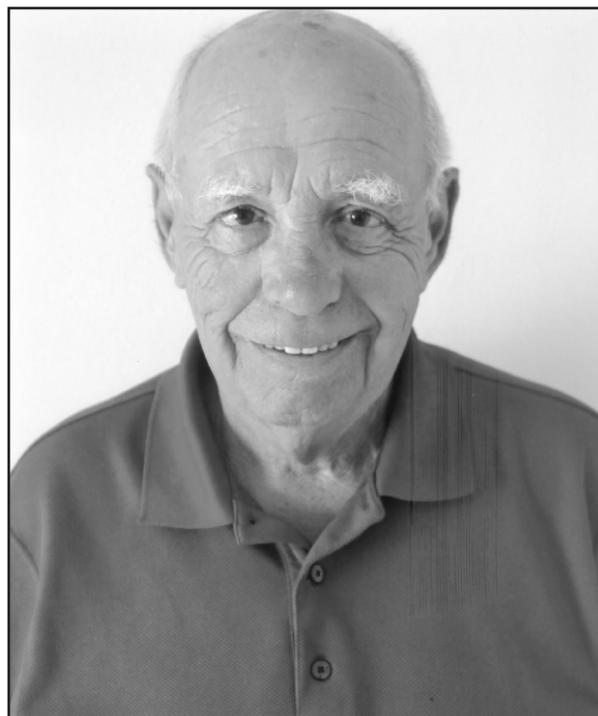
After college, Bill jointed the staff of his alma mater and became a 23 Associate Professor of English at Doling. Bill used his summers to continue tryouts for the pros for the next few years. Bill continued to work at Doling until 1998 when he became a full professor. That year he departed to form his own public and government relations company, W.B. Communications, which specializes in guidance to various political figures and agencies.

Bill has two children, son Peter Liam, age 26, a regional sales manager for Long Island Wineries and son Carey, 23, a talented guitar musician. Bill devotes a great deal of his time and energy to his church, still plays a little ball and enjoys blue grass music. Bill is an avid reader and Civil War enthusiast specializing in the Battle of Gettysburg. His life is centered on his immediate and extended family and he credits his Dad with his success on the playing fields and in life. With all his accomplishments, Bill considers being elected “Prom King” over Mike Tice his “finest moment”.

Today, we add another fine moment as “the Professor” steps to the head of the class and enters the CI Sports Hall of Fame.

Doug Carpluk

1962



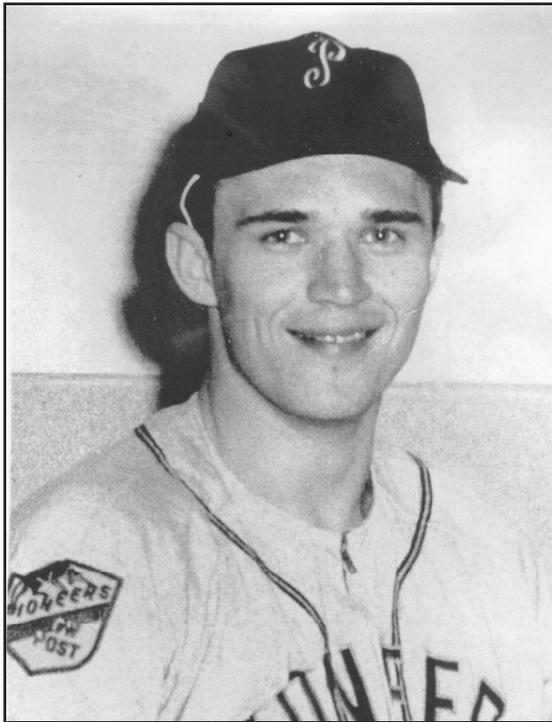
Years ago, if you wanted your car tuned up you went to Carpluk's garage. Sometime after, if you wanted your baseball program fine-tuned; you went to Coach Doug Carpluk.

Doug and his family moved to Central Islip in 1949. Like most kids of that era, Doug started to play baseball at an early age on any vacant lot that could be cut down and cleared in order to throw a ball. Games started right after school in the spring and fall lasted all day long in the summer and ended at dark with slight breaks for lunch and dinner. The official catcher was an old mattress and there was no hitting to right field, as there were often not enough players. Doug learned to love the game. He followed a progression of development with Little League, Babe Ruth and then high school. He played three years of hardball for the Musketeers along with three years of football and two years of basketball in a noteworthy high school career.

On graduation, Doug attended Oneonta College where he played baseball and was elected senior class president and president of his fraternity. He returned to Central Islip in 1967 to begin a teaching and coaching career, which would span thirty years. During that period, he coached 7th and 8th grade basketball for four years, girls' junior varsity basketball and freshman and junior varsity football for fourteen years. Doug coached baseball, his first love, at every level; freshman, junior varsity and varsity from 1975 to 1998 with over 10 years as the head varsity coach. During that period, he guided his teams to three county playoff berths and established a reputation as one of the outstanding baseball mentors in the County.

Doug is married to Carol, his wife of 48 years. They have three children: Bill, a teacher at Patchogue Medford, Debra and office manager for NCC and Alison, an occupational therapist, along with eight grandchildren. Doug plays a little golf, enjoys reading, travel, and annual baseball trip with the boys and still roots for the Yankees.

Doug is a founding member of the Hall of Fame Committee and on this bat he has hit one high and deep and rounds third headed for home in the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.



Jack Cassidy 1960

Jack was born and raised in Central Islip and when football started in Central Islip for four years (1956-1959), every play from scrimmage started with a snap from center by #34. As a senior, he was Co-Captain of coach Dave Goldstein's first varsity team, let the team in tackles, assists and sacks and was an All-League selection. As a matter of tradition, Coach Goldstein never issued his #34 again while he coached at Central Islip.

Jack also played four years of golf, captained the 1960 County Championship Team, was an All-County selection and was one of two recipients of the purple and gold sweater award as the school's top letterman.

On graduation, he received Central Islip's first foot-

ball scholarship to attend CW Post College. He played four years and started at end his junior and senior seasons (both cut short by injury). Jack also played varsity baseball for three years and received the Green Key, Post's highest award, for overall achievement in scholarship, athletics, and leadership while being named to Who's Who in American Colleges in 1964.

On graduation, Jack joined the Marine Corps and became a member of an elite recon unit. He led a raid which freed South Vietnamese soldiers from a Vietcong POW camp. He served over 32 years both active duty and reserve time and was awarded the Silver Star, Two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart and seventeen other US and foreign decorations. He retired a full Colonel.

Jack returned to Central Islip in 1969 to teach and coach, in a career that would eventually span over thirty years including twenty years as Principal of the Reed Junior High School. He coached freshman and junior varsity football, announced varsity games and emceed the annual Quarterback Club Dinners for many years. He had the Reed gym refurbished with the Central Islip logo, purple and gold trim and purchased and hung undefeated junior high school team banners as a means of instilling Central Islip pride. Along with coach Shaughnessy he created a weight room and fitness center in the Reed basement with equipment donations and volunteer work. As Principal, he continually worked to improve, expand and support the sports and pre-programs at Reed.

In the 1970's, Jack returned to the golf links. He was the Gullhaven Golf Club Champion three times and runner up twice. He established a reputation as one of the top amateurs in the local area. He also played softball (slow and fast pitch) for the Rheingold Beer Company for several years.

In the 1980's, unable to make a short putt, Jack returned to running. He completed a number of marathons all less than four hours with a personal best of 3 hours 33 minutes in the Long Island Marathon. That was considered a good time and not bad for "an old fat man".

Jack has been married to his wife Suzan for 29 years. He has three children: Brian, a Suffolk County Police Sargent and lawyer, Colleen Hart (husband Christian), a corporate law partner in Los Angeles (three granddaughters, Cattie, Cassidy and Christie) and Adam, a Petty Officer 1st nuclear tech, serving aboard nuclear attack submarine USS Alexandria.

Jack still works out, golfs (not well), walks (slowly), reads, gardens and travels. He is a founding member of the Hall of Fame Committee and considers this one of the proudest and happiest (also when he wins a few bucks from Reilly and Shaughnessy at golf) moments of his life as he joins his colleagues, teammates, friends and his Dad in the Hall of Fame.

Joe Feller 1972

They speak of the loneliness of the long distance runner. With all the titles and awards won by our next inductee, he never had a chance to be lonely. Joe lettered in Cross Country and Track for three years while attending Central Islip.

In his junior and senior years he was a medalist in the Nassau and Suffolk County Coaches Cross Country Invitational, the St. Anthony's and St. John's University Invitational and a member of the Long Island Athletic Club team which placed first in the U.S. Track and Field trials at Penn State in 1971.

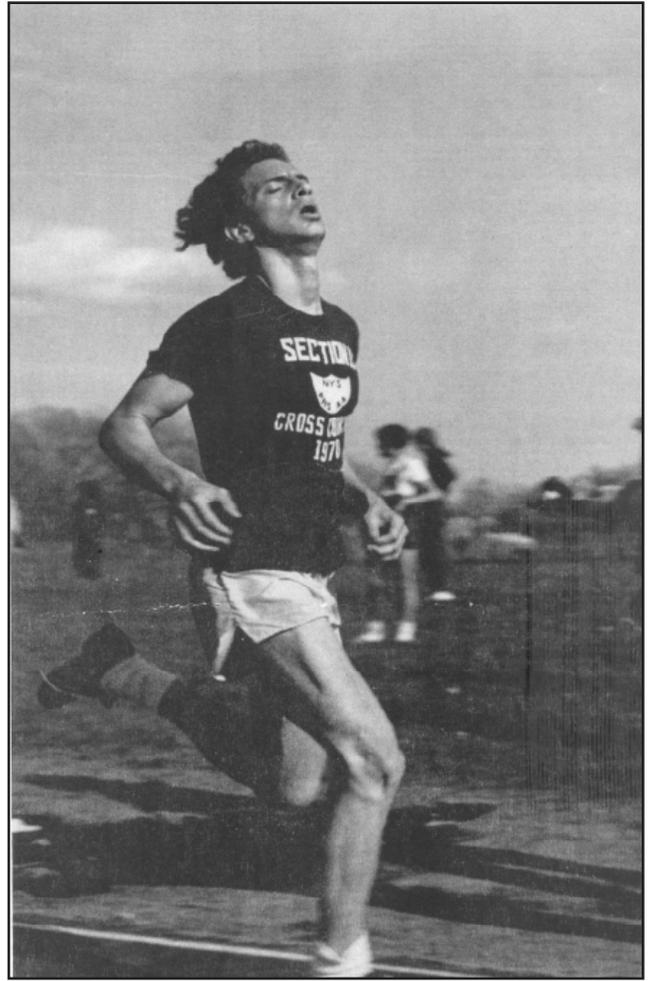
He also led the Musketeers to their first league title in Cross Country in the fall of that year. Joe was voted to the All-County and All-Long Island team and was honorable mention All-State for his efforts.

In track, Joe was third in Suffolk County in the two mile run, placed fifth in the state. He helped the Musketeers win first place in Suffolk County in the 4 X 1 mile relay by anchoring the final leg and setting a school record.

Joe continued to run for the gold after high school finishing second in the Cross Island Marathon in 1972 and third in 1974 in the open division.

After graduating from Central Islip, Joe attended Western Kentucky University on a Track scholarship. Joe again distinguished himself by placing high in a number of NCAA qualifying meets. Joe transferred to Delphi University for his junior and senior years and was named to the All-Conference and All-IC4A teams in Cross Country. He also tied for first in the six mile run at the Monmouth Relays and second in the three mile run. He also helped lead Delphi to the only Cross Country Conference Title in school history. Joe was recently inducted to the Delphi Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013.

Joe continues to stay active and works out in the gym each day for an hour of cardio exercise. Joe stated that during his competitive days he would run a thousand miles each summer. This year, he crosses the finish line and breaks the tape to enter the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.



Celeste Grier Johnathan 1978



At a time when women's athletics was coming to the forefront, our next inductee helped to lead the way with her outstanding accomplishments. Celeste lettered four years in basketball, three years in track, one year in volleyball and one year in tennis for the purple and gold.

An outstanding guard on the hardwood, Celeste was named All League her senior year. She also won the New York State Association Health and Physical Education Award in 1977 and the Section XI Gold Key in 1978.

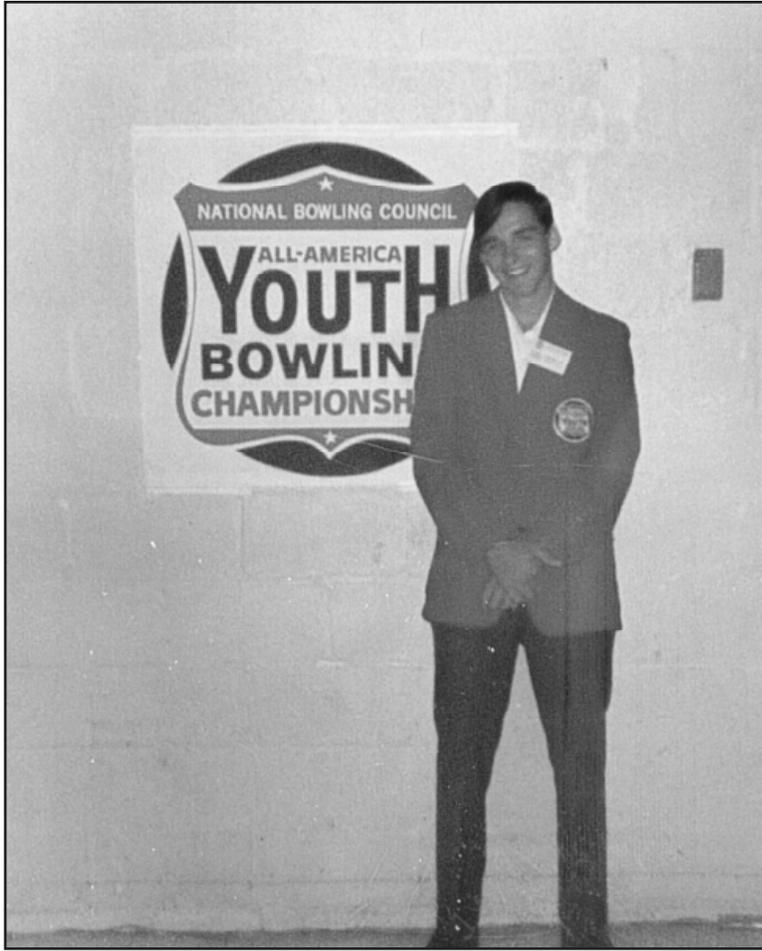
Upon graduation, she entered Iona College on a basketball scholarship and lettered for all four years. Her outstanding play had her named to the Metro Atlantic Athletic All-Conference Team in 1981-1982 and the AIAW All-Regional Team in 1979, 1980 and 1981. She was also a gold medalist at the Empire State Games in 1979 and 1981 and a Silver Medalist in 1980 as a member of the women's basketball team.

Celeste graduated in 1982 with a BAA in marketing and communications. She is married to Alan C. Johnathan and they have resided in Central Islip for the past twenty-two years where they raised their two children, daughter, Jeanette (26 years) and Alan Jr. (23 years). Celeste and Alan just recently retired to Florida.

Coincidentally, Jeanette followed in her mother's footsteps and played round ball from Central Islip from 1999 through 2001. Celeste assisted coach Larry Philips at that time.

Celeste has kept her love the game alive while coaching basketball for the last twelve years at ST. John the Baptist DHS. She was elected to the Iona College Hall of Fame in 1996 and in March of this year she was enshrined into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame as part of the MAAC Experience Exhibit.

Today Celeste stands at center court as we proudly welcome her home to the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.



George Linneman 1971

Our next honoree is right up your alley. Born in Howard Beach and moving to Central Islip when he was ten years old, George entered Central Islip High School in the fall of 1967

He played Junior Varsity Football, Varsity Track and Cross Country for three years but it was on the local lanes that George excelled. Bowling for the Musketeers at the “Kozy Ten” and “Oscar’s” as home houses George maintained a 190 average in the era of the “dead” ball and the “heavy wood.”

In his senior year, he rolled on and “spared none” as Suffolk County Champion and New York State Champion. George finished 19th out of 51 in the National Championship held in Washington D.C.

After graduation, George joined the U.S. Air Force and served for six years as a heavy equipment maintenance technician. He continued to bowl in the Air Force and held a 210 average in service competition. Unfortunately, an on the job accident seriously injured George’s wrist and ended his promising bowling career.

Once release from active duty, George returned to Central Islip and went to work for the Central Islip School District in the maintenance department from 1984 until his retirement in 2013.

George has two children. George Jr. is a US Navy Seabee and has two daughters. Kristine Greco, George’s daughter, is an art teacher in Central Islip and is currently expecting her first child.

George’s hobbies include a solid golf game with annual outings to Myrtle Beach. His bowling days are over but he rolls a perfect game today as he enters the CI Sports Hall of Fame.



Mike Mos 1975

Mike graduated from Central Islip High School in 1975. During elementary and junior high school, he excelled in baseball, wrestling, basketball, and won numerous Little League and Catholic Youth Organization awards. In high school, his focus was football and lacrosse.

In 1974 as a junior, he started as a defenseman on the most successful lacrosse team in CI history. The underdog team advanced to the Suffolk County Finals and narrowly lost to Ward Melville. Mike's success "shutting down" Suffolk's finest attack men earned him the rare distinction of being selected for the All-County Team while not achieving All-League status that year.

On the football team, he was an outstanding linebacker and tight end. In 1975, he was team captain, Most Valuable player and All-League for both football and lacrosse. Mike was named that year as CI High School's Most Outstanding Athlete.

After being recruited for college football and lacrosse, he elected to play lacrosse at the

United States Military Academy and became the first person from Central Islip to receive a Congressional Nomination to attend West Point.

During Mike's tenure at West Point, Army lacrosse moved from unranked to a perennial Division 1 "Top Ten" team and achieved a final season ranking of #5 in 1978. As a freshman, he earned a berth on the varsity team and was the only member of his class that achieved the distinction of being a four-year starter. As a senior, Mike's defensive unit was considered by many to be the finest in the country and that unit co-shared the team's most valuable player award.

In 1979, Mike became a 2nd Lt. in the United States Army. From 1979 to 1984, he served as an artillery officer and resigned from active duty as a Captain. He continued his military career in the Army Reserves and after 9/11, he was called back to active duty where he served as Military Intelligence Detachment Commander assigned to the National Ground Intelligence Center. In 2007, he retired at the rank of Colonel.

In 1984, Mike began a long and acclaimed career with Northrop-Grumman as a systems engineer. Over the years he helped develop and headed up projects which played a major role in helping to defeat Saddam Hussein's forces during Operation Desert Storm. He helped in integrating new systems into NATO Command and Control Centers for the sharing of real time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance information amongst tactical forces. Mike co-shares two patents and Northrop-Grumman's President's Award for innovation and technology for the inventions. Mike's research and development projects have resulted in \$100M's of sales from Northrop-Grumman and today he serves as Director in their Military Aircraft Systems Division.

Mike has been married for 34 years to Kathy Connelly Mos, a former CI High School cheerleader and swimmer. They continue to live in Melbourne, Florida. Their son, Brian Michael Mos, serves on active duty in the USMC. In addition to his undergraduate degree, Mike earned an MBA from the Florida Institute of Technology. After retiring from playing lacrosse, Mike became an avid tennis player, golfer, and as a runner has completed eight marathons.

As a member of the "Long Gray Line," Mike served with honor and distinction. Today he joins the "Purple and Gold Line," as his star is added with honor and pride to the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.



Jeff O'Keefe

1973

In September 1971, the odds were against the Musketeers as they took the field against a heavily favored Northport football squad. When the final gun sounded, CI had earned an 18-15 upset victory over the reigning County Champions. They were led by #11,

their young quarterback, who scored three touchdowns. This would be on highlight in a stellar high school career for Jeff O'Keefe that would span three varsity years in three major sports.

Jeff was born in and raised in Central Islip and entered Central Islip High School in the fall of 1969. He guided the Musketeer eleven at quarterback for three years and was named captain, All-League and All-County in his senior year. On the hardwood, Jeff was point guard and play maker. On the diamond, Jeff was the catcher and emotional leader for the team that was runner up for the County Baseball Championship in 1973.

With all this Jeff still found time to play in the school orchestra and band. He was an All-County selection on clarinet at his junior high school and after playing junior varsity football on Saturday mornings; he would change uniforms and play saxophone in the marching band at varsity games in the afternoon.

After high school, Jeff attended the University of New Hampshire and graduated cum laude with a BS degree in Foreign Language in 1977. Following graduation, Jeff attended law school at the University of Miami, where he continued to excel winning the mock trial competition in his senior year and graduating with honors once again in 1983.

Jeff joined a prominent Florida law firm and over the next 16 years became a well-recognized expert and defense attorney representing the Otis Elevator Company in various litigated matters. He lived and raised his family in Fort Lauderdale where he remained active coaching youth basketball and working with his local church.

Tragically, Jeff was killed in an automobile accident in August of 2000. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, his son, Justin a 33 year-old veterinarian, his son Tucker, a 30 year-old PGA representative and his 24 year-old daughter, Emily, a third year law student at the University of Florida following in her father's footsteps, and a two year-old granddaughter, A.A. The success of Jeff's family is a fitting tribute to his memory.

Today we proudly honor that memory as Jeff joins his father Gus as a member of the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.



Frank Pagnotta 1982

Our next honoree wore #54 for the purple and gold and established himself as one of the top line-man in Central Islip Football annals.

A life long resident of Central Islip, Frank starred as guard and tackle for three years of varsity ball (1979-1982). In his senior year, he was elected team captain, selected to the All-League, All-County and All-Long Island squads. He also distinguished himself playing in the annual North-South All-Star game in 1982.

After graduation, Frank attended Tarkio College and later returned to Central Islip. He took a position with the Central Islip School District where he remains today as the head custodian of the O'Neill Elementary School.

Along the way, he kept his career alive playing defensive tackle (235 lbs.) for the semi-pro Long Island Raiders and the Long Island Seahawks from 1985-1992. His outstanding performance was recognized by his election into the Long Island Minor League Football Hall of Fame in 2012.

Frank and his wife, Marquita, have two children, fourteen year old daughter, Jillian, and eight year old Frank Junior. Frank keeps himself busy with part-time business, A&F Landscaping, coaching youth lacrosse and football, and rifle and pistol shooting at local ranges.

As he steps to the line today, he hits the bulls-eye and enters the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.

Tom Reilly

1965

Born and raised in Central Islip, Tom has had a positive impact on the lives of generations of youngsters throughout Suffolk County. In his position as a police officer, detective and Director of the Central Islip PAL from 1973 through 1993, he founded and organized programs for thousands of boys and girls in football, cheerleading, baseball, basketball, wrestling, roller hockey, lacrosse, soccer, open gym and field trips.

One of four children, brothers James (CI Class of 1961) and Peter and sister Mary (CI - 1968), born to father Jim (CI 40) and mother Teeney, Tom started early with youth sports, playing Little League baseball (League Champs) and Little League and CYO Basketball for Coach Abbenante.

Moving on to high school, Tom started his career at the Quarterback of a 5-1-1 freshman squad. As a sophomore, he was back up signal caller on an 8-0 varsity eleven. In his junior year, as the starting quarterback, he broke his wrist on the season opening kickoff and missed the entire season! Returning his senior year and unable to play quarterback because of his injury, Tom stepped up and volunteered to play defensive tackle (at 175 lbs.) where his speed and toughness made him an all around standout. That team went undefeated (7-0-1), like the year before (7-0) and was also a league champ and won the Rutgers Cup.

Tom also played 2 years of varsity basketball for the Musketeers and was a member of two league championships and one county championship squad as guard.

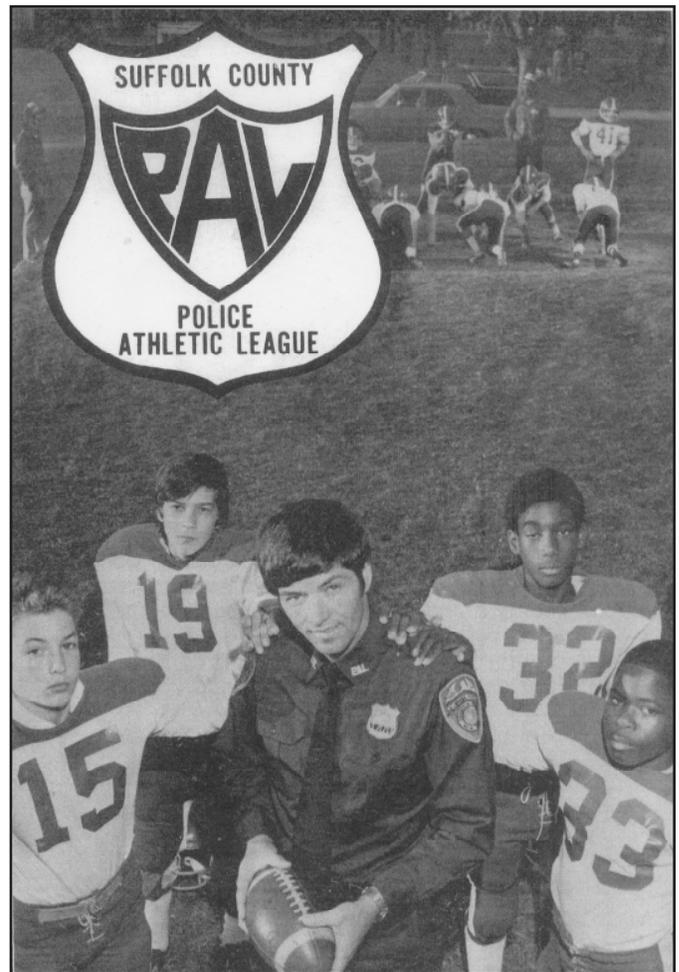
On the baseball diamond Tom played four years of varsity ball where he had an outstanding overall career highlighted by his pitching performances. As a hard throwing right-handed and team captain, he compiled an overall 19-8 record (12-4 in League play) and a no-hitter, 3 shutouts, a play off win and lead the way to a league championship.

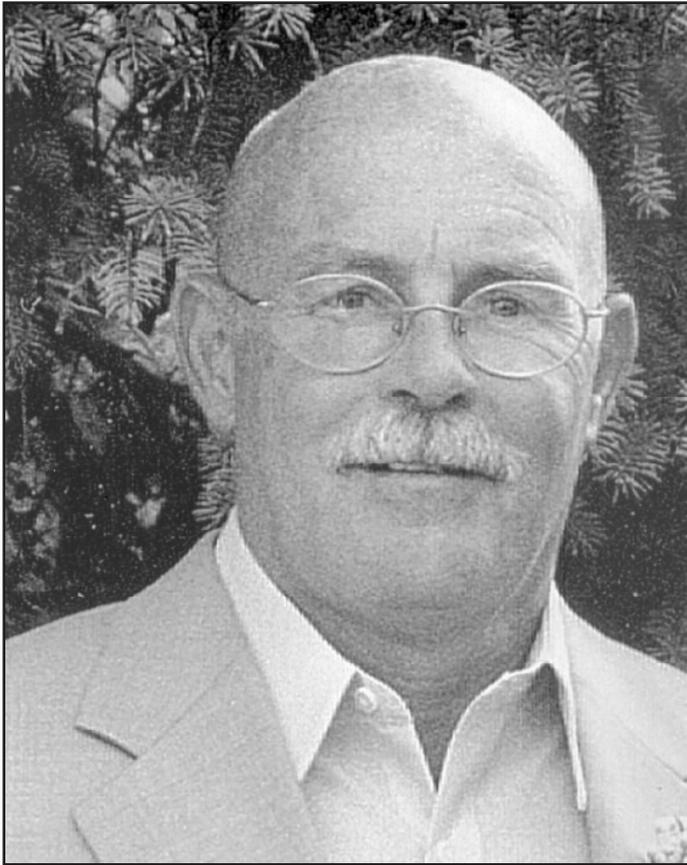
After high school, Tom joined the Suffolk County Police Department while attending college part time. He received an associate degree in police science from Farmingdale State University in 1971, his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Dolving University in 1973 and his M.S. in Education from Delphi in 1977.

It was about this same time that Tom returned to the gridiron to quarterback what would eventually become one of the best-known and dominant touch football teams in Suffolk County history. From 1967-1987, playing under various names (Pyramid Inn, Kozy-Ten, Oscars) the team won 36 league playoff and tournament championships throughout the county. This included 7 county championships, 2 tournament of champs and a national championship in 1974. Tom was named to the All-Tournament team in 1974 and 1976 and he passed for and incredible 1000 plus touchdowns during that time span! The overage team record was 289-43-6.

Tom was also able, at various times, to participate in the New York Police Games winning a gold medal with the softball team, 5 silver medals in two man team golf and one silver in individual play.

Tom retired from the Suffolk County Police Department in 2004 after a thirty-five years.





John Shaughnessy 1968

They used to call him James Brown, the late rock star, the hardest workingman in show business. This inductee would certainly qualify as one of the hardest working and most diversified coaching and mentoring careers in Central Islip sports spanning over 33 years.

John Shaughnessy was born and raised in Central Islip. A 1968 graduate, John played varsity football, wrestling, and track and junior varsity basketball and baseball for the Musketeers. He later attended Niagara University where he played lacrosse for four years and captained the team his junior and senior years.

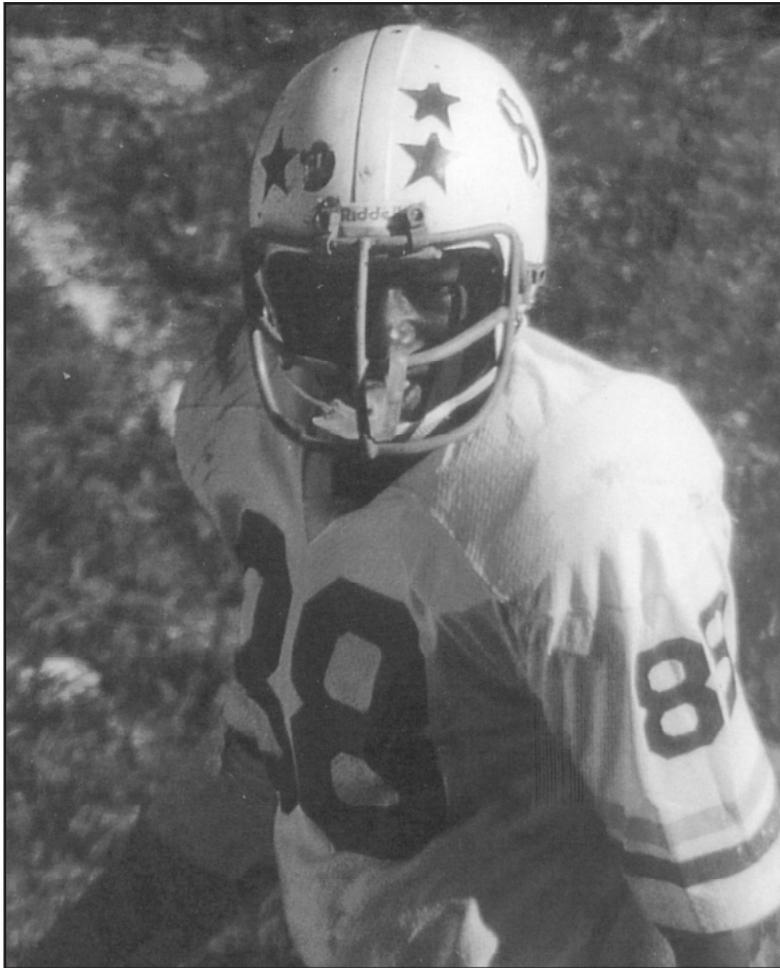
Graduating in 1972, “Shino” returned to start his long tenure as a driver education, health and physical education instructor and all around coach. Over the years, John coached football (junior varsity and varsity assistant coach and head coach), lacrosse (junior high, junior varsity and varsity), swimming (boys assistant coach and girls assistant and head coach), boys spring and winter track (head coach), girls track (head), bowling (head), basketball (9th grade), boys volleyball (junior high), and girls track (junior high).

Along the way, he organized and ran the Jack Tice Memorial Golf Tournament for twenty-five years, which raised over \$100,000 dollars for the football and swimming programs. He helped create a weight program and fitness room at both the high school and Reed Junior High. He served on the CITA Scholarship Committee for twenty-five years. He was named PTSA Teacher of the Year in 2005 and received a yearbook dedication. Six of his players made it to the National Football League and two were named “Gatorade” High School Players of the Year. He was a finalist for Coach of the Year and was certified as a national strength and conditioning specialist. He coached All-Star teams in lacrosse and football for Suffolk County and was a recipient of the Suffolk County Football Officials Sportsmanship Trophy. He led the campaign to dedicate the football field in honor of coach David Goldstein and is often credited with originating the phrase “CI Pride”.

John and his wife Julie are retired and live in Nokomis, Florida with their two sons. John’s daughters, Erin and Colleen are married and live on Long Island with John’s grandchildren.

John has stayed active and competitive. His hobbies include cooking, reading, swimming, weight lifting, jogging and golf (and winning a few bucks from Cassidy).

The CI Sports Hall of Fame is proud to welcome “The Hardest Working Retiree in Nokomis” - John Shaughnessy.



Richard Thorpe 1978

One of the most dominant defensive linemen to ever strap on the pads for the Musketeers was #88, Rich Thorpe.

Rich was born and raised in CI with a brief timeout in Coram. He entered CHS in September 1975, the second of four brothers to play for the purple and gold. He starred three years on the varsity gridiron, where at six foot four inches and two hundred twenty pounds, he menaced and disrupted opposing offenses from his defensive end/linebacker position. His performance won him All-League and All-County honors in his senior year.

Rich also had a noteworthy two-year stint on the hardwood as the starting center for the basketball team.

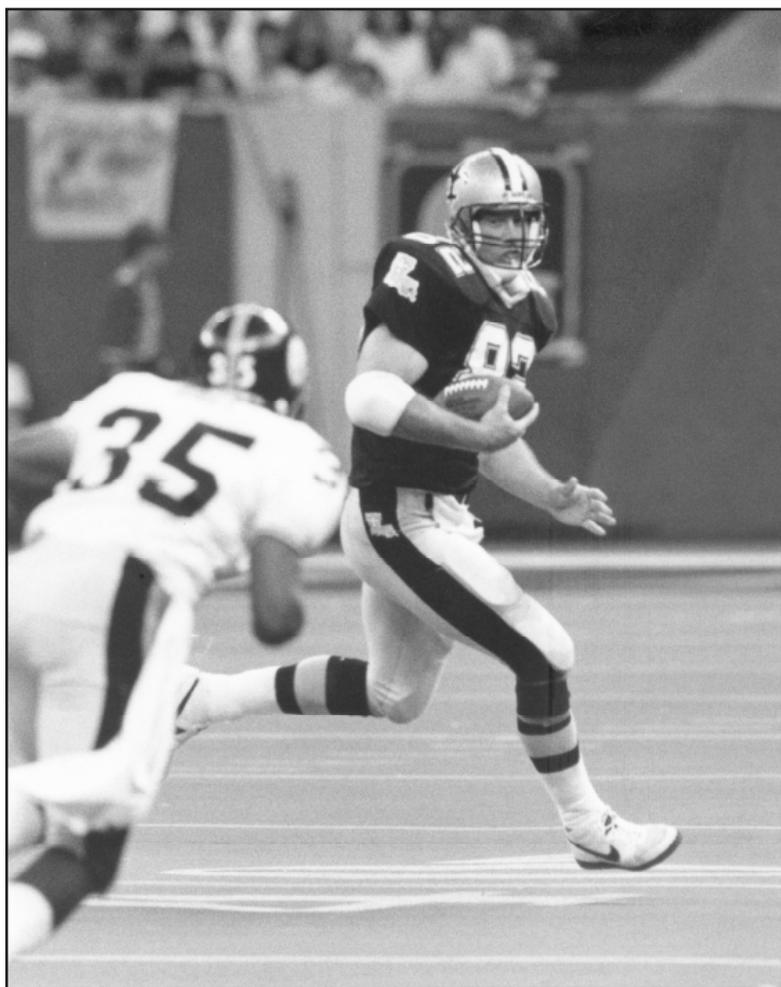
Upon graduation, Rich received a full football scholarship to the University of Louisville where he had an outstanding four-year college career fro the Cardinals. He was a standout as a rock solid 260-pound nose guard.

In the end, Rich was drafted by the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League and began an extensive journey through the ranks of professional football beginning with the Bills, then the Washington Federals of the USFL, on to Canada and the CFL with the Toronto Argonauts, the Montreal Allouettes and the Edmonton Eskimos before finally returning to Buffalo in 1987.

When his playing days ended, Rich returned to the Central Islip community to live and work. He has three daughters, Molly, Melissa and Amber, who recently gave birth to Rich's first grandson, Julius Richard Thorpe.

Rich is retired on disability as a result of the congenital kidney failure and received a transplant four years ago.

Today, we proudly recognize Rich's achievements and wish him health and happiness as he enters the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.



John Tice 1978

One of our best known and most celebrated alumni, this inductee was a ten-year veteran of the National Football League and was a well respected professional and college coach.

Big John (6'5" - 246lbs) joins his father Jack and brother Michael in the Hall making a true All Star Triumvirate. John was born and raised in Central Islip and had an outstanding career for the Musketeers. He starred in football for three years and was an All-League selection at center in his senior year. John also wrestled for a year and played lacrosse for two years.

On graduation, John accepted a football scholarship and joined his brother Michael at Maryland University where he transitioned to the tight end position. He had a stellar run for the Terrapins over four years earning honorable mention All-American status and was the leading receiver for his junior and senior years while playing for coach Bobby Ross and Jerry Claiborne.

Graduating in 1982, John was drafted in the third round by the New Orleans Saints for whom he played the next ten years. He retired in 1992 due to an injury but left the team ranked 9th in receptions (158), 11th in games played (134) on the Saints all time list. He had a career total of 1602 receiving yards and 15 touchdowns.

In retirement, John entered the private business sector, volunteered as a coach for local high schools in Florida and devoted time to raising his growing family.

In 1999, he joined the coaching staff of the Minnesota Vikings where he spent the next ten years as an offensive assistant and tight ends coach. From there, John moved on to join former Saints teammate, Stan Brock, then Army head coach, as offensive line coach of the fabled Black Knights of the Hudson.

Subsequent coaching changes saw John relocate to Pace University as offensive line coach. Just recently, John left his coaching ranks to take a position as branch manager with the Lansing Building Products Company in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. John and wife, Barbara, along with children, John Eric, Alexis, Michael and twins Carly and Clayton, have just relocated to the area where his playing days with New Orleans are still recalled.

John was elected to the Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame in 2013 and he continues to be an avid supporter of Central Islip sports and has made an effort to attend various Hall of Fame events in the past. This year we proudly welcome this "Saint" as he goes marching into the Central Islip Hall of Fame.



Suffolk County Champions Mile Medley Relay Team 1967

They set a mark that still stands today. Four Musketeer trackmen ran record legs to set the county mile standard at 3 minutes 35.7 seconds. That day, Johnny Miller opened with a blistering 440, which established a solid lead. Frank Barrone, another fine sprinter, maintained the pace with a solid 200. John Leach, a three-sport letterman, following with another time shaving 220. Steve Nardell, an outstanding distance man who held the lead and ran the purple and gold to the gold and into the record books, ran the final half-mile. Today they run with purpose and pride into the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.

Rich Flynn

1963

We've had All-League, All-County, All-State and All-American and All-Pro's enter the Hall. Our next honoree is an All-World Selection, not once, but three times by the American Softball Association in 1976, 1978 and 1980.

Rich attended Central Islip High School from 1959 - 1963. He was a three-varsity sport letterman, playing 4 years of baseball, three years of soccer (2 years All-league) and 2 years of basketball. He was named the Musketeers athlete of the year in 1963.

Upon graduation, Rich enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and spent two years on active duty serving with infantry and MP units. He returned home and went on the job with the NPD and later started his own trucking business.

He married his wife Vicky in 1969. It was around this time that Rich put on his spikes again and began a legendary softball career in both slow and fast pitch venues that would span over twenty years. He traveled throughout the US playing for powerhouse teams like All-County Sports, PepsiCo and Coreat Eastern. He was to win numerous MVP, Home Run and RBI Titles in League and Tournament play and when he hit a ball it almost looked like it would leave this "world".

Rich's career was capped by his election to the National Softball Hall of Fame in 1995. Rich is retired and lives in Smithtown. He has three children: Helen, a teacher in the Smithtown school district; Richie, a captain on the FDNY and Bo, a teacher in Johnson City, New York. Rich has two grandchildren: Kaiden age eleven and Taylen age seven).

He enjoys BBQ cooking and simply states his life and happiness revolve around his family, especially the grandkids.

Today Rich goes deep once more and touches all the bases as he enters the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.

