

www.essexcatholiceagles.com

ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

40th Alumni Dinner

&

*Hall of Fame
Induction*

November 19, 2021



Congratulations!

To All Our 2021 Inductees

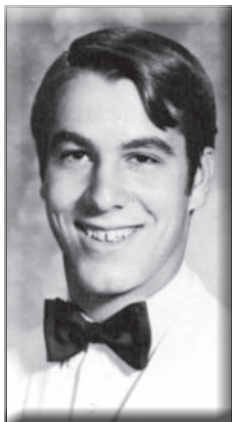


Hall of Fame

John N. Reilly Jr. '61 • Michael P. McStay '68 •
Robert A. Rapp '71 • Walter G. Ricciardi '71
Thomas M. Sharkey '71 • Gregory W. Stewart '71
Akbar H. Cook '94 • Rashaan Palmer '94
Tracy G. Mays '96

Honored

1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay National Record Holders:
Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71, Tom Flannery '72, Alan Wujciak '72,
Coach Anthony "Brother Nick" Naclerio



Decker
Tape Products, Inc.

Jack Decker '71

Tom Decker '72

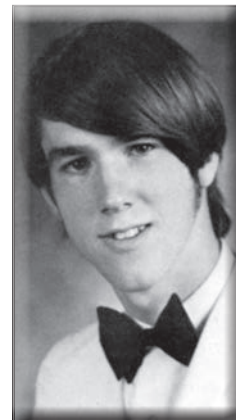


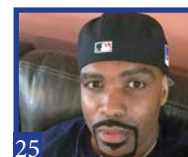
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2021 Events Committee: CHAIRMAN: Jim Mullin '73, Steve McCabe '64 , Sebastian Palmeri '66 , Joe Bakes '67, Phil Nufrio '69, Nick Grosch '71, Greg Stewart '71, Bill Vantuono '77 , Dennis Hall '86, Tony Naclerio (Faculty/Coach). Bert Tobia '63, Chairman Emeritus

Congratulations 2020 Inductees and Honorees!

Albert P. Tobia EA

44-839 Guadalupe Drive
Indian Wells, CA 92210-7406
berttobia3433@gmail.com
(973) 723-3433
105 South Fredericksburg Avenue
Ventnor, NJ 08406



Bert Tobia '63

Hall of Fame 1993

and

Dora Hillyer

Hall of Fame

John N. Reilly Jr. '61 • Michael P. McStay '68
Robert A. Rapp '71 • Walter G. Ricciardi '71
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1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay National Record
Holder: Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71, Tom Flannery
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Essex Catholic High School Foundation 40th Annual Alumni Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction

*Friday, November 19, 2021
The Mansion at Mountain Lakes*



Program

Cocktail Reception

Master of Ceremonies

Keith Krauss '71

Invocation

Dinner

Hall of Fame Induction

John N. Reilly Jr. '61

Michael P. McStay '68

Robert A. Rapp '71

Walter G. Ricciardi '71

Thomas M. Sharkey '71

Gregory W. Stewart '71

Akbar H. Cook '94

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Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71, Tom Flannery '72,

Alan Wujciak '72, Coach Anthony "Brother Nick" Naclerio

50/50 Drawing



Congratulations

to

Thomas Sharkey '71

and all the

2021 Honorees

inducted

into the

Essex Catholic

High School Foundation

Hall of Fame

November 19, 2021



Richard Gray

Essex Catholic Faculty, 1966-1972

ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.



2 Stewart Place
Fairfield, NJ 07004
www.essexcatholiceagles.com



To My Fellow Essex Catholic Alumni, Faculty and Friends;

The Essex Catholic High School Foundation is very pleased to present the 40th Annual Alumni Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction, returning as an in-person event after going virtual in 2020 under the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have been busy and active in 2021, committed to the Foundation's ongoing mission: "Providing alumni, faculty and friends with opportunities to gather, reminisce and reconnect; and providing scholarships to the descendants of Essex Catholic graduates."

Our Board of Trustees and Committees continue to meet regularly, through Zoom meetings. Our website, www.essexcatholiceagles.com, is providing greatly improved access and communications for our alumni to keep abreast of events and stay connected. We continue to fund and grant scholarships to the descendants of Essex Catholic alumni, attaining new heights this year with the successful inauguration of our Century Club (see pages 7 and 9), awarding \$15,500 in scholarships—the most in our history. We continued to support the former students of Cristo Rey Newark. We also expanded the Board of Trustees, adding three new members, two of whom are from the 1980s and 1990s graduation years, giving us greater participation and voices from Essexmen who attended school at the East Orange campus. We held a well-attended Eagle Open in May (p. 33), as well as an All-Classes Reunion at McGovern's and a summer luncheon at the Cloverleaf Tavern.

I want to thank the members of the Board, the Officers and the Committees for their time, commitment and hard work.

Congratulations to this year's inductees, honorees and scholarship recipients. Stay safe and healthy, and stay involved.

Keith Krauss

Keith Krauss '71
Chairman and President
Essex Catholic High School Foundation, Inc.
Hall of Fame 2013

Congratulations to

**Essex Catholic High School
Hall of Fame Inductees**

Roger J. Desiderio '67

Bendit Weinstock, P.A.

Counsellors at Law

80 Main Street

West Orange, NJ 07052

973-736-9800

www.benditweinstock.com

ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.



2 Stewart Place
Fairfield, NJ 07004
www.essexcatholiceagles.com



To Our Alumni and the Greater Essex Catholic Community;

As you know, an important part of the Foundation's mission is to award scholarships to the descendants of Essex Catholic High School graduates.

In 2020, the Board of Trustees authorized creation of the *Century Club*, the intent of which is to have 100 Essex Catholic alumni donate a minimum of \$100 per year exclusively for scholarships, with the goal of raising at least \$10,000 annually. All Board of Trustee members committed to this goal and signed on as *Century Club* members.

The first year of this program was highly successful, and it is with great satisfaction that the Foundation awarded five scholarships to the following individuals for 2021:

- Chelsea Sampson, \$3,500, Henry Prata Memorial Scholarship
- Guiliana Andreoli, \$3,000
- Jackson Buehler, \$3,000
- Katherine D'Andrea, \$3,000
- Mackenzie S. Shannon, \$3,000

The total amount of scholarships awarded, \$15,500—an increase of \$12,500 over prior years—would not have been possible without the generosity of those who supported our *Century Club*. This generosity has put meaning and substance into the Scholarship Fund, and we look forward to ongoing support of a minimum \$100 per year, which will continue to allow us to award meaningful scholarships on behalf of our beloved school.

The Board of Trustees recognizes the names of *Century Club* members in appreciation for their donation on our website, at www.essexcatholiceagles.com/scholarships, and in this Alumni Dinner Journal, on p. 9. If you're not already participating, we ask that you consider committing to this project. All donations are tax-deductible, as the Foundation is a 501(c3) entity.

There is nothing better than helping to educate a student. Please send your donation checks, payable to "Essex Catholic High School Foundation Inc.," to:

William Vantuono '77
Treasurer, Essex Catholic High School Foundation Inc.
36 George Street
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Please be sure to designate your check as "Scholarship Fund." The donation will be used exclusively for scholarships.

Sincerely,

Roger Desiderio

ROGER J. DESIDERIO '67
Scholarship Chairman

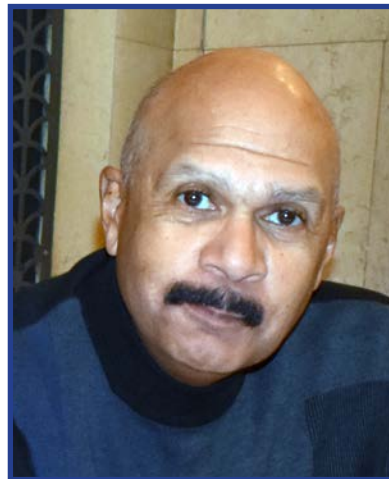
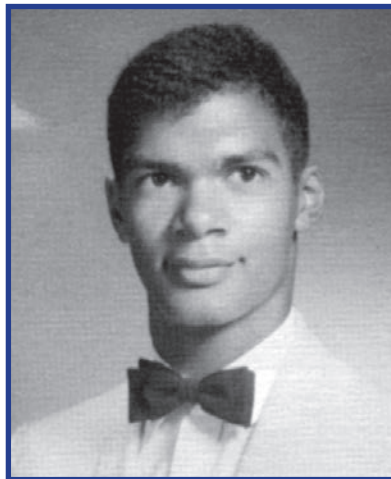
CONGRATULATIONS

2021 Essex Catholic Hall of Fame Inductees

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National Record Holders: Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71,
Tom Flannery '72, Alan Wujciak '72,
Coach Anthony "Brother Nick" Naclerio***



Joseph M. Fowlkes Jr.

Proud Member

Essex Catholic High School Class of 1967

Hall of Fame, 1998

2021 Century Club



\$12,200

\$10,000 Annual Goal

**We exceeded our 2021 goal!
Let's repeat in 2022!**

MEMBERS

Victor Addotta '64	Mike Lanza '71
Richard Angowski '65	Joe LaSala '65
Joe Bakes '67	David Lish '67
Peter Balsamo '68	Gerald Malanga '69
Francis Bigley '71	Richard Maser
Dave Brown '75	Bill Mathias '77
Walt Camuso '69	Al Matos '76
Severio Cereste '61	Steve McCabe '64
Frank Choppy '71	Sean McGovern '84
Akbar Cook '94	John McGrath '71
Craig Courter '66	Kevin McGrath '72
Jack Decker '71	Dan McLaughlin '78
Anthony Del Sordi	Harry McLaughlin '63
Tom DePoto '70	Robert McNamara
Roger Desiderio '67	William Naedele '63
Victor Dielmo '66	John Prachar '77
Duane Dixon '77	Joe Reilly '68
Jack Doll '77	Kevin Reilly '71
Danny Farrell '82	Mike Shannon '64
Gary Ferrari	Tom Sharkey '71
Don Floyd '80	Brian Smith '72
Jim Foti '74	Nick Spezio '77
Walter Goff '72	Greg Stewart '71
Richard Gray	Bert Tobia '63
Nick Grosch '71	Steve Tobia '71
Dennis Hall '86	John Tosato '77
Bob Hoatson '70	Bill Tortoriello '69
Charlie Hood '77	Bill Vantuono '77
Joe Hughes '67	Gary Vitale '73
Immaculate Conception HS	Ken Vogt '69
Mark Komorowski '77	Raymond Wade '61
Robert Kosinski '67	Tom Washington '61
Keith Krauss '71	Jack Wickens '74
Anthony La Morte '76	Mike Witsch '65
Gil Lamphere	Steve Zirpoli '76

CONGRATULATIONS!

2021 Hall of Famers

John N. Reilly Jr. '61 • Michael P. McStay '68
Robert A. Rapp '71 • Walter G. Ricciardi '71
Thomas M. Sharkey '71 • Gregory W. Stewart '71
Akbar H. Cook '94 • Rashaan Palmer '94

and our

2021 Honorees

1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay
National Record Holders: Rudy Guevara '71,
John McCree '71, Tom Flannery '72,
Alan Wujciak '72, Coach Anthony "Brother
Nick" Naclerio



MIKE SHANNON '64

Hall of Fame 1983



2021 ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

John N. Reilly Jr. '61



to attend the school all four years. John continued his education at St. Bonaventure University, graduating in 1965. After graduating from St. Bonaventure, John decided to become a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and enlisted on May 17, 1966. He had asthma and had his doctor help him get into the Air Force.

On December 26, 1966, John was home on Christmas leave and met Elaine Mackin of Rutherford, N.J. on a blind date at the Holiday Festival in Madison Square Garden, where St. Bonaventure was playing. John proposed to Elaine five days later; they were married on July 2, 1967 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Rutherford.

After many months of training to be a fighter pilot, on April 5, 1968, John left for Da Nang, Vietnam, leaving behind his expecting Elaine. John was stationed with the 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron, flying the F4D Phantom jet. He would fly close to 100 missions over North Vietnam in the next eight months, an average of 12 missions per month/three per week. Pilots who flew 100 missions over the "North" were allowed to go home. While in Vietnam, Elaine sent him medication so that he could fly. If John had gone to the flight surgeon and had his asthma discovered, he would have been grounded.

On October 13, 1968, Elaine gave birth to their son, Brian Thomas. John was notified and was delighted to have a son and to see a few pictures of Brian.

On November 19, 1968, 53 years ago today, Elaine was notified by the Air Force that John's F4D Phantom jet had apparently been shot down on his final approach to a landing strip in Da Nang after completing a mission over North Vietnam. He had volunteered for that flight. On December 13, 1968, John's remains were recovered, and Elaine was notified that his status was changed from MIA to KIA. He was 25 years old.

John was promoted to the rank of Captain posthumously. A funeral Mass was held on December 23, 1968 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in East Rutherford, N.J. A busload of Essex Catholic alumni, faculty and students went to the church to honor John.

John was one of the first Essexmen to die for his country. May he rest in peace.

Captain John Norman Reilly, Jr. '61 was a great, brave and heroic F4D Phantom pilot who flew close to 100 missions to support his fellow American soldiers in Vietnam. John faced MiG fighters, surface-to-air missiles and a combination of anti-aircraft artillery and automatic weapons. John received six commendations and is listed on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial walls in Spring Lake, N.J., Holmdel, N.J. and Washington, D.C.

In 1957, Essex Catholic opened at 300 Broadway in Newark, with John enrolled in the first freshman class. In 1961, he graduated from Essex Catholic as a member of the first class



MidRail is a freight rail operating company focused on originating, acquiring, consolidating, and developing integrated rail assets and operations across North America.

MidRail is proud to support the Essex Catholic High School Foundation and the work you do providing scholarships to deserving students

MidRail is a freight rail operating company focused on originating, acquiring, consolidating and developing integrated rail assets and operations across North America. MidRail intends to acquire and operate private industrial rail operations and outsourcing opportunities, short lines, Class I spin-offs, independent rail facilities and operators, select rail technology businesses and logistics and transportation services companies. We are seeking to deploy a minimum of \$1 billion of capital over the next two to three years in freight rail and logistics and transportation businesses. As an operating company, we have the permanent capital to make things happen in the smaller, undercapitalized and underfollowed segments. We seek out management and companies that have been overlooked by others. The company was founded by Gilbert H. Lamphere along with a team of railroad operating executives with more than 200 years of combined rail experience.

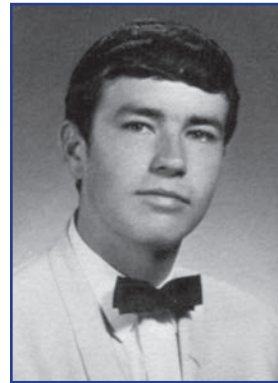
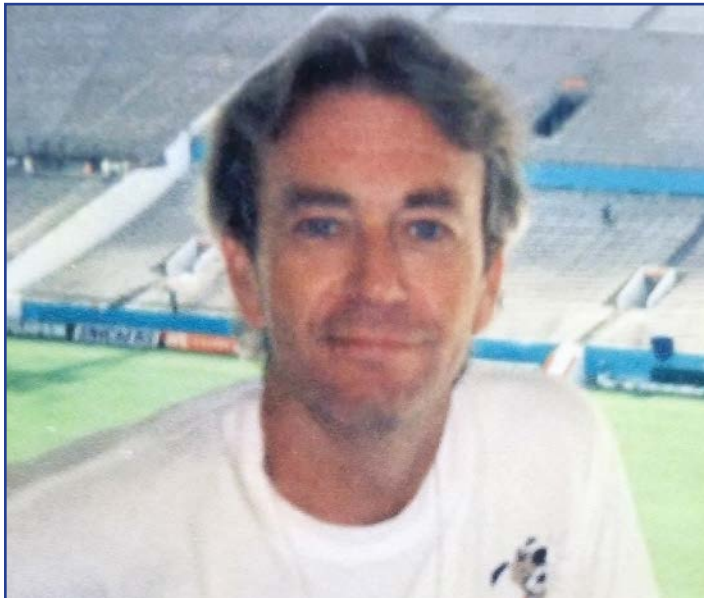
Gilbert H. Lamphere, Founder and Chairman

www.midrail.com



2021 ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Michael P. McStay '68



Harrison and St. Cecilia's in a single season, and reached the State Semi-finals. Pat is the second-winningest soccer coach in Essex Catholic history. He developed many players who became All-State, All-County and All-City selections.

After leaving Essex, Pat moved to the Jersey Shore, where he coached and organized soccer activities for high school and youth soccer

players. Throughout his extensive teaching career, he taught at Neptune High School in New Jersey, East Bay and Tallwood High Schools in Florida, and Granby High School in Virginia, while continuing his soccer career. He taught many students not only academics but influenced their approach towards life skills. He lived in the Tidewater area of Virginia, introducing and organizing soccer activities. He started clinics, camps and leagues all devoted to promoting soccer. Unfortunately, his devotion was cut short, as he passed away in 1999.

Pat's soccer resume includes a National A Coach License, a State Championship at Neptune H.S., college Coach at Old Dominion University, professional level coach with the Hampton Roads Piranhas, leading them to a National Championship appearance in the original Woman's League, Virginia ODP Coach, Director of Coaching at Norfolk United and Atlantic Soccer Clubs, and coaching at Tampa Bay Rowdies camps. Pat was also an event field producer when the U.S. hosted the 1994 World Cup in Orlando, saying that it was one of his greatest moments in soccer, and again at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. He was inducted into the Granby and Neptune High School Hall of Fames, both in 2009.

Whether coaching or in a classroom, Pat was a natural teacher. He had the gift of understanding his students and players to help guide them. Pat was also a dedicated family man with "family" including a close circle of friends, many of whom are here to honor him tonight. Pat came from humble beginnings and valued time together with "family" more than material things or wealth. When you visited him, you could not leave without something; literally at times the shirt off his back.

– Don Kameno '76

Michael P. "Pat" McStay '68 was born into an Irish family in the soccer town of Kearny, N.J. As a youth, he played soccer, basketball and baseball but soccer was his true passion. After graduating from St Cecilia's Grammar School, Pat decided to pursue his high school education at prestigious Essex Catholic. At Essex, Pat ran track his first two years, but continued to play soccer with the Scots Americans Club in Kearny. At the Scots Americans, Pat was coached by John Armitt, who he regarded as his greatest mentor and influence in soccer.

During his sophomore year, Pat met Brother Marty Germain, who shared his passion for soccer. Pat was a driving force along with a few other students, in helping Brother Germain start the Essex Catholic Soccer team. Pat played soccer his junior and senior years, providing a foundation for an elite group of underclassmen that went on to win back-to-back state championships in 1968 and 1969.

After graduating from Essex Catholic, Pat continued his playing career at a high level at Jersey City State and Farleigh Dickinson Universities, graduating from Farleigh Dickinson with a degree in Business. While Pat had a very successful career and aptitude for business, his love of soccer and teaching brought him back to Essex in 1974 to begin his lifelong career as a teacher and coach. The 1974 Eagles were the first team to beat Kearny,

Congratulations

to our

2021

***Hall of Fame Inductees,
Honorees***

and

Scholarship Recipients

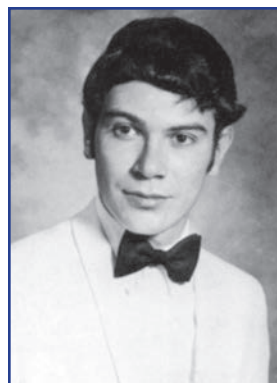
***Essex Catholic High School
Foundation, Inc.
Board of Trustees***

***Akbar Cook '94 • Dave Brown '75
• Jack Decker '71 • Roger Desiderio '67
Keith Krauss '71 • Sean McGovern '84
Mike Shannon '64 • Greg Stewart '71
Bert Tobia '63 • Bill Vantuono '77***



2021 ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Robert A. Rapp '71



Outdoor Meet of Champions Mile Champion , 4:17.1. 1971: St. Joseph's Montvale 2 Mile Champion, 9:16. 1971: Half Mile, 1:54.

Bob, Of Counsel at RPSA Law Firm, has represented management interests in labor and employment law matters and litigation for more than 35 years. His experience encompasses defense against allegations of unlawful discrimina-

tion, harassment and retaliation under federal and Texas law, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the full panoply of other federal and state employment statutes.

Bob also has advised employers experiencing union organizing campaigns and unfair labor practice charges under the National Labor Relations Act. He has represented businesses in health and safety matters, including defending businesses against alleged willful and serious violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. He has also represented employers during wage and hour investigations brought by the U.S. Department of Labor and has successfully defended against class/collective action wage claims brought by private individuals on multiple occasions.

Bob also frequently drafts employment, confidentiality, non-competition and trade secret agreements and regularly handles litigation in this area. He has prosecuted actions for injunctive relief for breaches of non-compete agreements and defended employers against allegations of interference in such contracts and trade secret litigation. In addition to litigation, Bob's practice includes management training in the human resource field, design of personnel systems, preparation of policies and handbooks, drafting executive employment agreements, creation of affirmative action plans for government contractors, advice on reductions in force and other employment terminations, and investigations of alleged employee misconduct such as theft of trade secrets, sexual harassment and whistleblower claims, as well as for claims of unlawful discrimination.

Bob Rapp '71, Harvard University and Case Western University Law School, was an excellent student/runner at Essex Catholic, very dependable and confident in coming to every race, ready to run his best. He had the same attitude in the classroom, where he graduated as one of the top students. Bob could run the 880, mile or two-mile and be competitive with the best runners in the New Jersey-New York area. His greatest race came at the outdoor 1971 Meet of Champions, where he ran 4:17.1 and won the race by three seconds. Among his outstanding races: 1970: Outdoor Parochial A Mile Champion, 4:24.0. 1971: Outdoor Parochial A Mile, 4:18.2 (tied with Tim Lee, who was declared the winner). 1971:

Byrnes, O'Hern & Heugle, LLC

Attorneys at Law

28 Leroy Place, Red Bank, NJ 07701 • 732.219.7711 • www.byrnesohern.com



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- Arbitration & Mediation Services
- Wills, Trusts, Estate Planning & Administration
- Business Litigation
- Corporate Law
- Construction Litigation
- Business Owner Disputes
- Commercial Real Estate
- Land Use & Zoning
- Municipal Law
- Labor & Employment Law
- Business Transitions & Buy-Sell Agreements

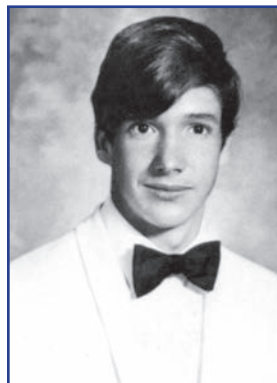
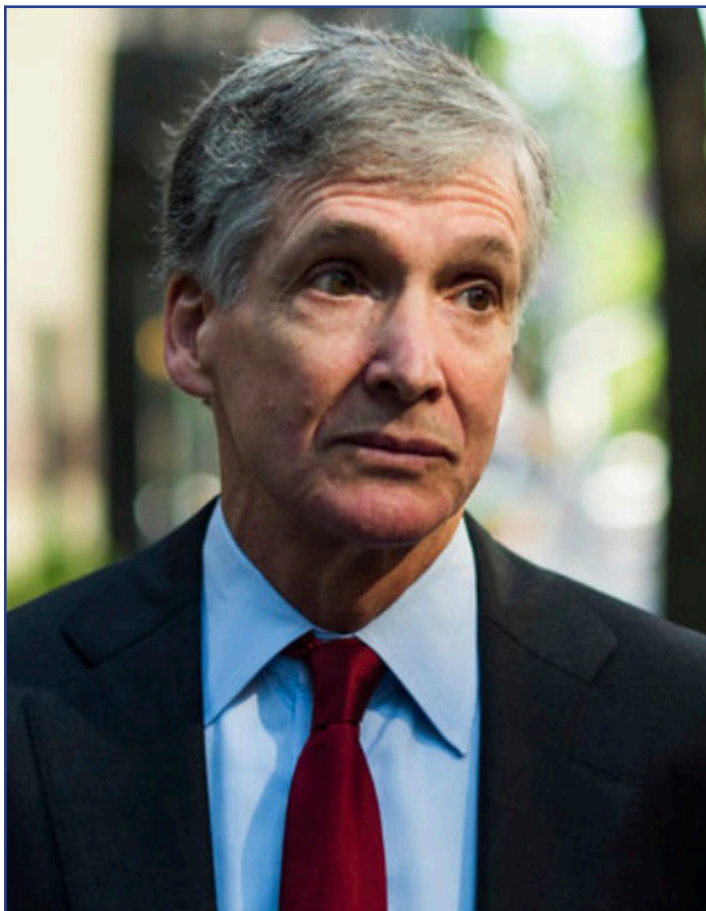
*Congratulations To All the Essex Catholic High School
Hall of Fame 2021 Inductees and Honorees!*

Bob Heugle '71 • Hall of Fame 2017



2021 ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Walter G. Ricciardi '71



graduated as one of the top students.

A Partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, Walt has extensive experience defending a broad variety of investigations conducted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and other regulatory authorities. Additionally, he has conducted several internal investigations for

public companies and audit committees, including investigations related to allegations of accounting and financial fraud.

Prior to joining Paul, Weiss in June 2008, Walt was Deputy Director of the SEC's Division of Enforcement, where he supervised many of the Commission's most significant investigations related to financial fraud, insider trading, investment advisers and broker-dealers. Walt was appointed to run the SEC's Boston office, which was responsible for enforcement and examination programs for the New England region. He was appointed Deputy Director of the SEC's Division of Enforcement in October 2005, and his duties included managing the enforcement efforts of the Commission's eleven regional offices. Upon his departure from the SEC, the Commission's chairman stated that "Walter Ricciardi, as much as anyone in the Commission's modern history, has professionalized the management of the SEC's enforcement program." The *Wall Street Journal* reported that his departure from the SEC was a "blow to the enforcement program; he has won the affections of the staff and has boosted morale."

Prior to joining the SEC, Walt spent 20 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers and its predecessor, Coopers & Lybrand, where he was in charge of defending the firm's litigation and regulatory matters. While at PwC, he was elected by his partners to serve on the firm's board, which is responsible for overseeing its management. He was also elected by the partners to serve on the Global Oversight Board of the PwC global organization.

Walt lectures and writes extensively on securities litigation and regulatory issues. As an Adjunct Professor at New York University School of Law, he teaches a seminar on issues in SEC enforcement.

Walt Ricciardi '71, Columbia University, New York University School of Law, NYU Adjunct Professor of Law, was an excellent student athlete at Essex Catholic. He ran many miles over the summer of 1970 and came back to school as a Senior in September as the most improved runner on the Eagles Cross Country team.

Walt had a very positive effect on the Varsity team as he was always someone you could count on to run at his best in each race. Walt carried over his improvement to the 1971 indoor/outdoor seasons by being versatile in running 3:18 for the ¼-mile indoors on the State relay team, 9:40 for 2 miles and 10:15 in his first 3,000 meter steeplechase at the Catholic Conference Championship at Rutgers Stadium. Walt always had a smile on his face and a positive attitude that carried over to the other runners on the team. Walt's demeanor continued in the classroom, where he

CONGRATULATIONS!

2021 Hall of Famers

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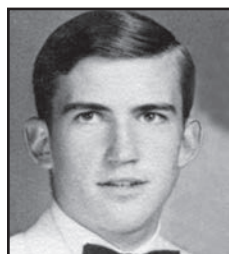
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Bob Hoatson '70

Hall of Fame 2020



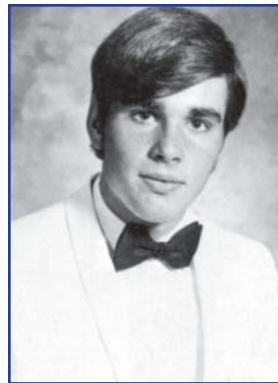
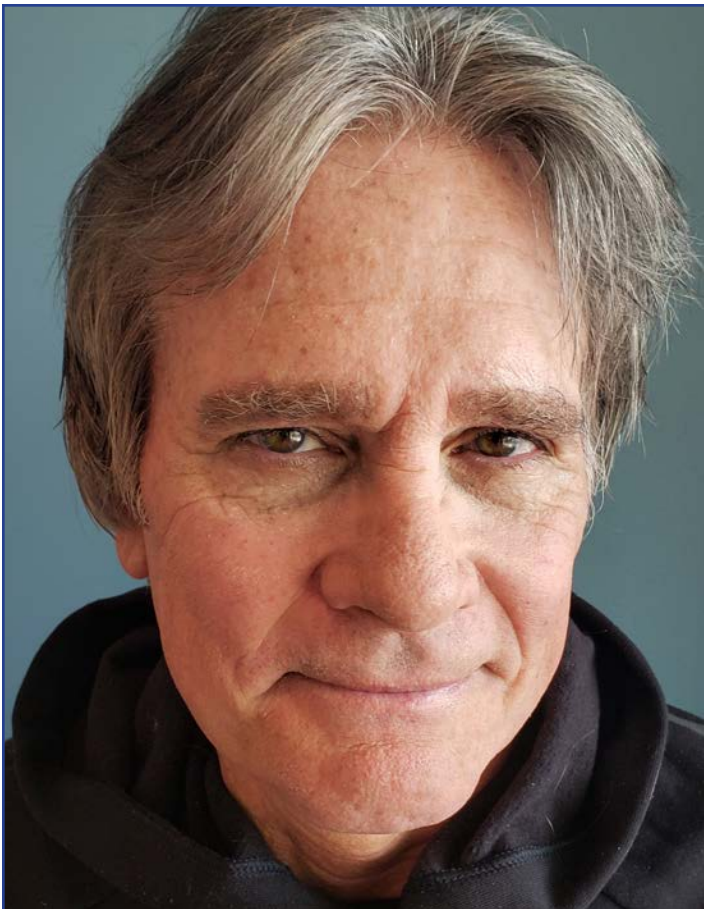
Akbar Cook '94 has
dedicated his life to the
children of Newark.
We need many more
Akbar Cooks!





2021 ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Thomas M. Sharkey '71



Little Theatre of Alexandria, where he repeated his Essex Catholic role as Billy in *Carousel* and played Rob in *Up the Down Staircase*. At the New Playwrights Theater in Washington, he played multiple parts in the *Dolly Baroque* musical. In Arlington at Community Theater, he was in the *Guys and Dolls* chorus, and provided theater tech support at Langley High School.

At Saint John the Baptist, Draper, Va., Bob was a Tiger, Wolf and Webelos Scouts parent, and a tenor in the choir at masses and ecumenical combined choir events. His rock band, Sharkey and the Hammerheads, has performed in charity events for the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Charities, Battle of the Law Firm Bands and Walter Reed Hospital. Since relocating to the Salt Lake City area, he continues sharing his talents with the Valuara Arnold Singers and Draper Arts Council.

Bob enjoyed a distinguished career in government. At the United States Postal Service Office of the Inspector General, he was Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, Principal Economist, Special Assistant to the Deputy Inspector General, and Executive Director of the IG Institute. At the GAO, he was Evaluator-in-Charge. Bob was also a Congressional Staffer on the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee. At USPS headquarters, he was Volume Statistics Branch Revenue Manager, Government Relations Manager, and Senior Economist.

An author of numerous scholarly papers, Bob was the recipient of USPS OIG General Excellence and Distinguished Achievement Awards; USPS Meritorious, Special Achievement and Legislative Reform Work Awards; and other awards from the National Honor Society, American Economics Association, American Society of Public Administration, Alpha Lambda and Phi Sigma Alpha.

Bob holds a Master of Public Administration, Concentration in Economics and Public Finance *Magna Cum Laude* from American University, Washington D.C.; a Graduate Certificate in Global Business Leadership from Georgetown School of Business; and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science *Cum Laude* from Kean University.

Tom Sharkey '71 is one of those Essexmen gifted with multiple talents—artistic, academic and athletic. At Essex, he was a National Honor Society, Student Council and YCS member. In the Essex Catholic Drama Club, he had leading roles as Tony in *West Side Story*, Billy Bigelow in *Carousel* and Sam in *Wait Until Dark*.

Tom applied his theatrical talents at Nutley Community Theater, where he was in the Chorus of *Guys and Dolls* and the stage crew. Musically, he was part of the Seber-Hauze-Sharkey Trio, and sang at Sunday folk masses in area parishes and in the Essex Chapel. Somehow, he found time for JV Fencing, Track and Field, Intramural Sports and the Pep Team.

Post-Essex Catholic, Bob coached boys baseball and soccer and girls softball, basketball and soccer. After relocating to the Washington D.C. region, he was a player/manager in the Ponce DeLeon Baseball League. His theatrical exploits continued at the

Remembering

Captain John N. Reilly

1943-1968



Dr. Thomas Bellavia

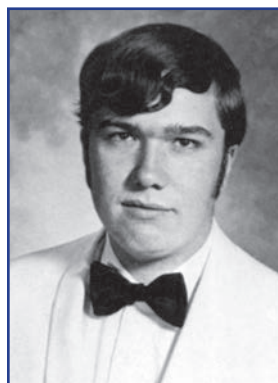
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2021 ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Gregory W. Stewart '71



career there. He earned a bachelors degree from Montclair State University at night while working full time at AT&T, and also earned an MBA while at AT&T.

Following retirement from AT&T in 2004, Greg founded NexGen Management. He is a Certified Senior Business Advisor to the Independent Business Alliance and the Institute for Independent Business, as well as a Contributing author to 2017 Amazon bestseller *BreakthroughRESULTS!*

Greg has been active in Essex Catholic High School alumni affairs since his graduation. He was a founder of Essex golfing events, and has been instrumental with others in making the Class of 1971 one of the most active.

Greg is Vice Chairman of the ECHS Foundation Board of Trustees, a long-time member of the Events Committee and Chair of the Technology Committee. He is one of the principal organizers of the annual Eagle Open, which raises money for the Foundation's scholarship fund. This year's Eagle Open (p. 33) netted nearly \$13,000, 75% of which went to Monclair Immaculate Conception high school students who transferred there from Cristo Rey Newark, the Foundation's former "adopted school," after the Archdiocese of Newark closed it in 2020

A long-time public servant, Greg has been a member of the Mount Olive, N.J. Township Council. (2014 to date), Mount Olive Economic Development Committee, Morris County Economic Development Corporation and Leadership Morris Alumni Council. Greg is also on the Board of Directors of the Hackettstown Medical Center Foundation. (2010 to date).

Greg's tenure as a public servant and member of the business community has netted him numerous awards. Among them are the Patriots Path Good Scout Award, given by an organization serving 19,000 youth in five New Jersey counties (2018); Hackettstown, N.J. Senior Hall of Fame (2018); and Mount Olive Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year (2017).

Greg Stewart '71 was a three-year lacrosse player at Essex Catholic and a founding member of the team. He played one year on the team as a club sport, followed by two years starting on the Varsity. Greg started working for AT&T upon graduation from ECHS and had a 32-year

Congratulations!

To My Fellow Essex Catholic High School 2021 Hall of Famers

John N. Reilly Jr. '61 • Michael P. McStay '68
Robert A. Rapp '71 • Walter G. Ricciardi '71
Thomas M. Sharkey '71 • Akbar H. Cook '94
• Rashaan Palmer '94 • Tracy G. Mays '96

and Honorees

1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay National
Record Holders Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71,
Tom Flannery '72, Alan Wujciak '72,
Coach Anthony "Brother Nick" Naclerio

Greg Stewart

Class of '71

Hall of Fame '21



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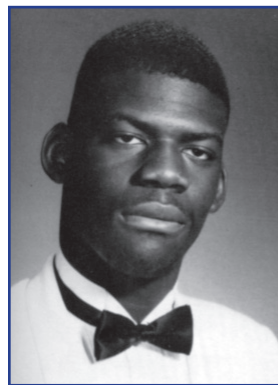
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2021 ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Akbar H. Cook '94



ers to West Side, so kids who were either homeless or didn't have clean clothes can do their laundry and avoid ridicule and embarrassment. He's piloted the boys' basketball team to back-to-back state championships—the first in the school's 91-year history. Those triumphs netted Cook, 43, State and County Coach of the Year honors, and built West Side into one of the state's

most feared programs.

Basketball always led the way, Akbar says. He picked up a ball in first grade “and that was it.” He played nearly every day with his buddy, Rashaan Palmer '94, a future NCAA Division I star at St. Bonaventure and fellow 2021 Hall of Famer, even when it was raining and snowing. He grew up with his mom and younger sister in a tough West Ward neighborhood filled with gangs, drugs and fighting. He barely knew his father. But Akbar loved to play basketball, and playing ball helped him steer clear of trouble. He starred at St. Anne Elementary School, then Essex Catholic. Then, after two years of junior college, he landed a Division I scholarship to Florida Atlantic.

Akbar is the newest member of the Essex Catholic High School Foundation Board of Trustees, and is committed to our organization and helping us reach out to 1990s graduates.

— William C. Vantuono '77



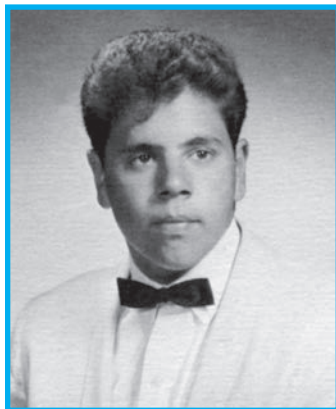
Wherever Akbar Cook '94 goes, people recognize him. From *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. From the time Oprah Winfrey visited his school. From the feature on *CBS This Morning*. He's known as the rock star principal of Newark West Side High School, the man inspiring legions with his “crusader approach” to urban education. He's one of the best high school coaches in New Jersey.

Akbar has worked miracles at Newark's West Side High, a struggling school wedged in a dangerous section of the city marred by graffiti and gangs. And he also set the education world on fire—and caught the eyes of Ellen and Oprah—with a pair of initiatives credited with saving lives and spurring enrollment. The first —“Lights On”—keeps the school open late on weekends and in the summer to give students a safe space to hang out, play games and eat free food. The other brought five washers and dry-

Congratulations!

*2021 Essex Catholic
Hall of Fame Inductees
and Honorees*

*Sebastian Palmeri '66
Hall of Fame 2016*



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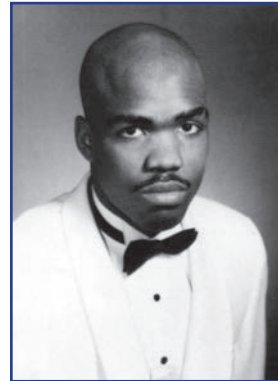
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2021 ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Rashaan Palmer '94

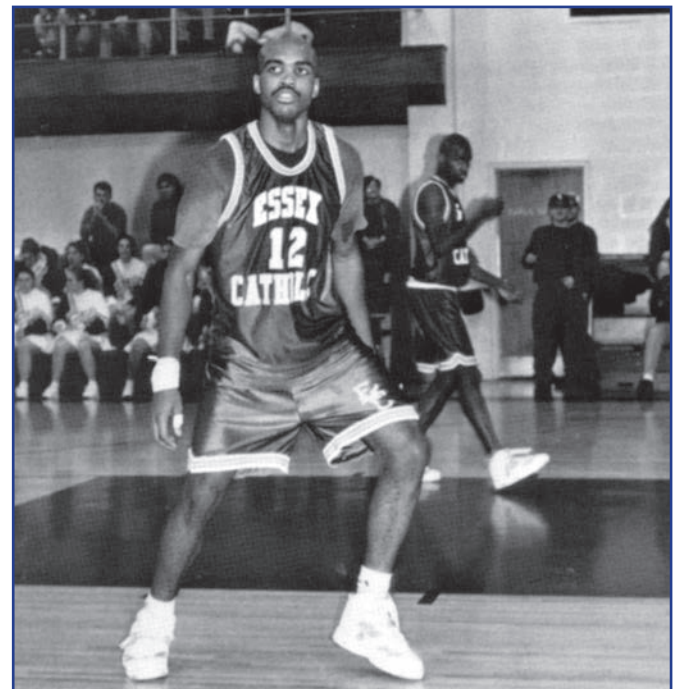


son teams of the 1990s (alongside walk-on Jamie Moses), leading St. Bonaventure to the 1998 NIT with averages of 17.1 points and 5.1 rebounds per game. Palmer is one of just five players in St. Bonaventure annals to make three A-10 All-Conference teams (Moses, Marques Green, Andrew Nicholson and Jaylen Adams are the others), earning Third Team honors in each of the

1996, 1997 and 1998 seasons.

Rashaan went on to play professional basketball in Finland and the Dominican Republic, then returned to the U.S. to play in the ABA and UBA leagues.

For the past 13 years, Rashaan has dedicated himself to public service as a Newark, N.J. firefighter. He and wife Felicia have four children. He is a humble man, having accepted induction to the Essex Catholic Hall of Fame mostly because his lifelong friend, Eagles teammate and 1994 classmate Akbar Cook, is being inducted this year. Rashaan and Akbar, at 6-5 and 6-7 respectively, were known as the “Twin Towers” at Essex.



Rashaan Palmer '94 is Essex Catholic's all-time leading basketball scorer, amassing 1,451 points playing varsity ball in his Sophomore, Junior and Senior years under head coach and Hall of Fame member Chuck Colaiacovo. “To know Essex Catholic is to love Essex Catholic” is his Talon yearbook epitaph. He describes his time at Essex as “a wonderful journey where I made lifelong friends and had amazing moments on the court.”

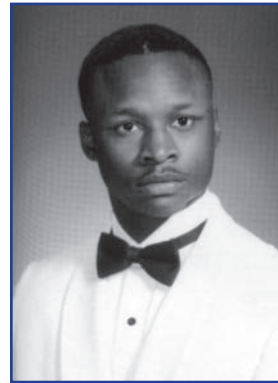
Rashaan went on to play four years of NCAA Division I basketball at St. Bonaventure, in the Atlantic 10 Conference. He averaged 14.5 PPG. The *Olean Times Herald* in 2020 picked him as one of the four best St. Bonaventure players of the 1990s:

Palmer, quietly, was the most successful Bonnies player from a combined individual and team standpoint of the 1990s. The 6-5 forward still sits just outside the top 10 in program history in scoring (12th, 1,657 points), having averaged better than 16 points over his sophomore, junior and senior seasons. He was one of just two players to appear on both of the Bonnies' postsea-



2021 ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Tracy G. Mays '96



had other ideas for Tracy, who he knew from Pop Warner football in Newark. “You’re going to be my quarterback,” Shumacher said.

The combination of Shumacher and Mays turned around the fortunes of the Eagles, who were not known as a winning football program. “It started with me,” Tracy says. “It’s one of the things I hang my hat on.”

He credits Shumacher, assistant coach Frank Stanco and Brother DePiro, who had become principal, with keeping him on the straight and narrow.

“I credit those three with saving my life,” he said, relating how Brother DePiro knew immediately the one time he cut school and called his mother. Stanco, who mentored him and cooked for him, knew every place he might hang out, Tracy said, and Shumacher “scared the life out of me. That was his role.”

Tracy, who was All-State in football in his senior year, played baseball all four years at Essex, starting as a catcher, and then an outfielder and pitcher, making All-State as a utility player and batting .500 his senior year. He also played football at Montclair State—at quarterback, flanker, and kick returner—earning a degree in sociology with a minor in criminal justice. He went on to get a master’s in child advocacy from Montclair State and a master’s in social work from Rutgers.

Tracy has worked for the state Division of Child Protection and Permanency for 20 years and currently is investigative supervisor of a multi-disciplinary forensic unit based in Newark, handling the most egregious child-protection cases in Essex County. A resident of Hillside, he has lectured at Rutgers-Newark and Essex County College and is an adjunct instructor at Montclair State.

Tracy’s daughter, Kyasia, 20, is a pre-med student at Rutgers in New Brunswick. He also has a 13-year-old son, Joziah, a 2½-year-old daughter, Zhuri, and a 6-year-old soon-to-be stepdaughter, Zoey. He has coached his children in football and softball and is active in community service through his Masonic Lodge.

“That ’96 group, we started some things,” he says about his days at Essex Catholic. “But those classes behind me really kept things going.”

Tracy Mays '96 believes Essex Catholic, especially Brother James DePiro and his coaches, saved his life. Growing up in the Central Ward of Newark, he knew he didn’t want to go to Central High School, feeling it was a dangerous place, and his family agreed. After briefly relocating to West Virginia—“I didn’t like it at all. I used my allowance to buy a train ticket and came back,” he recalls—Tracy contacted ECHS basketball coach Chuck Colaiacovo, who he knew from youth leagues, and arranged for an interview at Essex Catholic in East Orange.

Brother Thomas Leto, who was principal at the time, asked Tracy to sign a contract that he would maintain good grades in return for tuition support. “You are an investment,” Brother Leto told him. He took two buses each way, leaving home before dawn and arriving back after dark, but most of his time was spent in the school. “Essex was great,” Tracy says. “I worked out, cleaned the school, whatever they needed me to do.”

Although he planned on playing basketball, when Essex Catholic great Larry Shumacher '66 became football coach, he

The Essex Catholic Crest

The crest of Essex Catholic High School is rich in meaning and idealism. The overall shape of the shield is a buckler of faith, the Christian's defense against the arrows of temptation, and a sure protection against the wiles of Satan in the strife of life's daily battle for salvation.

The Strip d'Argent, on field azure, indicating the school colors (blue and silver), favorites of Our Lady, and the Fleur-di-Lis on the center strip, symbolic of the lily of purity, are from the crest of the Archbishop of Newark.

The Fleur-di-Lis also symbolizes the double unity of the Holy Trinity. The three petals on the heraldic design reflect the widespread association with the Holy Trinity, with the horizontal band symbolizing Mary. The tradition says that without Mary, you cannot understand the Trinity, since it was she who bore the Son.

The Crown and Sword at the upper left of the crest represent the patroness of the school, Our Lady of Sorrows, "whose own soul and sword hath pierced." The crown represents the crown of thorns Jesus wore at his crucifixion. The sword is symbolic of the sword that pierced Mary's heart as she watched Jesus die on the cross.

The intertwined XPM at the upper right, also known as the Chi-Rho Cross, repeats the goal of devotion to Our Lady set forth in the school's

motto, "Ad Jesum per Mariam" (to Jesus through Mary). The letters X and P are often used as another symbol for "Christ." The first two letters of Christ's name in Greek are X and P. In the Greek alphabet, X equals CH and P equals R. The letters are usually inscribed one over the other, sometimes enclosed within a circle, becoming both a cosmic and a solar symbol.



The two Stars symbolize the New Testament promise, "Those who instruct others unto justice shall shine as stars for all eternity." This promise is hope of the Christian Brothers of Ireland who taught in Essex Catholic High School and the hope of the boys who will instruct others by the example of their Christian lives. The stars also signify enlightenment, guidance, and instruction.

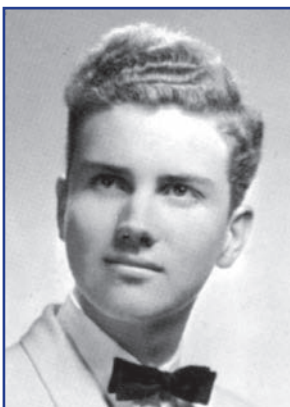
The Celtic Cross, a cross with Celtic rope work decoration, represents the beacon of faith and harmony of lives well spent for Christ. The traditional crest of the Christian Brothers of Ireland, it notes the origin of the order from the famed "Isle of Saints and Scholars."

Ad Jesum per Mariam, Latin for "To Jesus through Mary," the Essex Catholic motto. Mary leads us to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. This belief is taken from the first miracle of Jesus at Cana.

The date of Essex Catholic High School's founding, 1957, anchors our school's crest.

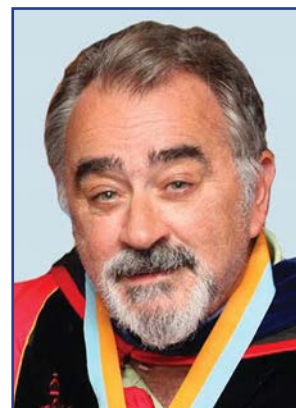
Phil Nufrio '69, Hall of Fame 2019, salutes 2021 Hall of Famer the late John Reilly '61, Bill Spedding '61, and Essex Catholic's first graduating class on its 60th anniversary.

Bill Spedding



John Reilly

Phil Nufrio



Thank You Essex Catholic for the Memories!

THE MULLIN FAMILY

Jim, Class of 1973 (B.A. Columbia, M.B.A. Rutgers), Hall of Fame 2013

Wife, Linda (B.A. Douglass, M.A. William Paterson)

Daughters, Jessica (B.A. Columbia); Christen (B.A., M.A. St. Joseph's)

Sisters

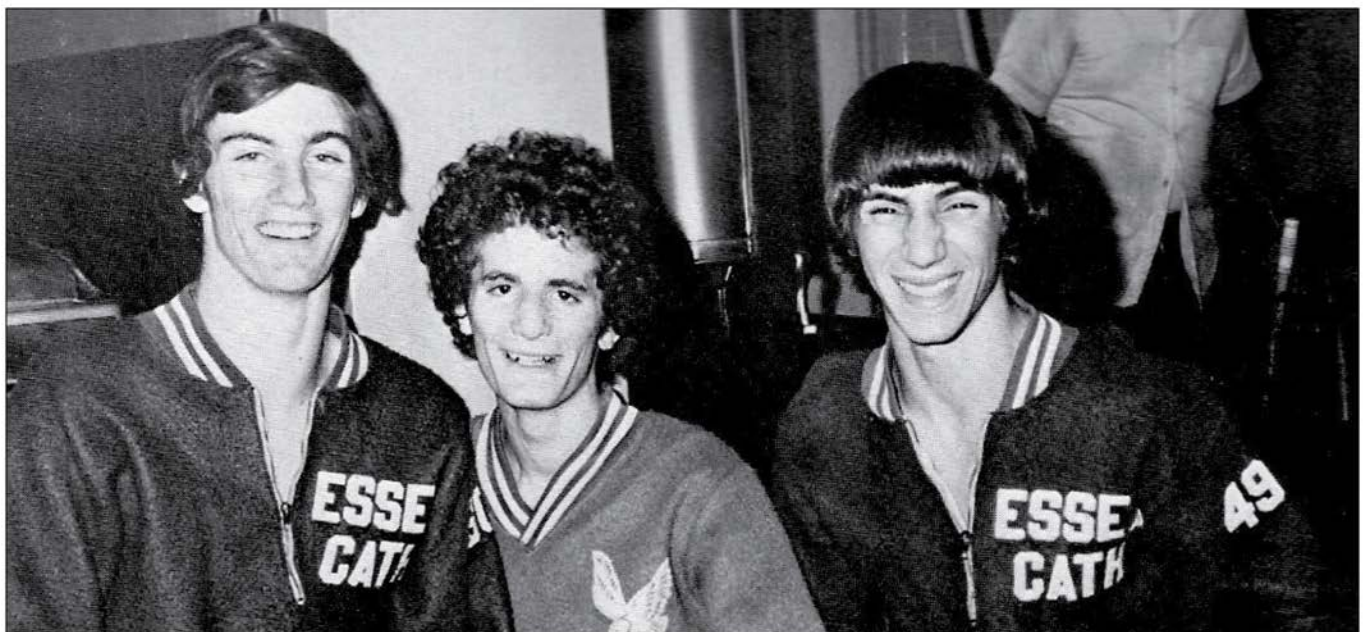
Pat, EOCHS Class of 1969, *Brigadoon* (B.A. St. Elizabeth's)

Andrea, EOCHS Class of 1977, Essex Cheerleader (B.S. Montclair State)

Liz, EOCHS Class of 1978, Essex Cheerleader (B.A. Centenary, Magna Cum Laude)



In Memoriam
Parents
Jim and Anastasia (Nettie)



Essex Catholic 1973 Varsity Wrestling Co-Captains, left to right: Jim Mullin, Baggio Uricoli, and Ken Villano.



2021 ESSEX CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Honorees



1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay National Record Holders

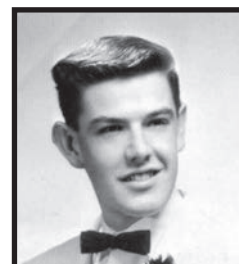


In the 1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Varsity Track & Field season, the Eagles four-man shot put relay squad, coached by Anthony "Brother Nick" Naclerio, set not one but two national records, both of which have lasted to the present time.

The national Indoor record for the four-man relay shot put is 224 feet, 5 inches, set in 1970. The national outdoor record for the four-man relay is 231 feet, 8.5 inches, set in 1971.

Kneeling left to right are Tom Flannery '72 and Alan Wujciak '72 (Hall of Fame 1983). Standing left to right are Rudy Guevara '71 (Hall of Fame 1989), Coach Naclerio (Hall of Fame 1982) and John McCree '71 (Hall of Fame 1982). Sadly, Tom Flannery and Rudy Guevara are deceased.

Remembering Captain John N. Reilly, Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice



From Elaine's Dearest Friends



COMPOSITIONS

NAME Talou 71

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The 1971 50th Anniversary Class welcomes and congratulates our 2021 New Hall of Famers: Bob Rapp, Walt Ricciardi, Tom Sharkey and Greg Stewart, and recognizes our Old Hall of Famers: Ray Bauer 1991, Bill Cardone 2011, Ken Cubelli 1985, Jack Decker 1994, Ed DeVivo 2004, Rick Fontana 2011, Nick Grosch 2003, Rudy Guevara 1989, Jim Harrison 1986, Don Hart 2018, Bob Heugle 2017, Keith Krauss 2013, Tim Lee 2012, John McCree 1982, Rick Peterson 2005, Tom Reilly 1987 and Pete Varsanyi 2011, plus Honorees Nick Grosch 2011, Terry Lynam 2008, Joe Lynch 2019 and Frank Choppy 2018.



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Akbar H. Cook '94 • Rashaan Palmer '94
Tracy G. Mays '96

2021 Honorees

1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay National Record Holders:
Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71, Tom Flannery '72,
Alan Wujciak '72, Coach Anthony "Brother Nick" Naclerio



Steve McCabe '64

Hall of Fame 2014



and

Buffy McCabe

2021 Eagle Open

More than 100 Essex Catholic alumni golfers, family and friends took to the beautiful and challenging Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, N.J., on May 3, 2021, for a day of fellowship and fundraising. The Foundation raised nearly \$13,000 for scholarships, 75% of which was earmarked for Montclair Immaculate Conception High School students who transferred from Cristo Rey Newark when the Archdiocese of Newark shut that school down in 2020. Many thanks to our sponsors! Save May 9 as the date for the 2022 Eagle Open!



2021 Eagle Open





Independence
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Lockton thanks John N. Reilly Jr.
for his ultimate sacrifice.



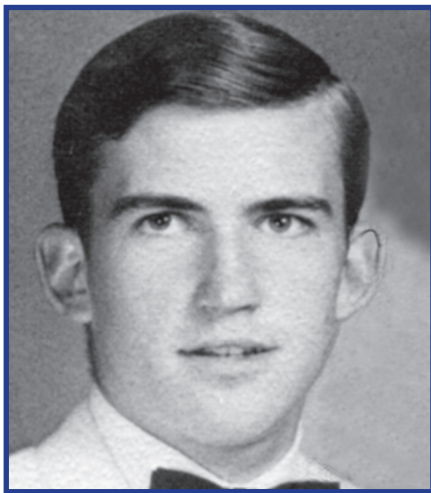
UNCOMMONLY INDEPENDENT

Congratulations!

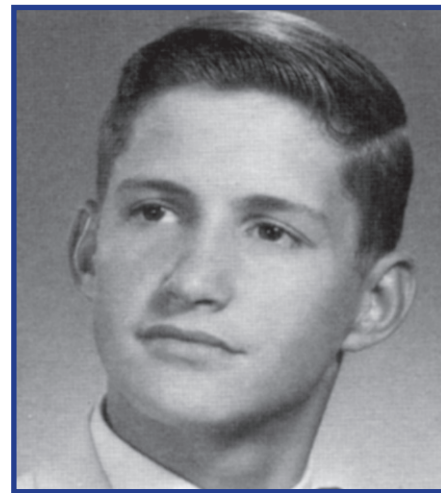
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Robert A. Rapp '71 • Walter G. Ricciardi '71
Thomas M. Sharkey '71 • Gregory W. Stewart '71
Akbar H. Cook '94 • Rashaan Palmer '94
Tracy G. Mays '96**

**1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay National Record
Holders Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71, Tom Flannery '72,
Alan Wujciak '72, Coach Anthony "Brother Nick" Naclerio**



**Robert M. Hoatson, Ph.D. '70
Hall of Fame 2020**



William R. Hoatson, Esq. '68



**In Memoriam: James C. Hoatson '67
Alice Hoatson**

2021 Eagle Open



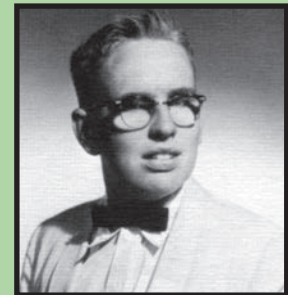
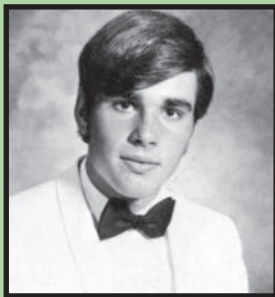
Congratulations!

to the 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees

Especially My Cousin

Tom Sharkey '71

Best Wishes!



John Maguire '62

Join Us at the
2022 Eagle Open



May 9, 2022

Galloping Hill Country Club, Kenilworth, N.J.

***All Proceeds to Benefit the Essex Catholic High
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Contact Nick Grosch '71, nickcorby@aol.com

2021 Eagle Open



In Honor of Captain John N. Reilly



*From Brian and Alanna, Elaine's Dearest and
Most Loving Scottish Friends*

"Beannaichd dia ar Gaisgeach"



Congratulations!

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Robert A. Rapp '71 • Walter G. Ricciardi '71
Thomas M. Sharkey '71 • Gregory W. Stewart '71
Akbar H. Cook '94 • Rashaan Palmer '94
Tracy G. Mays '96*

Honorees

*1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay National
Record Holders Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71,
Tom Flannery '72, Alan Wujciak '72, Coach Anthony
“Brother Nick” Naclerio*

Joe Bakes '67



Congratulations!

2021 Hall of Fame Inductees and Honorees

William C. Vantuono '77

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and

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Record Holders: Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71,
Tom Flannery '72, Alan Wujciak '72
Your Records Still Stand!*



Tony and Louise Naclerio

Congratulations!

to the

**“Class of 2021” Essex Catholic
Hall of Fame Inductees
and Honorees**

John N. Reilly Jr. '61

Michael P. McStay '68

Robert A. Rapp '71

Walter G. Ricciardi '71

Thomas M. Sharkey '71

Gregory W. Stewart '71

Akbar H. Cook '94

Rashaan Palmer '94

Tracy G. Mays '96

**1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay National Record
Holders Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71, Tom Flannery '72,
Alan Wujciak '72, Coach Anthony “Brother Nick” Naclerio**

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We salute you! Mea Mea!

Al Matos '76 and Family

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Thomas M. Sharkey '71 • Gregory W. Stewart '71
Akbar H. Cook '94 • Rashaan Palmer '94
Tracy G. Mays '96**

2021 Honorees

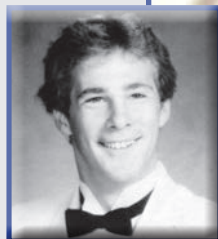
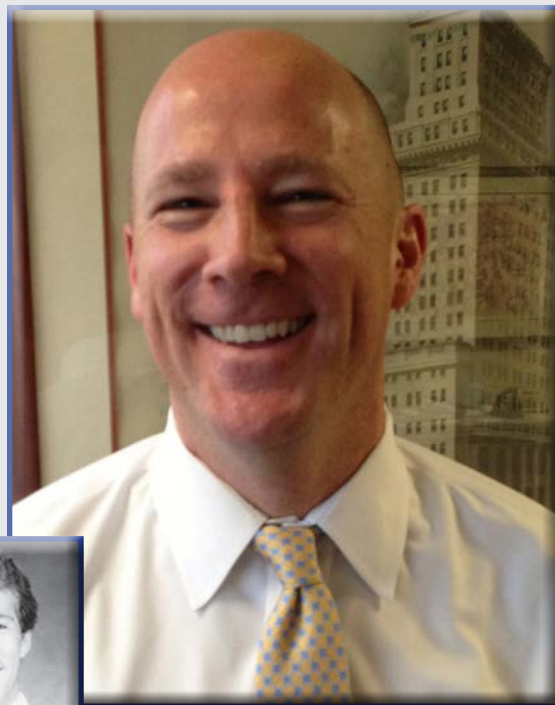
**1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay National Record
Holders: Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71, Tom Flannery '72,
Alan Wujciak '72, Coach Anthony "Brother Nick" Naclerio**

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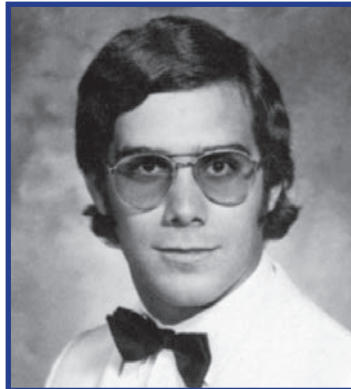
Dennis Hall '86

Investment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC (WFAFN), Member SIPC. DRH Wealth Management is a separate entity from WFAFN.

Congratulations!

2021 Essex Catholic High School Hall of Fame Inductees, especially Class of '71 members Bob Rapp, Walt Ricciardi, Tom Sharkey and Greg Stewart; and 1970-71 Indoor and Outdoor Shot Put Relay National Record Holders Rudy Guevara '71, John McCree '71, Tom Flannery '72, Alan Wujciak '72 and Coach Anthony "Brother Nick" Naclerio

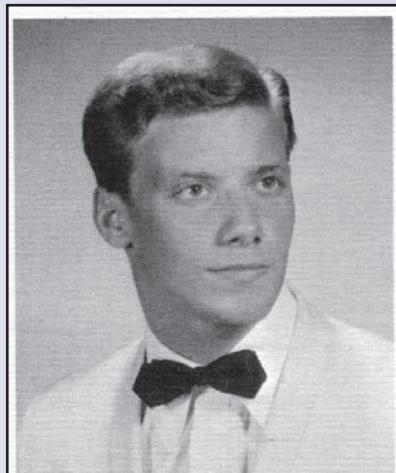
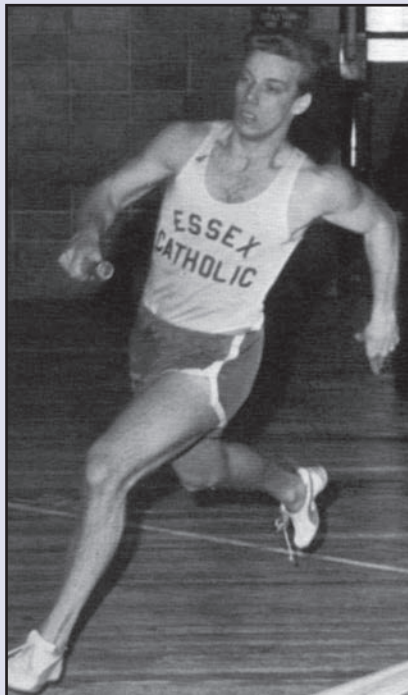
God Bless!



Stephen J. Tobia '71

In Memoriam

Al Tobia '67 • 1949-2020 • Hall of Fame 1990



ALFONSE D. TOBIA

*St. Francis Xavier
Newark*

Class Officer 2, 3; Varsity Club
3, 4; Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Track
1, 2, 3, 4.

