

1ST ANNUAL

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony

Saturday, October 14, 2017



Ray Sullivan

Joseph Flood

Peter O'Hara

Maureen Ford

Richard Thibault

Roger Vierra

James P. Martin

Joseph Narcizo

Richard Heisler

Ed Akucewich

Richard Travers

Peggy Matteson

Sandy Reynolds

Ray Ainsworth

Ray Sabourin

Del Martin

George McGaw

1968 Football Team

1968 Golf Team

Green Valley Country Club

Portsmouth, RI



Message from the Portsmouth Athletic Hall of Fame Association,

This event is the culmination of a community wide effort to recognize the pioneers of Portsmouth High School athletics. It has taken many hours of meetings and discussions along with a grass roots campaign to get us all here today. We could not have pulled this off without very generous donations, please take some time look through their advertisements in this booklet. But most of all, we are tremendously excited to finally recognize those athletes, coaches, and boosters that have made our athletic program what it is today. We all have so much pride for our schools rich tradition, and these are the folks that started it all. Thank you again for being a part of our first annual induction ceremony! Enjoy the evening and we hope to see you all again next year!

Sincerely,

John and Fran Blaess, Mike Lunney, and Shaun Horgan

Award Ceremony Program

4:30 pm—5:30 pm

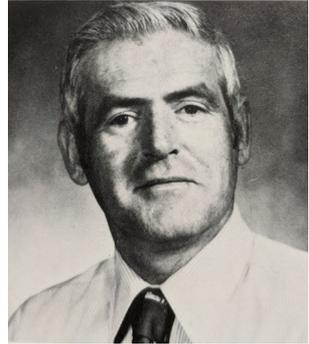
Cocktail hour and refreshments

5:30 pm—6:30 pm

Inductee and Team Awards



Ray Sullivan — Coach Raymond Sullivan was a star athlete at Rogers High school in Newport, RI. He was a star basketball and football player for the Vikings. In 1954 he attended Boston College on a football scholarship and played wide receiver for the team graduating in 1958. Ray started his career as a teacher of history and social studies in Portsmouth in 1959 and was on the staff when the new Portsmouth High School opened in 1963. In 1964 he was hired as the football program's first head coach. Coach Ray was the one to influence the selection of the mascot name "Patriots" as well the school's colors of red, white, and blue. His 1968 football team went undefeated and won the RI Class C championship. Ray retired from his head coaching duties in 1977 and stayed on as an assistant coach helping from the late 70's into the early 80's. Coach Sullivan received the RI Football Coach of the year honors in 1977 and was inducted into the RI Coaches Hall of Fame in 1980. He retired from teaching in 1990, and was beloved by his students as a popular and highly respected teacher and coach. Coach Sullivan passed away in December 2015.



Dick Heisler — Coach Richard Heisler was hired as a physical education for the Portsmouth School Department and was assigned at PHS. He was a Springfield College alumnus. Dick was the high school baseball program's first Head Coach as he started the program in 1965. Because of his background in physical education, fundamentals were stressed as well as conditioning. Coach was a teacher of the game and his "nine" were always competitive on the diamond. He had many successful seasons and worked hard at developing team at imparting his baseball knowledge to his players. Always one to put his players first, he enjoyed seeing them become productive athletes of the program and well rounded students.



Peter O'Hara — Coach Peter O'Hara taught mathematics at Portsmouth High School and started his coaching career there as a boys soccer assistant and then head coach taking over the program in 1971. His leadership brought the team to a new level in its player's competitiveness and tenacity. Pete, with his assistants Ray Sabourin and Dick Thibault, developed teams that were known statewide for its hard-nose style of play and conditioning. He was a master motivator

using various ways to focus his teams to the task at hand. Under his leadership, the soccer program won its first divisional crown of many in 1975, and went on to win the boys soccer RI State Championship in 1978. Later on soccer games at night under the field lights on JFK field became a community event drawing many fans. His teams also traveled and played soccer matches on international trips to Sweden and Germany, as well as annual trips to Portsmouth, NH. The PHS yearbook was dedicated to him in 1969. A quote from that yearbook said, "Mr. O'Hara has always given us guidance and assistance. He has provided the enthusiasm which is so necessary in maintaining an active class."

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James P. Martin — James P. “Jim” Martin was raised in Pawtucket, RI. After graduating from high school, Jim enlisted in the US Army to serve our country in World War II. When he returned home, and thanks to the GI bill, Jim enrolled at URI and earned his degree. Hired by the Portsmouth school department, Jim was assigned to PHS to teach history. He loved his job at the high school, and equally loved the opportunity to coach the boys’ basketball team. Unfortunately, during the school year in 1967, the beloved Coach Martin passed away at the young age of 44, leaving his wife Phyllis and their 6 children to carry on his legacy. The 1967-68 yearbook writes, “As a teacher, his gentle yet ever firm manner encouraged both the junior and senior high school students. As a coach, he was respected and admired by all. Always thoughtful, always fair, Jim Martin was a man of accomplishment through the spirit of teamwork and cooperation. His greatness was measured by his kindness, his large heart, and his understanding.”

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George McGaw — Try to imagine being the person who is charged with building a high school athletic program. Imagine doing this while teaching a full schedule of graphic arts classes and operating your program with no office, computer, secretary, or even a cell phone. George McGaw was assigned the position of Athletic Director on the inception of Portsmouth High School in 1963. George pioneered the athletic program at PHS, without the help of the aforementioned items, and did a superb job of getting not only students involved, but finding teachers to coach in different sports. He would complain to his wife Lee (PHS school nurse at the time) that his sport coat pockets would wear out because this is where he would store his AD records and schedules. George also organized the Portsmouth Athletics Boosters organization with Bob Crudup in 1963 as well as oversaw the implementation of Title IX. The Portsmouth High School athletic community is forever indebted to George McGaw's leadership!



Peggy Sherblom Matteson — Coach Peggy Sherblom Matteson taught physical education at Portsmouth High School in 1969. Peggy knew the benefits of interscholastic competition from her own high school and college experiences. In 1970 she decided to challenge the status quo and found 27 girls to play both basketball and volleyball. Title IX was not yet law, so there was no requirement that schools provide athletics for girls. It was a challenging endeavor, but the girls supported each other and persevered. There were no uniforms at the time so the JV basketball team chose to wear their gym-suits and numbers were made using athletic white tape while the varsity wore blue shorts and white shirts as their uniform. Peggy says "the girls received minimal public recognition, yet the smiles on their faces reflected the excitement and pride they felt being able to represent their school. They put in the hard work of establishing the athletic programs at the time and I was pleased to be able to coach them and facilitate the process."



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Maureen Ford — Coach Maureen Ford graduated from the URI in 1971 and started her career in teaching physical education at Portsmouth High School the same year. “I was apprehensive but thrilled and excited at the same time” says Maureen. In the early 70’s there were few if any organized sports for girls, only basketball existed for girls at PHS. She helped organize and coach field hockey for a few years as well as doing the same for volleyball at the school. Upon organizing a girls’ volleyball team she was partitioned by a group of boys who also wanted to play. She agreed and both boys and girls did all the same drills together at practices. When the girls had league games, she would ask coaches to bring along boys teams if they had one and they would play a match before the girls’ game. “I loved the athletes I worked with and coached and I remember many of them fondly. I often wonder where they are now and how their lives have unfolded.” After Title IX was enacted Maureen says, “It was a time of great change and I was glad to be part of the movement that helped shape women’s sports in RI.” She was also an interscholastic field hockey and volleyball referee for 30 years. Coach Ford’s successful coaching, teaching, and refereeing career ended upon her retirement in 1999.



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Del Martin— After graduating from North-eastern University, Coach Del Martin was hired to teach physical education in the Portsmouth school system as well as coach football and basketball for the high school. Athletics played a major part in Del’s life. He was a multiple varsity letterman at Warren RI High School and is a member of their athletic hall of fame. He was the head freshman coach and varsity assistant in football for Coach Ray



Sullivan in 1968. “I was so proud of being a member of the 1968 football team.” Coach Del also served as head JV and assistant varsity coach on the basket team with Ed Akucewich. Del states that “I’ll never forget my years as a coach or the head coaches I worked with. More importantly, I’ll never forget the many athletes that I trained, encouraged, and mentored. Those years at PHS helped me to understand the importance of a role model and even more significant than that, the importance that athletics play in the growth of an individual.”



Roger Vierra— “I am deeply honored by my selection to the Portsmouth High School Athletic Hall of Fame,” states Coach Roger Vierra, the first boys’ soccer coach at PHS. Unfortunately he sends his regrets and cannot be with us tonight. Roger started the soccer program first as an intramural and then as a varsity sport from 1963 to 1971. Coach Vierra scoured the hallways of PHS for those boys who might have an interest in soccer and soon had enough support to field a varsity and junior

varsity squads. Roger also served as the assistant boys’ basketball coach from 1963 to 1971 and was the English department chair at PHS from 1971 to 1990. He was elected to the Rhode Island College Hall of Fame in 2003.



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Joseph Flood— Coach Joe Flood has had a very long and successful career working with the students at Portsmouth High School. Hired as a math teacher, he began his coaching career with the formation of both the Cross Country and Golf programs. While on staff at PHS, he left his job to serve his country in Vietnam. When he returned he continued in his role as teacher and coach. Joe was head coach of the cross country teams for 15 years and the golf team for 43 years winning over 20 divisional championships in that sport. He also



coached the girls' basketball program for 4 years and was the Director of Athletics on two separate occasions. During these years, Joe's teams enjoyed great success and brought honor to the school and community. Coach Flood states, "The true purpose of coaching is not measured by the wins and losses, it is in the development of building good, solid young people who will be able to be successful in their future." He goes on to say "the relationships are life-long and give you pleasure in seeing their success. All I ever wanted to do was make a difference in my players' lives for their betterment."

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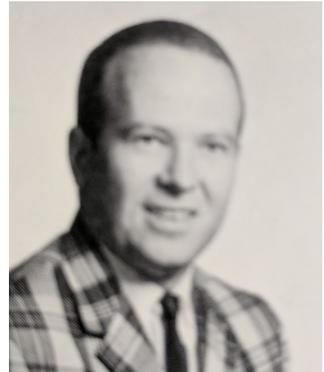


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Joseph Narcizo— Coach Joe Narcizo began his teaching career in Portsmouth at the elementary level in 1960, and became a PHS faculty member in 1963. Joe started out as a teacher of English and social studies, but most students remember him as a guidance counselor, helping with his 6 graduating classes, counseling and scheduling students from grades 9 through 12. Coach Narcizo teamed up with football Coaches Sullivan and Travers, and helped the football program off the ground. He also coached baseball for the Patriots. With the 1968 football team, a divisional championship was won and with his 9th grade baseball team, 2 state championships were achieved. “Coaching gave me the chance to impart the principals of dedication, commitment to excellence, discipline, strength of character, and good sportsmanship to my players. My ultimate goal was to help my athletes develop life living principles.”

Ed Akucewich— “ I am honored that you have selected me to be a member of the first class of the Portsmouth High School Athletic Hall of Fame,” says Coach Ed Akucewich. Coach Ed unfortunately cannot attend the ceremony tonight (as he lives in Florida full time). Coach began his teaching career at PHS teaching Physical Education from 1963 until 1990. He was involved with the Patriot team first as an assistant to Coach Jim Martin and then became head coach in 1967. His team’s compiled a 38 win-18 loss record during the time frame. Coach “Ak” always put his players first and was a role model for “his boys” on and off the court. “My best memories of my years at PHS were those years coaching basketball. I always enjoyed being with my teams during both practices and games. My own children have great memories of my years of coaching.”





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Sandy Reynolds— Coach Sandy Reynolds began her teaching career for the Portsmouth School Department in 1971 and started coaching girls' basketball at PHS in 1972. The first years of her coaching were challenging as there were still no uniforms, assistants, or consistent practice times at the school. On occasion, the team would practice in the St. Anthony basement gymnasium. After the Title IX federal law passed, the girls went from wearing old boy's uniforms to their own new

uniforms and practice times that were consistent and held at the high school. By the time Sandy retired from coaching in 1982, the girls program started to play night games and attracted student body support. It was real progress and showed the support that girls athletics was finally receiving from the school, community, and administration, Sandy goes on to say " My greatest joy as a coach was seeing the pride on my players faces when the competed on the basketball court. It was because of their willingness to persist in the face of a sometimes difficult environment to play the game they loved that inspired me and I thank them for that!"

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Ray Ainsworth— The first marching band and orchestra leader at Portsmouth High School was charged with starting a music program in a brand new school. This task was met with enthusiasm, hard work and humor by the beloved Ray Ainsworth. This “music man” was always on the look-out for musicians as well as those interested in learning to play an instrument. Ray and Coach Sullivan collaborated in the writing of the school song “For Portsmouth” (to the tune of the Boston College fight song, Coach Sullivan’s alma mater). For years Maestro Ains-

worth supported football games with half time shows as well as other athletics with the pep band. In- school concerts during the holiday season were looked forward to by the student body and community. Ray Ainsworth strove for excellence from his students very much so like a coach and his team. The mark of excellence for music in Portsmouth Schools lives on today, and we can thank our “music man” who set the stage!

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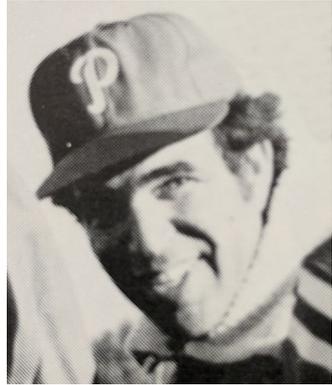
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Richard Travers— Coach Richard Travers is a graduate of Bristol High School and was a multi-sport athlete for the school. He is a Springfield College graduate majoring in physical education and in 1964 was hired by the Portsmouth School Department to teach and coach. Rich was on the first PHS football coaching staff under the direction of Ray Sullivan and worked with the athletes on teams teaching them football fundamentals, techniques, and teamwork. He was on the coaching staff as the Patriots won the 1968 Class C championship. Rich says, “my fondest coaching memories were from 1964 to 1970 when I coached with Ray and Joe Narcizo. We coached the best kids who worked hard and were diligent. We had fun!” In the 1980’s Coach Travers worked with head coach Richard “Foxy” Marshall and helped the team win several Class B championships. He continued his career at Portsmouth High coaching as well as serving as its Athletic Director and Director of PE and Health for the district. One of Coach Travers many gifts in teaching and coaching were making connections with students, many of whom he remains close to today. Rich retired from Portsmouth schools in 1996.



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Rhode Races & Events Inc. wishes to extend their congratulations to all of the inductees!





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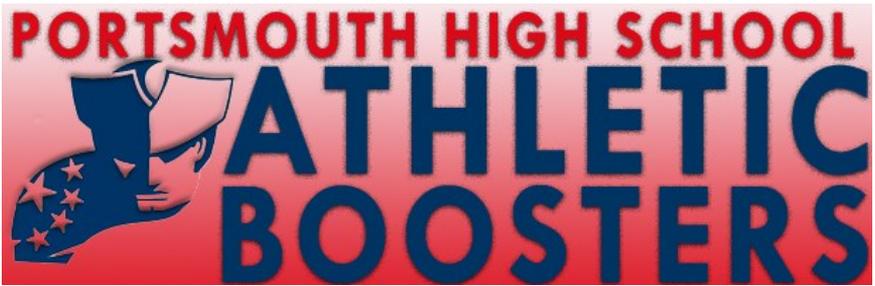
Ray Sabourin and Richard Thibault — Coaches Ray Sabourin and Richard Thibault began their teaching careers at Portsmouth High School in 1963 teaching courses in science and foreign languages respectively. They both shared the assistant boys' soccer coaching duties in 1971 joining head coach Peter O'Hara. As a coaching team, they alternated duties coaching the varsity and junior varsity squads during the season. They were both outstanding coaches and teachers, always putting their players as well as students first. Their dedication to teams while they were coaching helped PHS become a respected soccer power in the state, and it continues with that reputation even today. Both coaches retired after an outstanding career in education and are remembered fondly by scores of PHS students.

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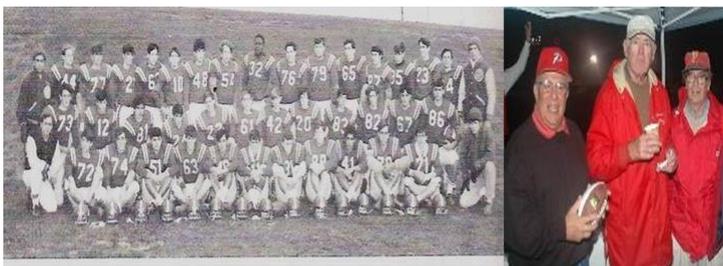
Congratulations, PHS Hall of Famers!

We are Patriot Proud!

-The Crudup family



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Congratulations Hall Of Fame Inductees

**Here are a few who
were influences in
our lives
Drew and Dennis and
the whole Bickel
family**





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An advertisement for three businesses located in Newport, RI. The top part of the ad features three logos: "JENNIEKAY hair + makeup studio" on the left, "PLUMBY'S UPTOWN BURGER BAR" in the center, and "BRICK ALLEY PUB & RESTAURANT NEWPORT" on the right. Below the logos is a stylized illustration of a three-story building. The top floor is labeled "JENNIE KAY BEAUTY", the middle floor is "PLUMBY'S BURGER BAR", and the ground floor has a sign that says "BRICK ALLEY PUB". The building has yellow awnings over the ground-floor windows and a central entrance. Below the illustration, the text reads "Burgers, Brews & Beauty. the triple threat that everyone's talking about." At the bottom, there is a table with three columns: "FIRST FLOOR", "SECOND FLOOR", and "THIRD FLOOR".

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Congrats to all of the inductees! From former PHS athletes:
Patricia (Stinton) Plumb '69, Matt Plumb '99,
Ralph Plumb III '01, and Jennie-Kay (Murphy) Plumb '01



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The 1968 football team and coaches thank the committee for our inclusion in the inaugural class of the PHS Athletic Hall Of Fame. We thank our families and friends for the support we received during the 1968 season.

Go Pats!





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