

4TH ANNUAL

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony

Saturday, October 16, 2021



Duke Ingraham '88

Jim Bechtel '66

Becky Ingraham Hasse '90

Scott Polselli '76

Dennis Jerome '88

Sarah McLean '99

Robin Ramey '89

Norman Bailey

John Burton '82

Ken Bell

1970-71 Boys Basketball Team

*Green Valley Country Club
Portsmouth, RI*



Message from the PHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee,

Thank you again for being a part of our second annual induction ceremony! This event is the culmination of a community wide effort to recognize the many outstanding athletes, coaches, and supporters of Portsmouth High School athletics. We could not have pulled this off with out very generous donations from several local businesses and organizations. Please take some time look through their advertisements in this booklet. But most of all, we are tremendously excited to recognize this class of Hall of Famers. We all have so much pride for our school's rich tradition. This is a very special occasion for us to see these folks enshrined in the PHS history books. Enjoy the evening and we hope to see you all again next year!

Sincerely,

John Blaess(Chairperson), Fran Blaess, Mike Lunney, Ellen Chilabato, Mike Stinton, Greg Gizzi, and Shaun Horgan

Award Ceremony Program

4:30 pm—5:30 pm

Cocktail hour and refreshments

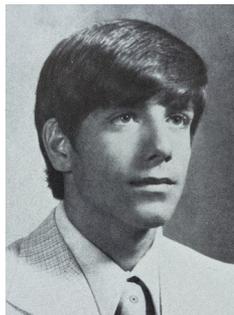
5:30 pm—6:30 pm

Inductee and Team Awards



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Scott Polselli '76—One of the more talented athletes at Portsmouth high school during the mid 70's was Scott Polselli. During his 4 years as a student he participated in 5 different sports at one time or another. Football, track, basketball (Senior Co-Capt) and baseball were part of his involvement in athletics; however, soccer was his passion. During his 3 years on varsity, he amassed a total of 18 goals scored as well as 12 assists.



These career goal totals broke the 9 year record of goals scored held by alumnus Mike Stinton, long time and current coach of the PHS varsity boy's squad. Scott, as Senior Co-Captain of the 1975 varsity team helped lead the squad to a Suburban East Championship. That year he was named to the 1st team All Division and All State team. He was also recognized as All State honorable mention in his junior year. Scott has coached in the town of Portsmouth as an assistant varsity girls' soccer coach for PHS for 13 years, and various youth soccer, basketball, and little league teams. In 1990 Scott became a RI board certified referee in soccer, and still serves as an official in that sport as well as basketball and lacrosse. An incredible honor was bestowed on Scott in 2002, as he was selected to carry the Olympic torch at the Salt Lake City Winter games. He was one of 210,000 nominated to be chosen to carry the Olympic flame. Scott is

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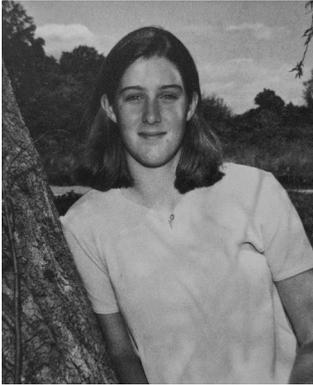
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Sarah McLean '99—One of the best athletes to ever compete in varsity softball was none other than Sarah McLean. Sarah was a 4 year starter at shortstop and second base. She was a major contributor to a Newport County Championship in 1998 as well as two Division Championships in 1998 and 1999. In 1996 as a PHS 9th grader, she helped the team to a runners up finish in the Division 1 RI State Softball finals. In 1999, as Captain of the squad, her team went undefeated in the regular season with a record of 18 wins and 0 losses. She was named to the All

Division team in all of her 4 years of playing for the team as well as being named 1st team RI All State her senior season. Sarah was also named to the Newport Daily News All County Softball team and was the WADK/Brick Alley player of the game multiple times. Her senior season batting average was .418, with 2 homeruns and 18 RBI's. She also played on the basketball team and was awarded the team MVP her freshman year and was also selected for the All Division team during the 1998-99 season. Sarah was also a stand out tennis player and was named Captain her senior year. The team earned the Class B-2 division championship crown in 1996 and was a RI state semi-finalist the same year. Sarah graduated in the top 15 of her class and was a member of the National Honor Society, RI Honor Society, and Spanish Honor Society. She went onto the University of Southern Maine and earned a bachelor's degree in history and with a minor in theatre graduating in 2003. Sarah was a standout softball and tennis team member. She is a four year recipient of the William B. Wise Scholar Athlete award and was a two time Academic All American District One 1st team selection in 2002 and 2003. Sarah during the years of 2004 -2009 was the assistant coach at her alma mater PHS. Working with Coach Tom Galib the teams won the Division 2 South softball championship in 2005 and they were runners up in 2006. Professionally Sarah is an award winning actor, writer, and director and starred in the only scripted content, written by Sarah, about softball anywhere called "3 Strikes" based on her life in softball and baseball.



John Burton '82— John was one of the most talented athletes to ever to represent the Portsmouth High School soccer and track teams. During his tenure at the school he made a name for himself statewide with his talent both on the pitch as well as the track. John's foray into sports as a freshman was on the varsity soccer team where he started all four years (1978-1981). As a 9th grader he made valuable contributions to his team as they went on to win the Rhode Island state championship in 1978 under the late Head coach Pete O'Hara. John was named to the '78 All State tournament team for his efforts and in his senior season '81, was chosen as a 2nd Team RI All State member. John truly shined and dominated middle distance races in track during his time in the school's program. He held the 1500 meter school record for 41 years, in the time of 4:00.0. The amazing part of this long held record was that John trained not on a synthetic track surface but a track composed of cinders and dirt. John's hard work and training during his PHS track career brought him and the school many honors. He was named All Newport County Track and Field first team for his winning the 1 mile run in 1980, and the 1500 and 800 meter runs in 1981 and 1982. He was named in 1981 the Newport County Track outstanding performer. John was an All Division 1st team selection in the 800 and 1500 meter runs multiple times during his career. He was an RI All State 1st team selection as well, winning this honor placing first in the state for his 1980 1500 meter run, as well as the 1981 and 1982 800 and 1500 meter races. John is one of only four males in Rhode Island high school track history to have won the 1500 meter run at the state track meet for three consecutive years going back to 1947. He also was 2nd team All New England in 1980, running the mile in a still PHS school record with a time of 4:19.47. John continued his running at the college level attending the US Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point, NY. He participated during his freshman year, but his running career ended due to a severe knee injury. He went on to be the senior Captain at the Cross Sound Ferry and Thames Towboat Company for 25 years. He currently works in Fairhaven, MA, as a Marine surveyor/ consultant with the Marine Survey Consultant firm.

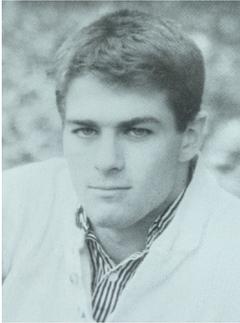


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James Bechtel '66—Jim was nominated to the Hall of Fame by a number of his classmates citing his athleticism and leadership. These were the early years at the high school and the athletic program was in its infancy. Jim is one of Portsmouth High School's original Patriots enrolling as a member of the school's first freshman class at the new school in 1962. In 1963 as a sophomore he made the school's basketball team which was coached by PHS Hall of Fame coach the late James Martin. The school had not yet been permitted into the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. The Patriot schedule consisted of games played against other school's junior varsity squads. In 1964, Jim's junior year, the league allowed PHS to field athletic programs in the Eastern division in football, soccer, cross country, basketball, and baseball. Jim participated on the football, basketball, and baseball teams. Playing for PHS Hall of Fame coach the late Ray Sullivan, Jim played on both sides of the ball as an offensive and defensive end as well as special teams. He also played on the basketball team again as well as the baseball team coached by PHS Hall of Fame coach Dick Heisler. As a senior athlete in 1965, he continued playing football and was selected as an offensive end on the All Eastern Division 1st team as well as the All Newport County team. In basketball he was named a senior captain of the squad and selected All County for his play. Upon graduation from Portsmouth, Jim entered the United States Air Force Academy. Although he tried out for freshman football and was cut, he saw that the academy's lacrosse team was looking for athletes and he tried out and made the freshman team never having played the sport before. After practicing stick skills over the winter months and continuing learning the game, Jim became a varsity starter playing the midfield position. He played 4 years of NCAA lacrosse and credits this to motivating him through his years at the academy. Jim graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1970 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. After serving his commitment in the Air Force and as well as a tour in Vietnam, he went on to receive his law degree thanks to the GI Bill. Jim finished a 30 year reserve career as an Air Force Lawyer at the rank of Colonel. Jim worked as a civilian for the General Counsel of the Navy. Retired now, Jim and his wife live in Florida.



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Dennis Jerome '88—How is it possible for a 5'9" 165 lbs. quarterback with a broken thumb to lead his football team to the 1987 Rhode Island Class C Super Bowl state championship? The late, great PHS Hall of Fame head football Coach Foxy Marshall said at the time, "He's one of the gutsiest players I've ever coached; he always rises to the occasion." Other players from that team said, "He's the kind of a kid who would play with a broken leg" and "he inspires us." These are the sentiments of many student athletes who played alongside

Dennis in the sports he was involved with at Portsmouth High School. Dennis was the starting quarterback for back to back football championships for PHS in 1986 and 1987. During this time he threw for 42 touchdown passes and helped lead the team to a 2 year undefeated record in the RI Interscholastic League with a record of 24 wins and 0 losses. He was named to the 1st team football All Division teams as quarterback in both of those playing years. He also was awarded the PHS Gridiron award from the school's football boosters association. Coach Marshall also was quoted as saying at the time, "Dennis panned out well as our quarterback. He was everything I expected. He was a good listener; a very strong minded person. He's adapted well, and got better and better." Dennis was a true three letterman at PHS. He was a four year starter on the school's varsity baseball team and named Captain of the team during his senior year. He also lettered by starting as point guard for the school's varsity basketball program in 1987 and 1988. He won the team's coveted 6th man award in his senior year. At the June 1988 senior athletic award ceremony, Dennis received the United States Marine Corps Distinguished athlete award, given for displaying courage, self-confidence, and leadership as a high school athlete. Following graduation from PHS, Dennis received two college degrees: a Bachelor's from Warner University and a Master's from George Mason University. He served our country in the US Army as an officer and was promoted to the rank of Captain and also completed a tour of duty in Korea as well as two tours in Baghdad, Iraq. Dennis went on to serve as a civilian for the Department of Defense and currently works at the Department of the Treasury. He is married to Kelly and parents of four children and they reside in Brookeville, MD.

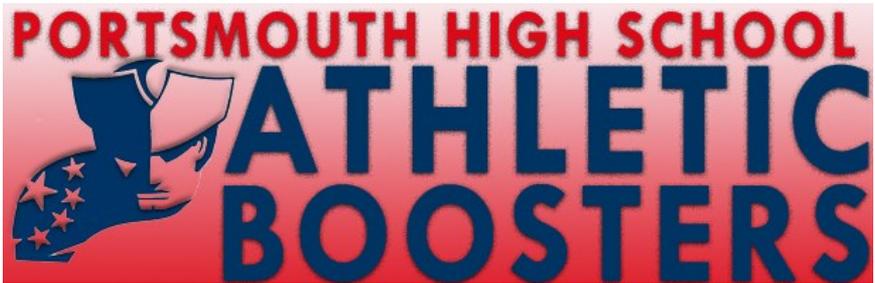


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The Portsmouth High School Athletic
Boosters would like to congratulate all of
tonight's Hall of Fame Inductees.

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Duncan “Duke” Ingraham ‘88—One of the best athletes to ever compete in athletics for Portsmouth High School was Duncan “Duke” Ingraham. According to the late Providence Journal sports writer Bob Leddy, a fellow sports writer watching him run up and down the basketball court during a 1987 state playoff game stated, “If they could bottle that kid’s energy, they could run a nuclear power plant.” He was a force to be reckoned with in the sports of football, basketball, and track. He was voted by his class as the “Most Athletic” as well as “Most School

Spirited.” His dedication to each sport and conditioning in and off season were cornerstones of his much heralded success. In football, Duke was a 1st team All Division selection as a 10th grade student and a 1st team All Division and 1st team RI All State selection for his efforts in his Junior and Senior seasons. Duke was also an All American Football team honorable mention for his play during the ‘86 and ‘87 season. His skill and abilities helped the 1986 and 1987 football teams to go undefeated in both seasons with a combined record of 24 wins and 0 losses as well as being crowned RI Super Bowl champions for both years. During those seasons Duke scored a total of 50 touchdowns for his Patriot team. In basketball, Duke was a power forward and team leading rebounder for the hoop squad. He was an All Division selection in his junior and senior seasons. In the spring Duke turned his attention to track and field where he again was a team leader and excelled in multiple events. As a freshman in 1985 he finished 3rd in the Pole Vault at the state meet jumping 12’4”. The following year, he was a 1st team All Division selection in the vault as well as a 2nd team selection in the triple jump by jumping 42’3”. He finished 5th in the New England Championships that season at the pole vaulting a height of 13’0”. As a senior, he pole vaulted the height of 13’8 ¼” winning the state title. That school record stood for 24 years and that height still stands today as the Class C meet record! Duke went on to the Naval Academy to play football and was a 4 year varsity member. He was named the 1992 MVP playing in the Army-Navy game that year. He is married to Carolyn and has two daughters, Allison and Caralyn.



Becky Ingraham Hasse '90—Becky Ingraham excelled at Portsmouth High School as a leader, a state champion, and a multiple event school record holder. During her tenure at PHS, Becky was a 10 time varsity letter winner in cross country, gymnastics, and outdoor track and field. Becky's leadership was apparent as she was named team Captain in cross country ('90), gymnastics ('88, '89, '90), and track and field ('90). Although an outstanding competitor and teammate in cross country and gymnastics; the track program is where Becky shined and left her mark during her high school years. She helped lead her teammates to a 22 win and 9 loss record in the Class B Eastern Division during her years in the program. Becky competed in the 100 meter and 300 meter hurdles as well as the team's 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 relay events. She set two school records at the 1990 RI State Track Championship, including a record in the 300 meter hurdles that stood up until 2014. She was named 1st team All State in track both her junior and senior seasons after winning both of her events. Becky went on to mirror that same success at the United States Naval Academy. She held senior positions of leadership in the Brigade of Midshipmen, captained the Navy Track team, and set Naval Academy records in multiple events. At the Academy, Becky earned 8 varsity letters on both the indoor and outdoor track teams. She is a two time Patriot League champion in the 400 meter hurdles and set the Naval Academy record in this event as well as a record time for running a leg of the 4 x 400 meter relay race also. Becky was named "All East" her senior year competing in Division 1 track and was invited to participate in the prestigious Penn Relays in 1993 and 1994, as well as represent the US Navy in the Armed Forces Track Meet in 1994. After graduating, the newly appointed Navy Ensign served as head coach of the men's and women's indoor and outdoor track teams at the Naval Academy Prep School in Newport, RI. Lieutenant Ingraham Hasse proudly served her country for 5 years before returning to civilian life. Becky has been married for over 26 years to her college sweetheart, John, and they live in Wayland, MA. They have two children, Kaitlyn and Jake.



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*"Congratulations to the hall of fame inductees,
especially my teammate Scott Polselli."*

~ Mark Thayer, Esq. '76

~ Adam Thayer, Esq. '03

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ATTORNEYS:

Richard Sayer
Peter Brent Regan
Mark M. Thayer
Adam H. Thayer
Melissa L. Green
Christopher J. McNally
Michael Monti

OF COUNSEL:

Alex Walsh, Debra L. Chernick,
Marcia Boyd

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Norm Bailey - Hall of Fame Athletic Booster -

A true “unsung hero” of the athletic programs at Portsmouth High School especially the football program is none other than Norm Bailey. Norm began his involvement in athletics at PHS, specifically the football program 33 years ago in 1988. His son Norm Jr. (PHS alumni '92) was on the freshman football team. Norm approached the late football Head Coach and PHS Hall of Famer Richard “Foxy” Marshall and asked if he could volunteer and work on the chain crew. Norm continued this task until 1992 when Coach Marshall asked him to be the team’s

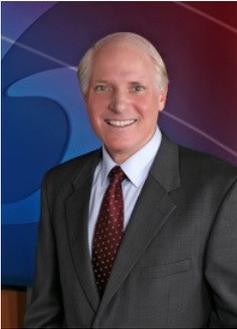
equipment manager. He has worked with a total of 8 head football coaches during his years of volunteering at PHS. The football season starts mid-summer and runs through Thanksgiving or the RI State Super Bowl championships if the team has earned the right to play in one. In the beginning of his helping with the football program, he had the opportunity to spend more time with his son. Over the past 33 years, Norm has spent time with hundreds of Patriot football sons and saw to their needs.

Norm was born in Newport, and attended both Middletown and Rogers High Schools. He joined the US Marine Corp, and is a twice wounded combat veteran of the Vietnam War. Norm joined the US Army Special forces and retired in 1996 after 30 years of service. He made a career at the General Dynamics Corporation as a civil engineer and retired as an engineering specialist. Norm was also the past Commodore of the Newport Yacht Club and also is involved with the Gold Star sailing program for teenagers as well as the Wounded Warriors organization.

Norm has two children, both graduates of Portsmouth high School. Jennifer '91 played softball for PHS and his son, Norm, who played football and was named a RI All State guard. Both are college graduates and have gone on to be successful.



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Ken Bell, Sports Director, Channel 6, Media Inductee -

Ken Bell has been a friend to Rhode Island high school athletic programs for over the last 40 years. He has personally been responsible for promoting and giving air time to all teams in our state and working behind the scenes contacting coaches and athletic directors to coordinate stories from their programs. He still can be seen on sidelines carrying a television camera to get footage to air on his sports segments later in the evening. His tireless efforts to promote not only Portsmouth High School athletics but all RI high schools is the reason for his induction this evening.

In 1969, fresh out of high school, Ken got a radio job and hosted a Saturday morning disc-jockey show and also provided play by play for area high school football, basketball, and baseball games. Ken graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in Communication and Theatre in 1974. During his senior year in college he was hired as the weekend sports anchor at KOA-TV in Denver. After jobs in Cedar Rapids, IA, a short stint in Providence, RI, and Milwaukee, WI, Ken returned to Providence in 1982 and has been in this area since.

He has witnessed many iconic moments in New England sports history such as New York Yankee Bucky Dent's home run against the Red Sox in the 1978 one game playoff game. He also watched the baseball that went through Bill Buckner's legs at Shea Stadium in 1986. Ken watched the Red Sox win the World series in 2004 and Tom Brady lead the New England Patriots to a record setting come from behind win over the Atlanta Falcons at Super Bowl 51. He has been present at 3 Boston Celtic championships and Providence College's trip to the Final Four in 1987. Ken was awarded a New England Emmy award in 1977 for a America's Cup Special that aired on channel 10.

Ken is co-chair of the deacon board at Christ Church and chairs the ecumenical board of churches in East Greenwich working together to serve that town. He has a son and daughter and 5 grandchildren who all live in Rhode Island.



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Robin Ramey '89— Many Portsmouth High School student athletes have had outstanding years in their school sport, and some have gone on to coaching back at the high school level in later years. Some but not many have had the success that Robin Ramey has had in both endeavors. Robin was a 3 sport high school student athlete who graduated with academic honors and was a member of the school's National Honor Society. She was a leader in the sports she participated: tennis, basketball, softball, and earned the title of Captain in each. She was a skilled and very accomplished

athlete on all of her teams. So much so Robin was named both All County and All Division for all 3 sports in numerous years of her involvement. In 1989 she was voted "Most Valuable Player" in her senior year for both basketball and softball. Also in 1989 Robin won multiple awards for her performance in athletics as well as academics as she was named 1st team All State in softball as well as Academic All State by the Providence Journal newspaper. She also was voted by her PHS classmates as the "Outstanding Senior Female Athlete".

Recruited to play softball for Bryant College in 1989, Robin started at short-stop, and was the team's Rookie of the Year for the 1990 season. She then transferred to Salve Regina University in 1991 playing both basketball and softball for her junior and senior years. Robin was Captain of the basketball team in her senior year and was the MVP and All Conference in softball in both of her two years on the team. In softball, she batted .426 and had a slugging percentage of .607. Robin was named the 1992 Distinguished Athlete of the Year for Salve, the 1993 NCAA Woman of the Year, and was a conference All Star for her entire collegiate career.



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Robin's coaching experience is vast and filled with accolades and her teams were highly successful and award winning. From 1994 to 1997, she was the Assistant Coach at Salve Regina where the team won 3 consecutive conference championships. Robin moved her coaching talents to basketball where from 1997 to 2005 she was the Varsity Head Coach for Middletown High School. She was named RI High School Coach of the Year in 2000; her teams qualified for the D2 playoffs in 1999 and made the semi finals in 2000. The team won the RI D2 State Championships twice in 2000 and 2001. In 2005, Robin moved her talents to Spring Softball as the Varsity Head Coach also at Middletown High. She remained in this position for 12 years and her teams and the program shined! In 2006 the team won the RI State Championship, and continued as one of the best softball programs in the state. The Islanders were 5 time division champions in 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2014. Teams during the 2009 and 2011 seasons were also RI State runners up. Robin has just completed her 26th year of teaching special education for the Middletown, RI school system. She has received the Newport County Regional Special Education Recognition Award 6 time during her career as well as a Certificate of Special recognition from the RI governor in 2019.

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1970-71 Boys Varsity Basketball Team—In 1965 Portsmouth High School entered a basketball team for its first year of competition in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. The team was coached by the late Head Coach James Martin and the late Assistant Coach Ed Akucewich. Coach Akucewich took the on Head coaching duties with the untimely death of Coach Martin in 1967. During the 2 years of coaching together the program flourished as the “new kids on the block” with a 2 year (65-66, 66-67) combined record of 20 wins and 11 losses. When Coach Akucewich took over the program his teams were very successful and competitive ultimately winning the Class C Southern Division title in 1971. The 4 year record during the 1967 – 68 to 1970 – 71 season was 31 wins and 15 losses for a 67.4% winning percentage. The first 6 years of the program totaled a 65.4% winning percentage. Under the leadership of Coach Akucewich and his team Co-Captains Gary Pritchard and Ed Fitzsimmons, the Patriots beat South Kingstown High School in the championship game.



It was one of the most balanced teams in the league with starters, role players, and a strong bench contributing to the championship run. As Coach stated at his induction to the Portsmouth High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017, “My best memories of my years at PHS were those years coaching basketball. I always enjoyed being there with my teams during practices and games.” As this team is inducted tonight, the feelings and fond memories from playing on this team most definitely mirror coach’s sentiments.

1970-71 Boys Varsity Basketball Team Roster

Head Coach: Ed Akucewich

Player Roster: Paul Pritchard, Dave Pritchard, Bruce Somerfield,
Tom Metcalfe, Joe Ferreira, Kevin Lawley, Mark Harrington, Phil MacNeil,
Bob Ibbotson, Rick Sousa

Team Captains: Gary Pritchard, Ed Fitzsimmons

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Congratulations to the
2021 Hall of Fame Inductees



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