

DAVID BAKER



David was born in Auburn, NY on December 12, 1944. He was one of 13 children and graduated from Mount Carmel High School in 1963. David played football and basketball in high school and basketball at Cayuga Community College (the former Auburn Community College) where he received his degree in Business Administration. In 1965 David was drafted into the Army and sent to Vietnam (1966 – 67). While in Vietnam he was assigned to the 1099th Medium Boat Company near Bien Hoa. These landing crafts

had many duties on the rivers and tributaries of Vietnam. It was there where David started coaching children. Several of the children from a village near his unit's encampment would come across a bridge to the barbed wire fence that separated the path from his unit. Dave and the children became friends and the number of children grew daily – some days up to 25. When he was away from camp for a week or more on one of the crafts, the children would come to the fence looking for him. When he would return his buddies would tell him to please go to the fence to see the children because they were driving them nuts asking for him! David taught these children about sports, had parties for them, gave them gifts sent from home – all on their side of the fence. It was difficult for David to leave the children when his tour ended. Each year David is invited to Frank Knight Elementary School for their Veteran's Day Program to show the film that he recorded of Vietnam and the children that he spent time with. David returned home and married the former Donna Scalmassi on November 11, 1967 and has called Seneca Falls his home for the past 46 years. He has two daughters, Julie Baker and Jennifer (Frank) Vanderpool and is the proud grandfather of two – Keegan, 13 and Brady, 3. David was employed at Ocrum Corporation in Seneca Falls from 1967 – 1973 as a Production Supervisor. In 1973 he left Ocrum Corporation for employment at Zotos International in Geneva, advancing to Director of Distribution and Silk Screening and Blow Molding. In 1977 David was hired by H.P. Neun, Inc. in Seneca Falls as Distribution and Warehouse Manager. He retired in June, 2011. David was a member of the Finger Lakes Chapter of the International Management Council through 1997, serving as president in 1983 – 84. He was

the Youth and Industry Director for several years working with high schools in the Finger Lakes area setting up work experience programs for seniors consisting of plant tours and discussions with professionals at these locations – a job he truly loved.

David started coaching youth programs at the Seneca Falls Community Center in 1981 by coaching kickball, basketball, softball, soccer and baseball. He started the first all girls youth basketball team through the Community Center in 1984, taking the girls to Marcellus and Skaneateles for games – the only other communities that could be found to have all girls teams at that time. He helped organize and coach girls' basketball teams for tournament play in Killingly, CT, Ontario, Canada and Lebanon, PA in conjunction with the Community Center. David helped to organize and develop the highly successful Friendship Games between Seneca Falls and Killingly, CT and he coached many different sports and teams during the Games.

In 2002, David, along with Liz Becht and Dennis Pysnack, developed the Family Fast Break Program through the Community Center for 3 and 4 year old boys and girls teaching basic basketball skills.

David was a volunteer coach working with Mike Ferrara and Dick Ruschak for several years at Mynderse. He was the Mynderse JV Girls' Softball coach from 1994 – 2000 and also coached the Varsity Softball team from 2001 – 2003.

David also was the Mynderse JV Girls' Basketball coach from 1997 – 2002. The 1997 JV Girls' Basketball team went undefeated that year – 20 – 0! He also coached the Varsity Girls' Basketball team from 2003 – 2004.

David has also coached AAU Girls' Basketball teams as well as currently coaching Boys' Basketball teams for league, travel and tournament play. He has managed Little League Baseball teams since 2005 and is a member of the Little League Board. David is a certified high school basketball, volleyball and softball official.

David has been a member of the Seneca Falls Recreation Commission since 1984 and a member of the Seneca Falls Recreation Booster Club for the past 15 years. He has been the recipient of many community awards – the 1993 Rotary Club Citizen of the Year Award, the 1998 Seneca County Youth Bureau Award, the Sham McDermott Memorial Award and the first Annual David Baker Youth Sports Volunteer of the Year Award presented on February 8, 2013 from the Seneca Falls Recreation Commission. David was also honored with a plaque from the Seneca Falls Little League on April 27, 2013 for distinguished volunteer service.