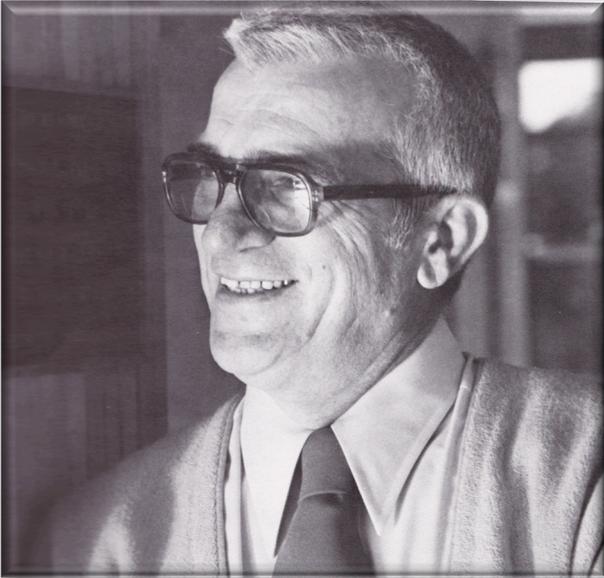


**PETER DEBOTTIS**  
**Mynderse Principal and Coach**



Peter DeBottis was born and raised in Port Byron, New York. At age seventeen, he enlisted in the United States Navy. He served in the South Pacific during the liberation of the Philippine Islands, and was a decorated veteran. After World War II, he attended SUNY at Brockport and earned a Bachelor of Elementary Education degree in three years. After graduation, he accepted a teaching position with the Wayne Central Schools in Ontario, NY where he also served as an assistant coach for wrestling and basketball.

In 1953 he moved his family to Seneca Falls where he had accepted a position teaching eighth grade. Less than ten years later, he was named Principal of the Junior High. He served in a number of administrative positions for the district for the remainder of his career. Shortly after moving to Seneca Falls, he started a varsity wrestling program at Mynderse Academy and served as the head coach.

Pete was very involved in establishing high school wrestling throughout New York State. He helped initiate and write a constitution for the Section V Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association, and initiated the Central Western Wrestling Conference. In 1959 he was appointed chairman for Section V and helped start the first state-wide wrestling tournament. In addition to coaching, he also refereed wrestling at both the high school and collegiate level.

Pete was also instrumental in the development of the Little League Baseball and Little League Football programs in Seneca Falls. The Little League football team he coached won five consecutive league championships. In addition to sports, he supported Cub Scout/Boy Scout Troop 85 as Troop Chairman and later as a committee member.

From 1967-1974, he was a member of the Board of Directors for the Seneca Falls Community Center. In 1978, Pete retired from teaching. For thirteen years after his retirement, he owned and operated a small motor repair business. Then, in 1988, he was elected to the Seneca Falls Town Council and served for eight years.

Over his years as educator, coach and community member, Pete received a number of honors and accolades including honorary lifetime membership in the Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association; the SMS Citizenship award for fostering excellence in academics, athletics and civic contributions; and election to the Port Byron Alumni Hall of Fame.

Pete passed away October 31, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Betty, of Clifton Springs, six children: Karen(Dan Heslink)-Lancaster, PA, Steven (DeeDee)-Geneva, NY, Kathy (Bob Erb)-Waterloo, NY, John (Lee Ann)-Highpoint, NC, Mary-Pasadena, MD and Betsy-Pasadena, MD, nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. His passions included his family, sports, traveling and golf.