

## SENATOR MICHAEL NOZZOLIO

### CLASS OF 1969



Michael F. Nozzolio is a 1969 graduate of Mynderse Academy, and is likely the only student athlete in our school's history elected to serve his hometown and region in both houses of the New York State Legislature, as an Assemblyman and State Senator. Mike was born and raised in Seneca Falls, the son of Anna and Albert F. Nozzolio. He and his wife, Rosemary, also a Mynderse Academy graduate, live in Seneca County.

Following four years of service as a legislative counsel for the United States House of Representatives in Washington, Mike was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1982 as the youngest state legislator to hold office from our region. He has served the Finger Lakes region in the State Legislature with distinction for over three decades, and has throughout that time been committed to the support and development of youth sports facilities and athletic programs. Senator Nozzolio has received numerous awards and has been honored by many organizations.

Mike served as a member of the Cornell University Council, the Board of Directors of the National Women's Hall of Fame, and is a board member Emeritus of both the Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park and the Seneca Falls Historical Society. Senator Nozzolio was honored as the recipient of the Jerome Alpern Distinguished Alumni Award from the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and the Outstanding Alumni Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, two of the highest honors that can be bestowed on a Cornell University alumnus. He was awarded the Father Joseph P. Beatini Memorial Award for his service to the Seneca Falls community. He also received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the New York Chiropractic College, and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, in recognition of his leadership in the creation of the Finger Lakes Institute.

While Mike was a student at Mynderse Academy, he earned three letters in varsity football and three in varsity lacrosse, and was co-captain of the lacrosse team his senior year. He also lettered in bowling, JV basketball and JV football, and played

club ice hockey and CYO club basketball. Mike was an honorable mention selection for conference all-star teams in football and lacrosse, and was nominated a finalist for the annual SMS sponsored Student Athlete of the Year Award, 1968-69 school year, which was won by his lifetime friend and Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame member, Mark Piscitelli.

After graduation Mike went on to participate in intercollegiate sports at Cornell University, earning freshman numerals in both football and crew, and two varsity letters in Sprint Football. He earned both a Bachelor's Degree in Labor Relations and a Master's Degree in Public Administration and Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. He also earned a Juris Doctor degree from the Syracuse University College of Law.

Mike credits his experiences as a student athlete at Mynderse with providing him a lifelong appreciation for the significance of athletics in a student's education. He believes athletic participation teaches many essential life lessons, serves as an important catalyst in the morale of a school, and can be a force of tremendous pride for the community.

Seneca Falls School Superintendent Bob McKeveny recently recognized Senator Nozzolio's efforts to secure the necessary funds for construction of the Concession Stand and Maintenance Building at Bracht Field, equipment for the new Mynderse Academy Fitness Center, new athletic uniforms for a number of sports, new scoreboards, and athletic scholarships for students at summer sports camps. Mike also secured the funds for a lighting system that enabled night baseball games at the Seneca Falls Little League field.

Among Senator Nozzolio's many achievements in Seneca County are: leading multiple efforts to keep Goulds Pumps in Seneca Falls and expand jobs locally; rebuilding the 1100 job base at the Seneca Army Depot after the Army abandoned the facility; converting the former Willard Psychiatric Center into a job producer as the first of its kind correctional facility dedicated to rehabilitating substance abuse offenders; and being the driving force in establishing the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Senator Nozzolio secured significant financial assistance for the construction of the new Seneca Falls Library. The Library, dedicated in 2003, will positively impact many future generations well into the next century and beyond.

These important projects for our area required leadership and focused direction—attributes and lessons that he credits learning directly from a number of his coaches, especially George Davis and Dom Paradise.