

FRAN PISCITELLI

CLASS OF 1966



From the time Fran Piscitelli left Seneca Falls in the summer of 1966 to attend Union College in Schenectady NY until he retired in July 2012 from Siemens/OSRAM Lighting Division, he and his family have lived in six different states and in four different countries; however despite the many moves and diverse locations (New York City, Toronto, Caracas, Boston, Hong Kong, etc.) Fran's heart and mind were never far from Seneca Falls where he grew up and where his extended family continued to live.

During Fran's athletic career at Mynderse he earned eight varsity letters, three each in football and baseball; plus two in basketball. Fran was a 3 year starter in baseball in the outfield and shortstop and was a 2 year starting point guard in basketball. However, it was playing football for the legendary coach George Davis that Fran truly made his presence felt; Fran started for three years as a running back, safety and quarterback as a senior. Fran was voted all league twice (a unanimous defensive selection as a senior) and All Greater Rochester; as a senior he was awarded the MVP in football and received the Aldo Beatini Award. Fran was not just an athlete; he was also a Scholar-Athlete-Leader. He graduated from Mynderse in the top fifteen in his class, was a member of the National Honor Society, a Class Officer in each of the four years, including Class President his Senior year; additionally he was a Mynderse Representative to Boys State, a four year member of the Student Council, a three year member of Block M; plus a writer for the school newspaper (the Microphone) for two years and a member of the senior play.

While at Union College Fran earned three varsity letters in football; a Frosh/JV letter in wrestling at a time when freshmen could not participate in varsity sports. In football Fran was a three year starting strong safety and was a member of the 1968 Union team that finished undefeated in the ICAC and finished fourth in the small school Lambert Cup voting; additionally he was a member of the undefeated Union wrestling team of 1967-68 considered by many to be the best ever of all Union wrestling.

Fran graduated in 1970, Cum Laude with honors and received the Porter Scholarship to Albany Law School. While in Albany Fran served as head defensive coach for Christian Brothers Academy which during the two years in that capacity (1970 and 1971), C.B.A. won the all City-Catholic League Championship both years. Fran entered the business world and joined GTE SYLVANIA in New York City. What followed was a thirty-seven year career with Fran retiring in April 2012, as the Asia Pacific Region CEO for Siemens/OSRAM Division; and Senior Advisor to the CEO of OSRAM until July.

During his professional career, Fran received many company and industry awards including the electrical industry's top award for manufacturers in 2005 for "outstanding contributions to the electrical industry". In 2008 he was further recognized by the National Association of Electrical Distributors as one of the Top 100 "Industry Leaders of the Century" (1908-2008).

Many people in Seneca Falls enjoyed seeing Fran on national television for several years as he represented the company at the SYLVANIA sponsored Alamo Bowl game. He was also seen nationally for the company as a sponsor for the NASCAR team of Richard Childress Racing for the number #29 and #31 cars, plus the sponsor for the SYLVANIA 300 Race held in Loudon NH which is the first of "The Chase" races for the NASCAR SPRINT Championship Cup.

Fran returned to Seneca Falls as often as possible to see family and old friends catching up during his visits at the SF Country Club, Rumseyville, the SMS and "Marino's".

Fran, along with OSRAM SYLVANIA, were instrumental in the relighting of Bracht Field, Saint Patrick's School and the Seneca Falls Country Club. Fran was always available to help as a major contributor for community fund raising projects such as the Seneca Falls Library, the Mynderse Academy Athletic Association and other endeavors.

Fran readily gives credit to whatever success he may have had either athletically or in business largely to the values he learned growing up in Seneca Falls and playing for coaches such as George Davis. Someone once said "you can never go home again" which may be true. However, Fran never really left.

Fran has two children, Ross (Albany NY) and Gina (Philadelphia PA) and is the grandfather of two. He and his wife, Judy, with their Springer spaniels live on Cape Cod.