

JOSEPH J. DePASO

Class of 1941

Inducted 2002

Joe DePaso, Class of 1941, was a teacher and administrator at White Plains High School for more than 30 years and a lifelong contributor to many White Plains volunteer organizations. He died in 1994.

Mr. DePaso was born in White Plains, grew up on Ferris Avenue and was an outstanding athlete at White Plains High School, winning nine varsity letters in football, basketball and track. He attended the University of Arizona but joined the Marines after World War II started and spent 3 ½ years in the South Pacific as a master technical sergeant working on the first aircraft carrier-based Corsair fighter planes.

After discharge, Mr. DePaso earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Education at New York University, where he met his future wife, Marge. After teaching for five years in New Jersey, he came to WPHS as an Industrial Arts teacher.

During his 32 career in the high school he was chairman of the Fine and Practical Arts Department, was head coach of the basketball and track teams and assistant coach of the football team. A popular teacher known for his ability to motivate students from all backgrounds, Mr. DePaso was named Teacher of the Year in 1966. He was also a popular class advisor, known for bringing the prom back to the high school gym.

He was a member of Hope Engine Company #1 in White Plains and chief of volunteers for all White Plains volunteer fire companies. Mr. DePaso served as an assistant scoutmaster, as a member of the Salvation Army Board of Directors, as a director of the Highlands Civic Association and on the White Plains Parking Authority.

Active in politics, he was president of the White Plains Republican Club and helped run numerous local political campaigns. All four of his children graduated from White Plains High School, where they were members of the National Honor Society. His three sons all were also Eagle Scouts.