

JOHN ZILEMBO

Class of 1941

Inducted 1999

It can truly be said that John Zilembo, Class of 1941, probably held more jobs, and interacted with more people, than anyone else in the history of White Plains High School. From the time Mr. Zilembo entered as a freshman in 1937 to the time he retired in 1982, he had been a student, a civil service staff member, an office manager, a teacher, class advisor, coach, house director, and assistant principal.

Raised in White Plains, Mr. Zilembo served in World War II following high school and returned to White Plains High School in 1946. Over the next 15 years he held a variety of staff positions, including school treasurer and administrative assistant in charge of requisitions, supplies, the bookroom, and athletic events.

When the "new" high school opened in 1960, Mr. Zilembo was office manager, responsible for moving all records from Highlands to the new facility and for all student records and transcripts. Mr. Zilembo received his BS from New York University in 1964 at the age of 40 and became an accounting teacher in the White Plains High School business department. He was also senior class advisor and JV soccer coach. He consistently demonstrated great skills with students, particularly "at risk" children, and he was known for his "firm, but caring hand". As a result, in 1966 he was named Assistant House Director while continuing his teaching duties and became House Director in 1968. In 1971 Mr. Zilembo was promoted to Assistant Principal- Administration, a post he held until he retired in 1982.

Mr. Zilembo has received many honors for his long and distinguished service, from dedications in the White Plains High School yearbook, *The Oracle*, and Honorary Class Membership, to his recent award for service to the school at the Class of 1941 Reunion.