

Spring 2016

Volume 14 Issue 3



# SPFHS

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

## *Alumni Association*

Website:  
[www.spfk12.org/alumni](http://www.spfk12.org/alumni)

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We now have a new web address:

[www.spfk12.org/alumni](http://www.spfk12.org/alumni)

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We thank Michael Loberfeld who has volunteered to maintain the site for us.

Please visit the website which includes the application for our Brick Walk as well as the nomination application for the SPFHS Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Information regarding this year's inductees can be found in this issue of the newsletter.



## *They Will Be Missed*

**Donald E. Wussler** '52 died on December 28, 2015. Don was a longtime resident of Scotch Plains. He served in the US Army in the Korean War, attaining the rank of corporal and received the Purple Heart Medal, the US National Defense Bronze Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Korean Defense Service Medal. After being discharged from the Army, Don drove buses for the Wussler Bus Company. He met his wife ***Judy (Wood)*** '56 of fifty-five years while working for the bus company. He then had a long and successful career in the banking industry, focusing on new business development for a number of banks in Central and Northern NJ. Don was a charter member of St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, serving as an altar boy at the groundbreaking ceremony for the church. He was a Eucharistic Minister and a member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerial Association. Don was very involved in many of his children's activities as an active leader in both the Scotch Plains Fanwood Little League and Junior Raider Organization. Later he was involved with the SPFHS band. Don served on the Scotch Plains Recreation Commission and chaired the Memorial Day Parade Committee for several years. He was also a longtime member of the Scotch Plains Lions Club. One of his proudest accomplishments in the community was the fundraising, design and placement of the Korean War Memorial Clock at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building in 2009. For his extensive community involvement, Don was named the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club Volunteer of the Year in 2010 and was presented the Knights & Dames Award from St. Bartholomew Church in 2011. Don was especially proud of his two antique cars, a 1946 four-door Ford Deluxe and a 1967 Mercury Cougar. He planned and participated in many car shows in the NJ Cougar Club. He also was a member of the Unforgettable Autos of Mid-Jersey. Don is survived by his wife and his children, Don Jr., Randy, Joel and his daughter Valerie. All of his children graduated from SPFHS.

**Viola Caruso Morano** '47 passed away on August 31, 2015 at the Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains. Born in Scotch Plains, Viola lived in Plainfield for most of her life. She was an active communicant of St. Bernard's Church and former president of the Altar Rosary Society. She was a member of the Fanwood Senior Citizens Club. Viola was a homemaker who enjoyed puzzles and spending time with her family. Viola was predeceased by four brothers and three sisters.

**Bill Austin** '55 who came closer to winning the Heisman Trophy than any player in Rutgers football history, died in December of 2015. Austin starred in both football and lacrosse on the Banks from 1956 through 1959. As a senior on the gridiron in 1958, Bill finished with 757 yards and 15 touchdowns and led Rutgers to an 8-1 record. Bill was named an Associated Press First Team All-American and First Team All-East Selection and finished six in the Heisman Trophy vote. Army's Pete Dawkins won the award. Ray Rice finished seventh for Rutgers in the 2006 Heisman Trophy vote. For his career, Bill finished with 2,073 rushing yards and 32 rushing touchdowns. Decades later, Bill still is tied for third in school history in rushing touchdowns. Bill earned Honorable Mention All-American honors in lacrosse in 1958 and 1959. The midfielder, who participated in the 1959 North/South Game, led Rutgers lacrosse in 23-9 recording during his three years. He received the Donald Leslie Coursen Award given to Rutgers Outstanding Male Athlete in 1959. A lieutenant colonel of the Rutgers AFROTC program, Bill served in the Air Force after his graduation from Rutgers. Bill was recently inducted into the NJ Sportswriters Hall of Fame in 2011 as well as the NJ SIAA High School Hall of Fame in 2014. He was not only a leader in sports, but CEO of several bicycle companies during his lifetime.

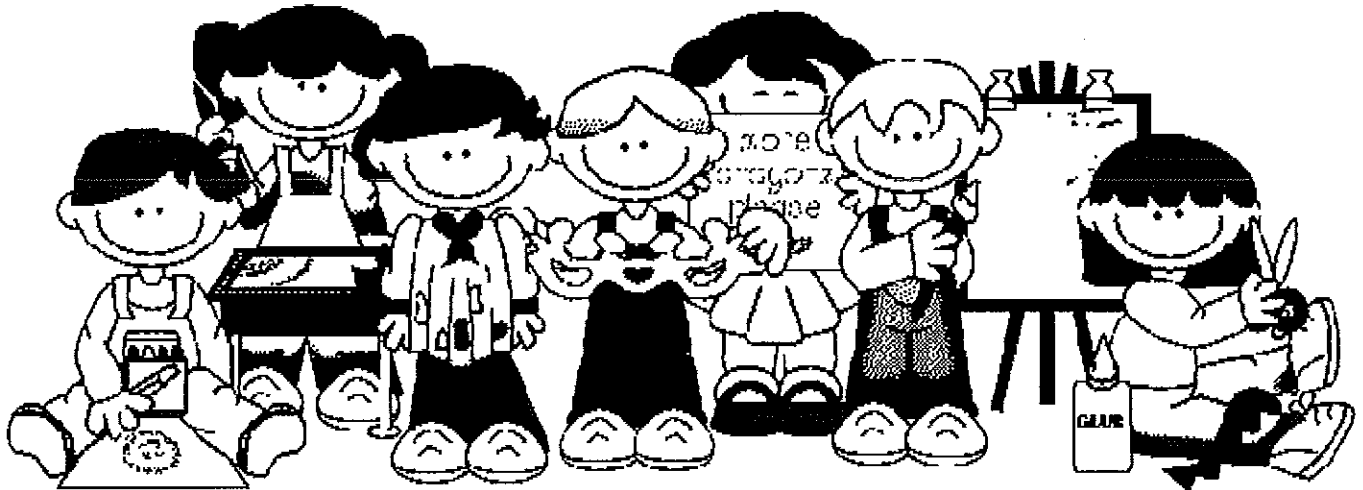
## *They Will Be Missed*

**Grace M. Hamlette** '56 passed away on January 8, 2016.

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**Florence Iaione Kelly** '53 died on September 17, 2015 surrounded by her family. A resident of Ewing Township since 1977, Florence was born in Scotch Plains and graduated from SPFHS, where she was valedictorian of her class. She attended Lasell Junior College in Massachusetts and the College of Education at Seton Hall University which led to her career in teaching first grade. In 1961, Florence married Frank Kelly who she met at Seton Hall. She and Frank had five children. Florence loved to read mysteries, sew quilts, knit hats, restore antiques and spend time with her family. She was an enthusiastic gardener and landscaper, and was passionate about, and enjoyed debating politics with anyone who dared engage her. For a period of time, Florence was active in community politics and was president of Village on the Green Civic Association. Before retiring, Florence enjoyed teaching computer skills to adults at Mercer County Community College. Above all else, Florence had a huge heart and was extremely generous. She loved her family unconditionally. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

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## *Unforgettable Teacher*

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*This article was submitted by Donald Bishop '63. "I have often written about his career in the Foreign Services for our government."*

*Remembering **Charles Armerding**, class of 1937*

*Grad, Father, Teacher*

*Ruth Armerding Harris '72*

**Charles W. Armerding** of the class of 1937, who went on to teach social studies at SPFHS for twenty-eight years, passed away in Montana on December 13, 2015 at the age of 95.

Born in St. Louis on February 2, 1920, Charles spent his early years in Missouri and then Oak Park, Illinois. When he was nine years old, the family moved to Fanwood and lived in a house built by Chuck's grandfather. One day in gym class, young Chuck broke his elbow. The bone didn't heal, had to be re-broken two times, and was operated on. By the time it was all over, young Chuck had lost confidence and struggled to compete with his older brother who came across as being smarter, more athletic and more talented. There was a Christian home. Attending church, reading the Bible, and prayer were all musts, but in his heart Chuck did not buy into the family's faith. At the age of 17, however, he went to a camp in the Adirondacks to work on staff. There, a friend, funny, smart, athletic and musically talented, announced his decision for Christ and Chuck did so too. When he told his mother about his decision, she challenged him to prove it with genuine change. She enrolled him at Pace Institute in New York City. Chuck did well with his studies and graduated with a degree in sales and marketing. He went back to the Midwest to work with his Uncle George selling dairy machinery. Along the way, Chuck felt God call him to be a missionary, so he enrolled at Moody Bible Institute.

He was at Moody during the fall of 1942 when he received his draft notice. During WW II he served in the Army in a noncombatant role as a medic. Christmas of 1943 was spent in Boston awaiting transport. After crossing the Atlantic, Chuck found himself in Liverpool, England, and he began work at the U.S. Army's hospital near St. Albans. Many of the patients had been wounded in air combat over Germany. A day of leave allowed him to visit London. He looked up a Christian publisher whose name he recognized from Sunday school prizes, Pickering and Inglis. A salesman in the bookstore, friendly and hospitable, invited Chuck to attend his church and have lunch at his home whenever he visited London. It was easy to get leave on Sundays, so Chuck took full advantage. Laurence and Thora Morris welcomed him to their home, and eventually he met Thora's sister, Audrey. It was the beginning of a lifelong love affair. By summer, they were engaged, and they planned to marry in early October 1944.

Three months after D-day, Chuck's hospital unit deployed to Paris. Wedding plans were put on hold while Chuck served the wounded in the First General Hospital. Again, he sought Christian fellowship among his fellow soldiers and in the French community. He and Audrey wrote letters back and forth almost daily. In April of 1945, with the war drawing to a close, Chuck got an extended leave and the wedding was soon rescheduled. The couple had a brief honeymoon in the south of England before Chuck returned to France. He fit in leaves to London as often as possible to be with his new wife. Chuck returned to the USA in February of 1946 and Audrey followed on a ship full of "war brides" in April.

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## *Unforgettable Teacher*

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Back home Chuck's first postwar job was hanging storm windows, but when the GI Bill became available, Audrey encouraged Chuck to return to college and get a degree in education. He excelled at Rutgers University and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1951. With a teaching degree in hand, the superintendent of schools offered him a position at Chuck's own alma mater, SPFHS. A few years later, he received his master's degree. Along the way, Chuck and Audrey had three children, Paul in 1947, Ruth in 1954, and David in 1956. All three graduated from SPFHS in the classes of 1965, 1972 and 1974.

At SPFHS, Chuck served many years as chairman of the Social Studies Department, and he guided many practice teachers. He was the faculty advisor for the prayer group, Bible Club and school yearbook. In 1964 the Eagleton Institute of Politics awarded him a two week study grant with his member of Congress, Florence P. Dwyer. He witnessed the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964.

At home in Fanwood, the family was busy with school, church ministries in Woodside Chapel and summer camps in Canada. Chuck and Audrey opened their home to disciple young adults seeking to follow God in their lives and careers. There was Bible study, prayer, and fellowship around the table. In time their family grew to include eight grandchildren and now 18 great-grandchildren.

After Chuck retired in 1980, he and Audrey traveled to India and Sri Lanka to visit a mission of which he was a board member. They visited Paul when he was serving with the Army in Korea and later when he worked at the American Mission Hospital in Bahrain; Ruth and John in Mexico; and David and Sharon in Montana. Some trips allowed Chuck and Audrey to stop in London to visit relatives, friends and special places. In 1985, Chuck and Audrey moved to Phoenix, Arizona ministering to young adults at Open Door Fellowship, a church Paul and Rebecca had helped to establish. In 2003, they moved to Missoula, Montana and enjoyed being with family and the fellowship at Stevensville Bible Chapel.

In 2009, Audrey fell, broke her leg and never fully recovered. Chuck cared for her (with help) for three years until her death in 2012. Chuck continued to live in his house with ongoing help from caregivers. His health was pretty good overall, but increasing pain from arthritic knees became a disabling factor. In the final six months of his life he was less and less able to get around. Family members said goodbye to him on December 13, 2015. When he was buried on December 17th, it was with the sure knowledge that Chuck and Audrey are both in the presence of Jesus Christ, their Savior from sin and Lord of their long lives of service to Him.

### ***Mr. Armerding's Question***

Donald M. Bishop '63

Charles Armerding was my social studies teacher in the twelfth grade in 1962-63. He offered an honors course titled "New Nations". The first African countries were receiving their independence, so the title of the course had a certain buzz at the time of President Kennedy's "New Frontier". I enjoyed both Mr. Armerding and the course. He never spoke of his Christian convictions, but I would say he exemplified them.

## *Unforgettable Teacher*

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*Mr. Armerding's question continued:*

I remember him telling me a story of his time in France. After Germany's surrender, GIs were offered tours to see the sights. On a tour of the Palace of Versailles, he asked the guide, "Where did King Louis go to the bathroom?" The guide sheepishly showed the visitors the hidden door to the King's privy. He said out loud, "In America I'm from a humble family, but we always had a better bathroom than the Sun King."

Fast forward to 1970. When I returned from my year with an Air Force unit in Vietnam, I'd had quite an experience that I wanted to talk about. I discovered, though, that no one wanted to hear about my time in Vietnam for more than a minute or two, with one exception. Mr. Armerding asked me to come in and talk to his class about what I had been doing. Mostly I talked about the base and our squadron. I showed a few slides. At the end of my talk, though, Mr. Armerding asked me a question, "How were we helping the Vietnamese; what were we doing for them?" It took me by surprise. I ad-libbed some generalities about development, better nutrition, improved livestock, and agriculture; development issues. Actually, this was straying "out of my lane" for I hadn't seen much of these activities.

After the class ended, Mr. Armerding asked me, "Is that all we are offering to the Vietnamese; a better material life? Aren't we doing anything more?" Because of his faith, I knew his question had a missionary side to it, whether our legacy might be religious or simply democratic. His questions, however, have stayed with me my whole life.

Is a better material life all we offer the people of other nations? His simple question made me think there must be something else, more than material progress that counts, that on our part justifies the loss of young American lives, and on their part would justify the awful risks of taking sides in an insurgency. I took that question with me on every assignment in the Air Force and the Foreign Service to Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, China and Afghanistan. I've been thinking about and working to answer that one question for some decades.

I kept in contact with Mr. Armerding over the years; he and Audrey attended my wedding reception at my parent's home; and the last time we met over dinner, he asked us to gather in circle as they said their goodbyes. He and Audrey prayed for our family and our work.

Yes, I'll always remember Mr. Armerding. We were teacher and student, veteran and veteran, Evangelical and Catholic, friend and friend and heart to heart.

## *They Make Us Proud ... "nothing is difficult to those who have the will."*

**Amy Ellis Nutt** '73 has written a non-fiction book, "Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of An American Family", about a twin who did a transgender change. Amy is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist at the Washington Post and a former reporter for the Newark Star Ledger. She is an astute and congenial guide to the biology and neurology that might cause one twin to identify with the gender that matched his anatomy and the other to take an opposite path with a rejection of his anatomy.

**Christine Ellis** '01 is engaged to Joseph Torre of Mt. Bethel, PA. She received an Associate in Arts degree from Gibbs College in Legal Administration. She is a senior underwriter with Harbortouch of Allentown, PA. Joseph is employed by the State Bell Regional Police Department.

The Class of 1975 from SPFHS just celebrated their 40th reunion with over 100 classmates at Shackamaxon Country Club and their reunion had a little something special. This class has always been highly philanthropic, having been touched by the paralyzing injury of classmate Charlie Newman, in a high school football game in 1973. So, they decided to turn their special occasion into another fund raiser; and together raised \$5,000 for charity. Mr. Newman has just retired from an honorable 30 year career with Union County, serving the needs of disabled citizens. In his honor, a donation is being made to The Christopher Reeve Foundation. The other beneficiary is The Daniel T. Liss Memorial Fund (<http://danieltliss.wix.com/memorialfund>), which was founded by classmates Gina (Danielson) and Ken Liss' family after the tragic loss of their 20 year old son Dan, to cancer. This foundation directly supports the needs of families with children who are fighting cancer. Prior to the reunion, a "Punch-A-Thon" event was hosted by CKO Fanwood. Owner Steve Johnson and his generous trainers donated their facility and time and raised nearly \$1,800. Several local businesses also donated items for the tricky-tray. The raffle and 50/50 added a lot of excitement to an already outstanding evening and everyone got into the spirit of giving and supporting these wonderful organizations.

**Grace Hull**, class of 1944. The Musical Club of Westfield is 100 years old. In its early days, the club brought musical greats to the area, including Pablo Casals, Percy Grainger, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Lawrence Tibbet. Today the club gives six concerts a year, all open to the public free of charge, each followed by a reception to meet the artists. It sponsors a junior club for teenaged instrumentalists and vocalists who present a variety of performances in the community. In 2015, to celebrate the centennial year, the junior club introduced a world premiere "Vignette" by James Chu of Westfield, a scholarship winner returned from the Junior Musical Club.

Since 1922, the club has granted scholarships to local high school students to sturdy music and music education in college. In 2015, the club awarded or renewed eight scholarships totaling \$14,000. The centennial year reached its high point with a concert. The Centennial Celebration, took place on Sunday, November 22nd at 3 p.m. at 170 Elm Street, Westfield, at the First Baptist Church. Past and present scholarship winners returned to recognize the club that help start their careers in music. Kathy Bride (harp), Christopher Dellarso (clarinet), Jordan Hendy (violin), Matt Sklar (Broadway composer) and Nathanael Udell (French horn) are scheduled to perform. The concert featured a World Premiere "100 Years," a poem by **Grace Hull**, oldest living scholarship winner, set to music by Jacob Gelber, a current scholarship student from Cranford.

**Jason Fortunato** '13 and Linnea Sahlberg, both Hamilton College computer science majors, are attempting to improve upon expensive biometric technologies this summer through a research project titled Remote Functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy. Working under Stephen Harper Kimer, Chair of Computer Science Stuart Hirshfield, they're focusing their research on the creation of relatively unintrusive alternatives to Near Infrared Spectroscopy (fNIRS) equipment, utilizing lasers to operate remotely instead of the common skin-contact reliant systems of traditional equipment. fNIRS technology is often utilized for neuroimaging, most usually in a medical context to measure oxygen flow to the brain, providing a less unpleasant alternative to the common electroencephalogram test of EEG, in many applications. Mr. Fortunato and Ms. Sahlberg's prototype remote fNIRS could potentially further reduce the level of intrusion as they lack the requirement for skin contact with the intended patient characteristic of current technologies. "Right now, the only commercial fNIRS available involves attaching probes to the skin," explains the pair. "We are exploring the practicality of remote fNIRS...and conducting various experiments that stimulate changes in blood flow so that we can collect data and compare the results of the commercial fNIRS to the remote fNIRS." One important component of any prototype remote fNIRS will of course will be cost. Jason and Linnea's project will also include research into cost-mitigation, primarily as it relates to the cameras required for remote imaging. Evaluating and analyzing any present trade-offs between cost and quality in the choice of camera could prove essential to the potential commercial viability of remote fNIRS. Both students noted that their initial interest in this project was motivated by the inclusion of a hardware component. "The hardware component was definitely interesting, it's a side of computer science that shows that it isn't just sitting at a desk coding, it can be much more," said Linnea. "It's also kind of shown us how comp-sci can be integrated into other disciplines." added Jason.

Each semester for the past four years, dozen of students from SPFHS have been volunteering to help new immigrants as they strive to become citizens and productive members of their communities. Working with El Centro Hispanoamericano, a nonprofit organization located in Plainfield, the students conduct food and toy drives, help immigrants to learn English, help immigrants prepare for the US citizenship test, and most recently helped run the organization's annual Christmas Fiesta. At this year's holiday event back in December, SPFHS student volunteers helped bring holiday joy to over 100 children and their families. The students collected toys that Santa distributed to children, helped with arts and crafts as children created Christmas cards and decorations for their parents, and helped prepare lunch for nearly two hundred fifty guests.

Gabriela MacPherson, a senior at SPFHS has been recognized as a scholar in the College Board's 2015-16 National Hispanic Recognition Program. Gabriela's exceptional academic achievements demonstrated by her strong performance on the PSAT/NMSQT qualifying test identified her as an outstanding student among Hispanic and Latino students who took the test. The National Hispanic Recognition Program is a College Board program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school students and identifies academically well prepared Hispanic high school students.

Twenty students from SPFHS have been accepted into the Central Jersey Music Educators Association's (CJME) 2016 Region II Honors Choir. The students were selected from a field of more than four hundred talented students from across central New Jersey. Selected for Women's Choir are: Lauren Barth, Rachella Carlino, Phoebe Collins, Amelia Graham, Katie Lamendola. Selected for Mixed Choir are: Janay Armbrister, Peter Canevari, Paulie Cherubini, John DeMarco, Victoria Domiciano, Ethan Graham, Shannon McCreesh, Allan Romero, Claudia Sahaj, Matt Schuman, Audrey Smith, Kevin Sonpar, Josh Venick, Zoe Verrico, and Melody Weigel.

SPFHS students members of the Financial Literacy Through Investing Club (FLTI) enjoyed learning about

## SPFHS School News

the inner workings of the banking system on a recent tour of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

On the eve of WWII, twelve travelers find themselves unable to leave an Italian mountain resort. These International travelers, along with their hosts, may not all be whom they seem to be. SPFHS presented the Pulitzer Prize winning play, "Idiot's Delight" by Robert E. Sherwood in December. The drama directed by Kale Thompson, Vocal Music, Terrill Middle School, is the first non-musical to be staged at SPFHS in over fifteen years.

Daniel Zheng and Shona Jain have been named Semifinalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 61st annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalists level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

This year's Repertory Theatre production was "The Mystery of Edwin Drood", done in March as usual. The show was based on Charles Dickens unfinished novel of the same name.

The ending was different each night, depending on what was decided by the audience. Rupert Holmes, the Tony Award author and lyricist of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood", visited the high school to answer questions and listen to them perform some of the songs. He also sang along with them.



Sean Meisch and Matthew Garber, both senior students at SPFHS, were selected as Delegates to the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Lowell, MA that took place June 28th through June 30th, 2015. The Congress is an honors only program for high school students who are passionate about science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be scientists and technologists, to stay true to their dream and after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal. American hero and astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Science Director of the National Academy of Future Scientists, nominated both Sean Meisch and Matthew Garber to represent SPFHS based on their academic achievement, leadership potential and passion for science and technology. During the three-day congress, Sean and Matthew joined students from across the country and heard Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science winners talk about leading scientific research. They were given advice from deans of the world's top tech universities and they were inspired by fellow teen science prodigies. They also learned about cutting-edge advances and the future of science and technology. Richard Rossi, Executive Director, National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists said, "Focused, bright and determined students, like Sean Meish and Matthew Garber, are our future and they deserve all the mentoring and guidance we can give them."

The SPFHS Marching Band wrapped up the 2015 season with a November 7th performance at the US Bands Open Class National Championships, held at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. The band achieved it highest score of the season, 93,900. SPFHS faced stiff competition in its category against six bands from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Virginia, five of which received higher scores. The top score in the group was 97,200 received by Norwin Senior High School from North Huntingdon, PA. For the 2015 season the 180 member SPFHS band was reassigned from US Bands Group 6A to the more competitive Group 6-Open. In its first season at this level, the band's scores increased steadily over six competitions. In the New Jersey State Championship on October 31st, the SPFHS band placed second in its group, received the award for Best Percussion and won the Cadets Award of Excellence, presented to the band that best reflects overall effect, creativity and pursuit of excellence. "This has been

## SPFHS School News

a phenomenal journey," said SPFHS band director Durand Thomas. "It's especially fulfilling to have the senior class lead as they have—they create the magic." Student drum majors for 2015 were Kaavya Krishna-Kumar, Mary Catherine Stovall and Melody Weigel. Band staff also includes assistant director John Gillick and color guard director Jackie Tumolo. The 2015 show was titled "Chance Love—Tales Beneath a Persian Moon" and featured music from Scheherazade by Nikolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov, Samson and Delilah by Camille Saint-Saens, and Cleopatra by Alex North. Soloists were Shay Blechinger—Slocum on flute and Kevin Sonpar on baritone horn. In addition to US Bands competitions the band performed at many Raiders football games. US Bands, a program of Youth Education in the Arts, is a competitive circuit for scholastic band programs nationwide and has a membership of more than 700 high school marching bands.

History repeated itself, that is with reference to the SPFHS girls soccer teams that reeled off another great season, winning the conference title in addition to its 10th Union County Tournament championship in eleven years and sixth in a row. The Lady Raiders advanced to the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 semifinal round where they dropped a 2-1 decision to the Bridgewater-Raritan Panthers to finish with a 20 2-1 record. "We were really young, so I wasn't too sure how we would do. We ha a core group of kids returning, but we had 12 new players to the varsity so there was a lot of inexperience. For the girls to do as well as we did, it was pretty impressive." Raider Head Coach Kevin Ewing said. "We won the counties, won the conference and lost in the sectional semifinals. Probably a game that could have gone either way. That's soccer!" The Raiders did not give up a single goal until their eighth game in a 6-1 triumph over Rahway and it seemed they would be unbeatable until the first chink in their armor came on Game 13 in a 0-0, regular-season stalemate with Westfield on October 15th. The first loss did come and it arrived with a 1-0 setback to Cranford on October 22nd.

## *SPFHS School News*

*Another Union County Tournament (UCT) championship trophy had to be crammed into the already cramped trophy case when the SPFHS boys soccer team won its fifth straight UCT title with a 1-0, overtime win over Elizabeth. Additionally this season, the Raiders won their conference, advanced to the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 semifinals and finished with a 20 2-2 record.*

*The Raiders' only losses were to the Westfield Blue Devils, who they beat later in the season, and to the Elizabeth Minutemen in the section semifinals, which snapped their streak of 16 wins, against the Minutemen. The Raiders tied Hunterdon Central and Summit in UCT semifinal, although they won the shootout with the Hilltoppers.*

*In all, it was the Raiders 26th conference title and 19th UCT title (17th for Coach Breznitsky, who jumped his 41-year career won/loss/tie record to 696-161-58). Senior co-captain, Ari Rowenzweig had an unbelievable season offensively leading the team with 26 goals, while adding eight assists. Ari was selected First Team All-State All Groups by the New Jersey Soccer Coaches Association (NJSCA) in addition to Eastern Region All-American and First Team All-Union County (UC).*

*"As far as Union County without a doubt the leading scorer. Statewide, I believe he's in the top-15 goal scorers. He came along very nicely after last year scoring a few goals. He scored some crucial goals and was one of those who you look to have someone who has a nose for the goal," Coach Breznitsky said. "He seizes the opportunities and had some game winners. Without his goals, we wouldn't have finished with 20 wins."*



## *Reunions Enjoyed*

### *Friends for Ever - Class of 1955*

The Class of 1955 has held a reunion every five years since their 25th reunion after graduating from SPFHS. The past several reunions have been locations permitting the classmates and guests to explore long week-end gatherings. Their last reunion was the celebration of their 60th anniversary and was held at Woodloch Pines Resort in Hawley, Pennsylvania. There were twenty-eight classmates and eighteen guests attending the three day event from as far away as California and Texas. Future reunions may include a cruise. More recently eight classmates met in Naples, Florida for their annual mini-reunion held each year for those living or vacationing in Florida.

# *HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES*

*Please note:* An application for a nomination to next fall's Hall of Fame is included in this newsletter. Decisions will be made by early summer, so get your nomination in NOW.

The acceptance and introduction speeches we have provided are the only ones which were available.

## **Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Alumni Hall of Fame**

On Tuesday evening, November 17th, eight Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Alumni were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Those inductees included:

- ♦ **Sir Peter Emery** (Class of 1943), now deceased but a past Member of Parliament and knighted by Queen Elizabeth.
- ♦ **Pat DiNizo** (Class of 1973), participant and founder of the rock band "The Smithereens".
- ♦ **Laura DiFrancesco Swidersky** (Class of 1944), a dedicated community volunteer for over seventy years.
- ♦ **Malcom Nettingham** (Class of 1936), one of the original Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.
- ♦ **Michael Swerdlick** (Class of 1974) movie and TV screenwriter and producer.
- ♦ **Keith Lippert** (Class of 1965), Vice Admiral, Director of U.S. Defense Logistic Agency.
- ♦ **Jeffrey Hammonds** (Class of 1989), college All-American and professional baseball player.
- ♦ **Todd Robinson** (Class of 1981), U.S. Diplomat in the Foreign Service.

## **PRIOR DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS**

*Carol Bellamy '59  
Linda Stender '69  
Donald T. DiFrancesco '62  
Patricia Jean Geiringer '44  
Steve Schnur '79  
James Shreve '45  
Peter Schultz '60  
Sada Thompson '45*

*Renaldo Nehemiah '77  
Jean Burgdorff '42  
William Allen Ryback '68  
Marie DiFrancesco Leppert '44  
Dorothy Blythe McDowell '47  
Carl Sicola '62  
Bill Austin '55*

# *HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES*

Sir Peter Emery, class of 1943, was evacuated from London in the late 30's because of the bombings. His parents sent him and his younger brother to live with his aunt and uncle on Glenside Avenue. In high school, he was very outgoing, friendly to all, a wonderful sense of humor. He was a repeat winner of the yearly oratorical contest in town. After graduation, he returned to England and joined the RAF, staying with the RAF Volunteer Reserve until 1950. He attended Oxford University with Maggie Thatcher as his classmate.

After graduating, from Oxford, he entered the family business of manufacturing clothing and local politics. Upon election to Parliament as a conservative, he held that office for forty-two years. His most lasting contribution to political life was the founding, with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Bow Group, the conservative party's think tank. Its parallel is that of the Fabian Society in the Labor Party.

In 1982, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, upon recommendation of Maggie Thatcher, for his work with children.

Peter came back for high school reunions several times and was a welcoming host when his classmates were in England. As an aside, some years ago I spotted a magazine article on an interesting bridge quartet which played internationally. Peter and Malcolm Forbes as partners playing against Omar Sharif and his partner.

Those of us who knew Peter, are very proud of his accomplishments.



# *HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES*

**Pat DiNizio**, class of 1973, is a man of many faces: high school wrestler, rock band leader, candidate for the U.S. Senate, baseball player, TV documentarian.

After high school, he studied at Middlesex Community College and New York University. A brief stint with his father's waste-management company followed. After playing in several cover bands, Pat was inspired to form his own band, "The Smithereens". He joined with N.J. high school students Dennis Diken (drums), Jim Babjok (guitar) and Mike Mesaros (bass).

By the end of 1980, they had independently released "Girls About Town", an EP featuring four songs with "girls" in the title. For the next three years the group played around New Jersey and New York. On the strength of college airplay, as well as MTV's airing of "Blood & Roses", the album became a hit leading to a major-label contact with Capitol. An extensive tour followed. "Blood & Roses" was used for the theme song of the movie "Dangerously Close".

This band has remained popular for over twenty-seven years with a series of nine studio albums on the Capitol label, BMG, and Excelsior labels, and a live album from the Music Midtown Festival in Atlanta. They are known for original rock albums and creative adaptations of classic icons. He started a song writing service which puts fans' lyrics to music.

He deserves to be inducted, not only for his Smithereen success, but for his motivations regarding politics and ball playing. In 2000, Pat ran for U.S. Senate, ending up in 4th place.

In 2006, he went to Florida to begin spring training with the Somerset Patriots, a minor league in Bridgewater. He took lessons from many famous players. He developed a ESPN TV pilot called "Seventh Inning Stretch" which documented his dream to become a major league player at fifty years of age.

"The Smithereens" do many charity concerts including one each year at the St. Bart's Labor Day Festival. Pat DiNizo—a man of many faces.



# *HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES*

Just some of ***Laura Swidersky's*** activities!

## MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- ♣ Public Information Officer, S.P. Office of Emergency Management (Certified by FEMA)
- ♣ Member of Union County Senior Providers Network
- ♣ Secretary/Treasurer of the Meridian's Senior Club (Tuesday Group, SH CC)
- ♣ Chairman, Scotch Plains Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (Members appointed by the Mayor)
- ♣ Trip Coordinator for the Advisory Group, arranging and guiding 4 trips a year for senior residents. (Prepare and submit publicity regarding same as well)
- ♣ President of the SPFHS Alumni Association, with help responsible for mailing two issues per year to members (386)
- ♣ Member of the Gerontology Association of Kean University
- ♣ Member of the Senior Legislative Issues Coalition of Union County
- ♣ Member of the Board of Trustees of the Scotch Plains Senior Citizen Housing Corporation
- ♣ Staff Member of TV Channel 34 prior to being made part of SPFE TV
- ♣ Secretary for the John Shippen Memorial Golf Foundation
- ♣ Publicity Chairman for events held by Mayors of Township and the Italian-American Club when hosting visitors during the "Sister City" celebrations 1992 and 2003.
- ♣ An active member of the College Club of Fanwood—Scotch Plains.

## Township Volunteer Service

- ♣ For twenty years has worked 4 nights of the Labor Day Festival conducted by UNICO and St. Bartholomew's Church
- ♣ Volunteers weekly to tutor students at St. Bart's in reading September through May
- ♣ Volunteers for the pre-school group in St. Bart's Vacation Bible School
- ♣ Decorates the Gazebo on the Village Green annually for the Memorial Day Parade
- ♣ Volunteers for Clean-up Day sponsored by the Environmental Commission & Public Works
- ♣ Works twice yearly at the Recycling Center for the Fanwood-Scotch Plains College Club as a fund-raiser as well as when the Outreach Group of St. Bart's has this project as a fund-raiser
- ♣ Served on the Scholarship Committee of the Shippen Foundation to select award recipients
- ♣ Volunteers to assist the Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association when it holds its Scotch Plains Family Festival
- ♣ With personnel from "Gemelaggio" Committee, setup display in the Scotch Plains Public Library depicting the lives of local residents in town who emigrated from Montazzoli, Italy
- ♣ Helps Library staff in arranging books for the used book sale, as well as being on hand actual sales days.

## Non-Township Volunteering

- ♣ Street Chair for Cancer, Muscular Dystrophy, March of Dimes and Heart Fund local drives
- ♣ Permanent member and announcer for the Central Fourth of July Parade in Plainfield
- ♣ Awarded for outstanding service to Seniors in Union County by former Congressman Bob Franks
- ♣ Received recognition from the U.S. Healthcare for outstanding service to Seniors
- ♣ Received resolution from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholds for outstanding achievements
- ♣ Collects yarn donation to the Telephone Pioneers of America to be knitted into lap robes for hospitalized patients
- ♣ Donates cookies to be distributed to veterans in Lyons Hospital

# *HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES*

Acceptance speech by **Laura DiFrancesco Swidersky**, class of '44.

Before I start my speech, let me ask where are you Willette Bacote? In case you have forgotten, you worked for me when I was Recreation Director for Scotch Plains as a tennis instructor in our youth program at Kramer Manor Park. You did a great job—Thanks!

I want to correct something. I was born in Scotch Plains. My mother started labor in her home at 380 Cook Avenue and the doctor (they made house calls then) worked on her. The 3 1/2 pound infant, me, was turned over to my great grandmother, a local midwife who delivered many children born at home in that area. Because my mother needed intensive care, she was transported to Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield and me with her...so I was registered as being born in Plainfield, New Jersey.

My grandfather emigrated from the same part of Italy as Pat DiNizio's grandfather and bought property between Cook Avenue and Montague Avenue and five of his six sons built houses on lots barn-raising style using local masons, carpenters, etc., contributing their talents. Naturally the free labor was extended to those who helped them. I still own the house on Cook Avenue and my son bought a deceased Uncle's house next door. My sister bought a house in Scotch Plains too, so my roots here are deep.

My grandfather had little formal education, but he made sure his sons were educated and would be proud to know that he has grandchildren who have become teachers, lawyers, a CPA and best of all a plumber who was the Code Officer for Fanwood.

I am committed to work for my church and with affiliation with many senior organizations, if any senior needs my help with a problem, if I can't solve it, I can steer them to an individual or organization that can help. This is so serious, as these elderly are often ill and alone. Their children and grandchildren are scattered all over and while not intentional, neglect them, often unaware of their difficulties.

I am grateful for good health and energy and will continue to be of assistance. Our time here is very short. Time goes by very quickly. I intend to use whatever time I have left to take care of family first, then my relatives, then friends and neighbors and lastly my community.

Thank you.



# *HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES*

Speech to introduce Malcolm Nettingham.

"We are very fortunate to have with us tonight Malcolm Nettingham, who grew up in Scotch Plains, still lives in Scotch Plains, and graduated from our high school. However, it is because of his military services as a Tuskegee Airman that we honor him tonight.

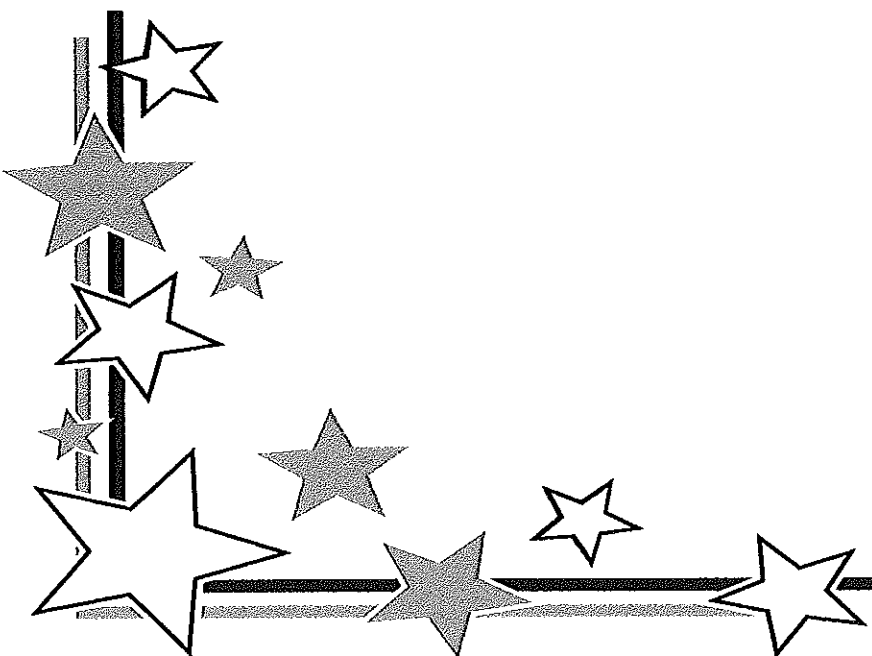
He is one of three hundred Tuskegee airman to receive the Congressional Gold Medal; the highest civilian award Congress may bestow.

The Tuskegee airman were the first black pilots ever in American military service. They overcame discrimination and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected groups of service members during World War II. Their achievements paved the way for the full integration of the U. S. Military.

Malcolm is a member of Alpha Lodge 116 F & AM in East Orange, and is a member at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Scotch Plains where he sings in the Men's Chorus and the Voices of the Metropolitan.

Throughout his life he has served as a role model for young people including many years as a Sunday School teacher.

It is with pleasure that I introduce Malcolm to enlighten you on the Tuskegee Airmen".





# *HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES*

*Nominated by Tim Peres '74*

## **Michael Swerdlick '74**

American University, class of 1978

Pepperdine Law School, class of 1981

Michael was the vice president of the SPFHS Senior class of 1973 through 1974. A successful "Hollywood" screenwriter in both movies and TV. Michael has written three successful feature films; "Can't Buy Me Love" for Touchstone/Disney, "Class Act" for Warner Brothers and "Love Don't Cost A Thing" for Warner Brothers.

He has also written for many successful TV shows; "Doogie Howser, MD", ABC/Fox TV, "Beverly Hills 90210" for Fox/Fox TV, "Who's The Boss" for ABC/Sony, "Boy Meets World" ABC/Disney and several other shows. Michael also produced two television movies; "The Whereabouts of Jenny" starring Ed O'Neill and the "Computer Wore Tennis Shoes" starring Kirk Cameron.

He also wrote for the most successful "child/teen" stars of our generation, the Olsen Twins. Michael wrote three multiple million selling video/movies for Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen; "Getting There", "When In Rome" and "The Challenge". All three of his Olsen movies were "novelized" by Harper Collins and sold half a million copies each. He has done many re-writes on many other movies which he did not get credit. "Can't Buy Me Love" is on many "Top Ten" list for "greatest teen movies of all time".

Michael has been profiled by the Los Angeles Times, Newark Star Ledger, Courier News, Hollywood Reporter, Scotch Plains Times and the Fanscotian.

Michael was well-liked, popular student at SPFHS. Funny and outgoing, everyone fondly remembers Michael. He went to college at American University where he was elected Student Activities Chairman. He was his college concert promoter/producer where he put on major 1970's music acts "Peter Frampton", "Foreigner" and many others. Michael went on to law school at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. He graduated and passed the bar exam in 1981. He was with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office when he decided to try his hand at the entertainment business. He went to work in the famous William Morris Agency mailroom. Michael became a talent agent in 1983 and worked with young and upcoming actors like Sharon Stone, Heather Locklear, Janine Turner, and Kevin Costner. He also represented big 1980's actors like Tyne Daly, Robert Blake, Michelle Phillips and Robert Reed. While reading hundreds of scripts for his clients over a three year period, Michael thought he would take a shot at writing a script. His first script, entitled "Boy Rents Girl" was bought by Touchstone/Disney and eventually became the hit film "Can't Buy Me Love" starring a young Patrick Dempsey (Dr. McDreamy from "Grey's Anatomy"). It was the first outside acquisition in the history of the Walt Disney Company. Michael has gone on to a long and successful career in a very tough, very competitive business.

I believe Michael should be inducted for a body of work that has been seen all over the world by millions of people. His writing has brought laughter, smiles and positive life lessons to many. I have seen his movies on video shelves in several foreign countries. He entered a cutthroat business with no connections and did quite well for himself. He did something interesting and special with his life and did it well. If you look closely at his work you will often see "Scotch Plains things" in his material. An episode he wrote for "Beverly Hills 90210" has a homecoming theme. The float the 90210 kids build is exactly the same as the homecoming float we built at SPFHS for our 1973 homecoming. In another Swerdlick episode, Ian Ziering answers the phone and as a goof says "Hello, Alfonso's Pizzeria", Michael's favorite pizza growing up in Scotch Plains.

# *HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES*

*Nomination by Syl Lorenzo Shannon of the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield:*

## **Keith W. Lippert '65**

Vice Admiral, Supply Corps. U.S. Navy

Vice Admiral Keith W. Lippert became the 14th Director of the Defense Logistics Agency on July 20, 2001. The Defense Logistics Agency, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Virginia is responsible for providing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and other federal agencies with a variety of logistics, acquisition and technical services in peace and war. These services include logistics information, material management, procurement, warehousing and distribution of spare parts, food, clothing, medical supplies and fuel, reutilization of surplus military material and document automation and production. This worldwide mission is performed by approximately 23,300 civilian and military personnel.

Prior to coming to DLA, Vice Admiral Lippert was the Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command and 41st Chief of Supply Corps since August 1999. From 1997 to 1999, he served as Vice Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command.

Vice Admiral Lippert is a native of Chicago, Illinois and graduated from SPFHS in 1965. He earned his commission through the regular Navy ROTC Program, graduating from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics in 1968. Additionally, he holds Master's Degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Management and in Operations Research (with distinction). In 1994, he attended the Senior Executive Program in National and International Security at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Vice Admiral Lippert's sea duty tours include Supply Officer, USS Queenfish (SSN 651); Assistant Supply Officer, USS Simon Lake (AS 33); and Supply Officer, USS Canopus (AS 34). Shore duty tours include assignments as Assistant Comptroller, Commander Submarine Force, US Pacific Fleet; Operations Research Officer at the Navy Ships Parts Control Center, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; Inventory Analysis Staff, Naval Supply Systems Command, Washington, D.C.; Executive Officer, Naval Supply Center, Jacksonville, FL.; and Director, Spares Programs and Policy Branch in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Logistics.

In 1990, he rejoined the Naval Supply Systems Command as the Deputy Commander for Financial Management/Comptroller with budget responsibility for a worldwide, multibillion-dollar supply system. While serving as Comptroller, he was also responsible for Navy's successful Inventory Reduction Program.

From July 1993 to July 1995, Vice Admiral Lippert served as the Commander Defense General Supply Center, Richmond, Va. In August 1995, he became the first Commander, Naval Inventory Control Point, with offices in Philadelphia, Pa., and Mechanicsburg, Pa.

His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legion of Merits, four Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, Navy Achievement Medal and Submarine Supply Dolphins. He is the recipient of the Society of Logistics Engineers 1992 International Award for outstanding performance in financial management/inventory control.

# *HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES*

## *Acceptance speech by Keith Lippert:*

"Thank you Dulce Almonte for your very kind introduction. Good evening to Dr. Heisey and thank you for all that you do at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Let me start by thanking the SPFHS Hall of Fame committee for selecting me as one of their 2015 inductees. I am very honored both by the selection and to be associated with the seven Hall of Fame Inductees in tonight's ceremony.

I was quite surprised when I received notification from Marie Leppert about my selection. In fact, I telephoned the SPFHS front office to ensure that this was all legitimate!! I also want to thank Marie for answering all my dumb questions and making this honor all the more enjoyable.

One of the benefits of ceremonies like these is the chance to reconnect with friends. My family moved to Fanwood in 1962. The first person to greet us was Jane Clausen. Since then, Jane and her husband Doug have been great friends. I babysat their children, and Doug and I coached baseball teams in the Fanwood summer leagues. After traveling from south central Pennsylvania to here today, Doug and Jane had my wife and I over for a great dinner.

I graduated from SPFHS in 1965. I look back on my three years here with great fondness. I developed lifelong friendships with many of my classmates. For example, I played on the SPFHS basketball team and several of us still try to pick the NCAA basketball tournament winners in March of each year. I might add that we are not very good at this.

I also look back and am thankful for the superb faculty at SPFHS. They made a significant contribution to my life because they not only taught classes, but it was obvious that they cared about their students. One of those superb teachers is here tonight. Mr. Frank Quinn was not only my Latin teacher but was my friend and mentor who emphasized hard work and results almost like a Marine Corps drill sergeant. He was a great role model for all to follow. Mr. Ray Schnitzer, who recently passed away, was an outstanding basketball coach who taught the values of hard work, determination, motivation and preparedness. Mr. Jim Sochan was a great baseball coach who also personally funded out entrance into summer baseball leagues and took us to Mets baseball games. Teachers like Mr. Robert Tilley (chemistry and physics), Mr. Frank Petrulla (baseball and basketball), and former SPFHS Principal, Dr. Terry Riegel (economics) were also great role models.

I graduated from the NROTC program at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with no intention of staying in the Navy. I soon discovered that I liked and respected the people with whom I was working with and felt strongly about the mission of our Navy. During one of many moves, I met my wonderful wife Linda who is here with me tonight. We have been married for a mere forty-four years and have three children and five grandchildren...all of whom are doing very well. After our first date, I knew that Linda was the one for me. It just took me a little longer to convince her.

I served thirty-eight years in the United States Navy retiring as a three star admiral. My last duty station was as the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency, a \$40 billion organization providing logistics support worldwide to our troops and allies. I was the Director for five years and while there, I used every value, leadership skill, and technical knowledge I had previously learned.

During my Naval career, I was fortunate to be the commanding officer of six different organizations and was honored to be inducted into several Hall of Fames at these organizations. In each induction ceremony, the reasons for my recognition were articulated which included my leadership values and that I cared about my people. There is no doubt in my mind that these traits are directly attributable to what I learned at SPFHS. I want to thank each of you for attending tonight. May God continue to bless the United States of America and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School."

# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

**Jeffrey Hammonds** , class of 1989.

**Jeffrey Bryan Hammonds**, former professional baseball player.

Jeffrey was an outfielder and played for the Baltimore Orioles (1993-1998), Cincinnati Reds (1998-1999), Colorado Rockies (2000), Milwaukee Brewers (2001-2003), San Francisco Giants (2003-2004) and the Washington Nationals (2005) in Major League Baseball (MLB). Before playing professionally, Jeffrey played for SPFHS and Stanford University.

At Stanford, he was named an All-American. The Orioles selected Jeffrey with the fourth overall selection of the 1992 MLB Draft.

Though he was seen as one of the best Prospects in baseball, injuries limited his Performance with Baltimore.

After he was traded to Cincinnati and then to Colorado, he emerged with the Rockies in 2000, and was selected to Appear at the 2000 Major League Baseball All-Star Game. He signed a three-year, \$21.75 million contract with the Milwaukee Brewers that off-season, but Continued to struggle with injuries.

He had a resurgence with the Giants in 2003, after he was released by the Brewers, but struggled with the Giants in 2004 and Nationals in 2005 before retiring.

## **Jeffrey Hammonds**

**Outfielder**

**Born: Scotch Plains, New Jersey**

**Batted: Right**

**Threw: Right**

**MLB debut**

**June 25, 1993 for the Baltimore Orioles**

**Last MLB appearance**

**May 22, 2005 for the Washington Nationals**

**MLB statistics**

**Batting average: .272**

**Home runs: 110**

**Runs batted in: 423**

**Teams**

- ➡ **Baltimore Orioles (1993–1998)**
- ➡ **Cincinnati Reds (1998–1999)**
- ➡ **Colorado Rockies (2000)**
- ➡ **Milwaukee Brewers (2001–2003)**
- ➡ **San Francisco Giants (2003–2004)**
- ➡ **Washington Nationals (2005)**

**Career highlights and awards**

**All–Star (2000)**

# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

*Nominated by his mother, Willette Ba Cote':*

**Todd Robinson**, Consul General of the United States of America in Barcelona.

**Todd Robinson**, class of 1981 is a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, having joined the State Department in 1986.

Prior to his assignment as Consul General in Barcelona, Spain, Todd was the Chief of the Political and Economic Section in the U.S. Embassy in Tirana, Albania. Before that, he was Deputy Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic.

Other overseas postings include La Paz, Bolivia (1997—1999), the Holy See, Vatican City (1995—1997), Rome, Italy (1993—1995), San Salvador, El Salvador (1989—1991), and Bogota, Colombia (1987—1989). Todd has also served in the State Department Operations Center and as a Special Assistant to former Secretary of State Albright.

In 1991, Todd was the recipient of the State Department's Superior Honor Award.

He was journalist before joining the Foreign Service and he is a proud graduate of the Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, class of 1985.

