

WILLIAM "BILL" PAGANO

Class of 1965



Bill has had an extensive career in sports not only as a player, but as a coach. Bill was born in 1946 to parents Orlando and Phyliss Pagano. As a second-generation immigrant from Italy, his family landed in Seneca Falls, New York. His athletic career began as a freshman at Mynderse Academy where he participated in football, wrestling, and track and field throughout his high school career. When Bill graduated from Mynderse in 1965, he had compiled a list of impressive athletic accomplishments. He was named first team Finger Lakes All Star for two years in football; he was Finger Lakes champion for two years

and a Section V champion in wrestling; and in his senior year, he broke the school shot-put record in track and field, which he held until 2009.

After high school, Bill married his wife, Kathleen, and the couple had three children--Stacey, Scott, and Gina. All three children excelled in athletics, with Bill's grandson Scott Pagano Jr. playing football at Clemson University where he won a Division I NCAA National Championship in 2016 before finishing his collegiate career at Oregon.

For most of his adult life, Bill has resided in Romulus, New York with his family. When he was not working as a first responder and firefighter, he coached both baseball and football at all levels, including Little League and high school. When Bill was not working to provide for his family or coaching to shape young minds, he was a strong presence in his community, organizing fundraisers and community action activities including building a new community center and playground at Romulus Central School.

Bill worked as a firefighter at the Seneca Army Depot and as a volunteer with the Romulus Fire Department for a total of 30 years. He finished his career as a machinist for Gould Pumps (ITT) in Auburn, New York. After retirement, Bill had worked various jobs to keep busy until his move to San Antonio, Texas in 2016. In retirement, he states that Kathleen, his wife of fifty-seven years, keeps him busy landscaping and doing other odd jobs.

Bill is a devoted family man and is very humble regarding his own athletic achievements. The things for which he is proudest are the accomplishments of his three children and the relationships that he has made along the way with both new and old friends.

Bill once told his children that the one thing in life that he did not accomplish and was a regret was the fact that he never made it to the Mynderse Academy Hall of Fame. But now that this goal has been fulfilled, he understands the importance and the absolute honor that it holds.