

Finding a column on the Schuylkill

The Philadelphia Inquirer 27 Dec 2015 FRANK FITZPATRICK



Kelly and King Drives, the museum, and the Falls Bridge. It's a civic treasure: The statuary. The inviting river banks. The rocky outcroppings. The glimpses of Laurel Hill Cemetery's

Driving home from Center City recently, I was rummaging through that dusty portion of brain where column ideas are stored.

It was as empty as several other dusty portions of my brain, including those that track the locations of car keys and TV remotes.

As I frantically sought inspiration, the spectacular nighttime view proved a constant distraction.

From its floodlit hilltop above the Schuylkill, the Philadelphia Museum of Art looked as grand and ethereal as the Parthenon. A little beyond, just past the Waterworks' whitewashed columns, the lights framing Boathouse Row, aligned as precisely as marching German soldiers, were mirrored in the river's blackness.

There may be no more picturesque and peaceful geography in urban America than that riverside slice of Philadelphia bounded by

ornate monuments. The rowers gliding gracefully across calm waters. The rowers? Maybe that was my column.

Considerable sports history has been made on the Schuylkill, where boats of one form or another have been racing for 300 years. And as often as I've explored it, there always have been surprises.

The next morning, still in search of an idea, I revisited that history. That's when I learned about the Big Eight, local rowers who in their prime were among this city's bestknown and most successful sports stars.

The Big Eight's story dates back to the 1920s, after Jack Kelly Sr., who'd won three Olympic rowing gold medals and at one time 121 consecutive races, left Vesper Boat Club for Penn A.C.

Not surprisingly, given Kelly's wealth and influence, some of Philadelphia's best rowers, many of them also Irish, followed him there.

With Kelly's help, Penn A.C. developed into the Schuylkill's version of the New York Yankees. To maintain dominance, it established a feeder program at West Catholic High. And by the late '20s, the club — and especially its eight-man crew — had gained a national reputation. Three of that crew's members were West Catholic grads — Tom Curran, John McNichol, and Dan Barrow. The others were Charlie McIlvaine, Jack Bratten, Myrlyn James, Joe Dougherty, Chet Turner, and coxswain Tom Mack.

Tireless training built their muscles, and the sportswriters of that florid age, who tended to attach a nickname to anything that moved, labeled them the Big Eight.

Between 1929 and 1931, the Big Eight would win every one of its 31 races. The most significant of those came across the Atlantic in the summer of 1930.

After capturing the American title that year, the Philly boys traveled to Liege, Belgium, for the European Championships. No American eight had ever won at the event, then the de facto world championships.

Confident and physically at its peak, the Big Eight put on one of the most sensational performances in the sport's long history.

In qualifying, the Philadelphians' boat moved as if it were equipped with an Evinrude. It sped over the 2,000-meter course in the astonishing time of 5 minutes,

18.8 seconds. No eight had ever traveled so fast. Eighty-five years later, it's still the quickest 2,000 meters ever, though differences in wind, course, and water conditions make rowing records difficult to assess.

The wind was up in the final, the water choppy. The Big Eight won again, though in a markedly slower time (5:27). Runner-up Italy finished two full lengths behind. Thirdplace Denmark didn't cross the line until 20 seconds later.

Rowing was a front-page sport in Philadelphia, and upon its return, the Big Eight was met at 30th Street by what one newspaper termed a "wild and enormous throng." The team was paraded through the streets, all the way back to its Boathouse Row clubhouse, where a victory celebration stretched far into the night.

In 1950, when the Associated Press selected the greatest figures in each sport for the first half of the 20th century, the Big Eight represented rowing.

After its winning streak ended in 1931, the Big Eight splintered. Darrow would win national championships in doubles and singles and a bronze medal at the 1936 Olympics. Dougherty, Curran, Mack, and McIlvaine, who won a gold at the '28 Games, were also Olympians. Several of them became successful coaches here and elsewhere.

Sounded like a column to me. In reviewing the Big Eight's story, Curran's name had

seemed vaguely familiar. Then I recalled why.

In 1972, I was a college intern at the Evening Bulletin. Obviously impressed by how well I toted coffee and egg sandwiches from that newspaper's basement cafeteria to its third floor newsroom, the night sports editor assigned me my first story.

"Go talk to the Bear," he barked. "He's Temple's crew coach. Interesting guy."

Tom "Bear" Curran had earned his nickname. He was gruff and intimidating. At 21, I knew less about rowing than life. But on Curran's motorboat, in the middle of the Schuylkill, I managed a few inane questions.

He remained a disciplinarian in an age when rules were loosening and bending. It was the Age of Aquarius everywhere but Temple's boathouse.

My journalistic debut never made the paper, perhaps because its lede was sophomoric — make that groaningly bad.

But, hey, it's the slow week between Christmas and New Year's. I found that column idea, and I've still got a few lines to fill. So what the heck, it's time that 43-year-old lede saw print:

"Tom Curran is not about to let the hair atop the skulls of the men atop the skulls of Temple get any longer."

Excuse me, I think the Pulitzer people are calling.

Class of '85 - Remembering Yesterday & Preparing for Tomorrow

By Jeanne Washington-Jackson

January 2015 was upon us, this was to be the year of the West Catholic Girls and Boys Class of '85's 30th Class Reunion. The Facebook Class of '85 page was all a buzz. We took a poll of interest and soon after a committee was formed. We began the work in early April. Many of us went into the planning with a mindset that we wanted it to be memorable, we wanted it to be grande, we wanted to experience something like nothing we've seen before. We began the arduous task of searching for fellow classmates who were not on social media. We reconnected with West Catholic and Par-

ishes some that were in tact, some who had merged and some no longer in existence. We spent countless hours in "Group Me" Chat rooms and group texts, Facebook, conference calls and closer to the Reunion, working lunch and dinner meetings. We had obstacles but nothing too great that we couldn't overcome them. This was a team effort! Each of us volunteered for tasks that we knew we were strong in and called in many favors. 'In-kind" gifts were given to cover those very special items. We led a parade of momentum, cheer and counting down each week and in

the days leading up to the Reunion. Our committee was a force that was determined to shape this into something really special but we also knew that we wanted to give back to our Alma Mater...We decided to earmark the Music program. We thought outside the box and became so motivated that we held a successful Fish-Fry fundraiser mid-June that drew many West Catholic Alum. We were able to give back to West Catholic funds earned from this as well as donations that were made at the night of the Reunion. Our Classmates gave generously on behalf of the Class of '85.

It's Saturday November 14th & the Reunion is finally here. It was simply Magic!

The evening was highlighted by old school music (DJ'd by Marlene Bell Deejay Ladyfx Class of '88), the ambience, the food, the tears, the laughter, the nostalgic candy bar, the libations, the camaraderie, the Memorial, the Reunion keepsakes, the photos, the videos, I could go on....

For some it had been 30 years, for others maybe since the last reunion.

Alumni came from far and short distances. We even had alumni from other classes attend. The Class of '85 came out strong and left with a spirit of making a commitment to continue a long sustaining plan to host other events to support the West Catholic of today and set the example for other classes to come.

We remember yesterday and prepare for tomorrow to keep our legacy Alive in '85!

Classmates in '81
Graduates in '85
Friends for Life~

Class of 1965 Reunion

The members of the Class of 1965 held their combined 50th Reunion on October 10, 2015. About 190 people attended the affair which was held at the Clarion Hotel in Essington, PA. In addition to those living in the Philadelphia area, graduates from as far away as Tennessee, Nevada and California

attended the reunion. They all enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner and dancing into the night to the music of DJ Chick Collington. Old friends shared stories from their years at West and caught up on the events of the last fifty years. During the night, a very moving memorial was held honoring the five Class

of 65 Graduates killed in Viet Nam.

A \$1,000.00 donation to the Scholarship Fund, from the Class of 1965, was presented after the reunion to the Alumni Association by the Co-Chairs Peggy Sheffield Panichelli and Bette McGrath Diedrich.

GET INVOLVED - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You need not be a board member to participate in any of our committee's. If you see a committee that you wish to join please contact us via email at westcatholicalumni@gmail.com or submit your request through our website www.westcatholicalumni.org

COMMITTEE'S

- Young Alumni
- Communion Breakfast
- Membership
- Communications
- Spiritual Affairs
- Veterans Committee
- Scholarship
- Burrs at the Beach
- Fundraising
- Financial Review
- By-Laws
- Special Events Committee

100th Anniversary Celebration Volunteers Needed

West Catholic Alumni Association 2015-2017

Executive Board

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Mark Nave '85	VP Finance
Anthony DiTrollo '88	VP Communications
Johnnie Walker '86	Recording Secretary
Josh Short '84 & Tom McGinn '65	Co-Executive Secretary
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Joe Gartmeier '73	Andre Saballete '04
Kia Gray '92	Joshua Short '84
Veda Henderson '84	Aaron Spence '03
	Ernie Wells '72

SECRET SANTA

...surprising gifts for all! *by Tom McGinn*



I didn't know what to expect when I volunteered to be an "elf" for the Secret Santa Project that was held on the afternoon of Christmas Eve 2015. A Secret Santa with the help of the school administration and the Alumni Association was going to distribute Christmas gifts to some deserving families of West Catholic Prep students. The school identified seven students and provided information on the ages and genders of family members, so that appropriate gifts could be chosen. In addition to the gifts supplied by the Secret Santa, the Alumni Association provided gift cards and West Catholic swag for the students and older siblings. Younger siblings were given toys provided by Johnnie Walker Jr '86 through the courtesy of the Marine Corp Toys for Tots Campaign. The parents of the students were also given a bag of groceries that included a turkey. The afternoon

began in the parking lot of West Catholic Prep, where the "elves" waited for Secret Santa and his entourage to arrive. Not knowing what to expect, we were all surprised when a fire truck with its siren blaring and lights flashing entered the parking lot, followed by about a dozen motorcycles and several more vehicles with flashing lights. After going over the addresses of the recipients with Santa, it was decided that I would accompany Santa and his entourage and deliver presents to three of the recipients. Each of the other "elves" picked one of the remaining four recipients and delivered their presents. Before we left the parking lot I was told to closely follow the fire truck and to not stop for red lights or stop signs. At first it was difficult to follow those directions, but after a couple of blocks it became much easier to do. We turned into the street where our first recipient lived and our vehicles stretched almost the entire block. Our arrival on the street did not go unnoticed by the neighbors. Many, including young children were out trying to see what was going on. We gathered the gifts and knocked on the door of the recipient's house, when the mother answered, she invited us into



From The President

Dear Fellow Burrs,

The WC is proudly worn by alum around the world and our alum continue to be key players in building thriving communities. From bricklayers to board room executives, owners of Mom and Pop shops to large multi national companies, West has produced amazing men and women who are making an impact on the communities they serve and we want to continue the great history of West Catholic.



We are a community forever tied together through the brotherhood and sisterhood that is West Catholic. Our traditions run deep and our pride even deeper. Our network of alumni runs around the globe. Take a minute and think about that. Read the stories in this issue and see what we mean. It takes great effort to continue to spread the incredible spirit of West Catholic and I am challenging you to do your part, it is not measured by the amount of a check or the length of time you volunteer, any amount you donate albeit time or money is cherished by our Association, the school Administration and the students who benefit from your efforts. We would love to be able to develop Tutoring and Mentoring programs, offer Internship opportunities, build on the Blocks tax credit program and enhance Career Day presentations. Money is not the only answer for supporting the West family. Time and Talent is something you can provide to these young men and women that will have a far greater impact. Showing them you care about their future is something that they will forever hold in the hearts. It is why we do what we do, because someone took the time to coach, guide, teach, support, console, and/or encourage us to become proud sons and daughters of our communities. And someday, these students will be able to pass along that special spirit to the next great classes of West Catholic graduates to have them realize that our West Catholic family truly is something special.

Even though these asks are simple in nature, the harsh reality is that most people won't make a donation or take the time to support a school that just a few short years ago was slated for closure. The community around West is growing into an amazing support system. People who are not West Alumni are recognizing the importance of this institution and what it means to the Community. They see that our beloved West Catholic continues to rise up and is making a difference. If you want to make a difference in the lives of the students of West Catholic and their families you NEED to STEP UP and GET INVOLVED. Whether it is writing a check or volunteering your time, this school; this community; this family NEEDS YOU!

I ask that you join me in supporting our very special West Catholic family in any way you can!

All the best!
David F. Joslin, Jr. '88

the house. Secret Santa gave her and the children the presents. In no time, the littlest children were playing with them on the floor and some of the braver ones were sitting on Santa's knee. There were smiles on the children's faces, and tears in the eyes of the mother and a certain "elf". Before Santa left the street he made sure that the young neighbor children received a little present or had a photograph taken with Santa. The delivery at the other recipient's houses went just as smoothly as the first, and included many more smiles and tears. As with the real Santa, the other elves quietly went about the task of delivering the gifts to the many deserving families. Dave Joslin Jr. '88, Bill Dixon '85, Ernie Wells '72 and Adriann Bautista '86, loaded up their sleds and went about on one of the most gratifying Christmas adventures in recent memory. The hustle and bustle of Christmas Eve went away, cars still whisked by, people frantically went about their last minute shopping and for our Alumni elves, the spirit of the season took over and



the only thing that mattered was that we quietly made a difference in the lives of our West Catholic family. Based on my participation in the Secret Santa Project, I can honestly say that Christmas 2015 was the most emotional and satisfying for me in a long, long time. I'm not going to identify the name of the Secret Santa because I don't want to be put on the naughty list, but I will say that I'm looking forward to helping Secret Santa again this year.

This year we will be starting early placing Burr Barrels in local West Catholic Alumni owned businesses so that we can collect more donations for our Secret Santa event in 2016. The drop locations will be determined over the summer and announced in our Fall 2016 issue of the Emissary as well as online. For more information on how you can help us this year please send an email to westcatholicalumni@gmail.com or call the alumni office and mention the Secret Santa project.

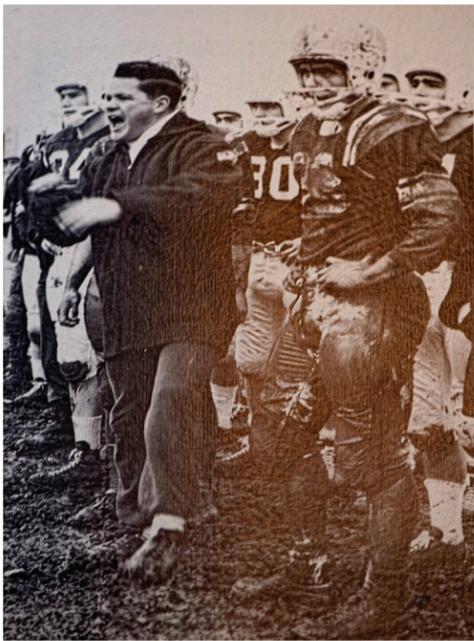


REMEMBERING VINCENT JAMES MCANENEY (1929-2016)

COACH VINCE MCANENEY
Philadelphia
Head Football Coach
West Catholic High School
1957-1964
By: Ed Kerr, Jr., '60

Vince McAneney was a true treasure who will be remembered by those student athletes he coached at West Catholic High School, as well as those at Cherry Hill West High and Pennsauken High School. A teacher for 42 years and head football coach for 36 years, his teams won 244 games during those 36 seasons. A Christian Brother's Boy, Vince graduated from LaSalle High in 1947 and then from West Chester University in 1953. While at West Catholic his record was 52 victories, 23 defeats and 5 ties. His lone Catholic League Championship was in 1962, the last year before divisional play. His BURR squad also shared the Philadelphia City Championship with South

Philadelphia High School (Southern) when their Championship Game ended in a 20-20 tie. While Coach MAC is certainly remembered by his players, He will never be forgotten by the students at 49th & Chestnut Streets who were touched by his special spirit. West Catholic High had last won a football championship in 1951. When a change in the Head football coach position was announced before the 1957 season, it was not a reflection on those who played or coached before from 1952-56; however there was a need to reenergize West



Coach Vince McAneney with Jack Gillespie

Catholic football at 49th Street and there was none better, than Coach Vince McAneney. Our prayers go out to His beloved Wife, Holly (nee Moore), and Sons, Vincent, Gary, Timothy and Terry as well as his brothers Bernard and John

McAneney, who coached the Quarter Backs for his brother at West and would succeed Vince after his final game as Head coach at West Catholic. With 244 total victories to his credit, the Years after West Catholic provided opportunity in New Jersey. Pennsauken High School has A football field dedicated to their former Head coach, Vince McAneney, check it out online or Better yet visit the field to feel the spirit. Many past players at West Catholic feel connected to this unique man. Although some have passed before him, here is a list of names that will ring a bell when Vince McAneney is mentioned: Larry Signora, Tommy Hughes, Bob Merenda, Nelson Townes, Tony Garguile, Clarence Phillips, Charley Johnson, Mike Bresnahan, Charley Walsh, Joe Horning, Bill Burns, Jim McFadden, Joe O'Halloran, Fran Dougherty, Fred Paglia, John Thornton,

John Fitzpatrick, Vince Knoll, Len DeFiore, Tom DeFiore, Reds Powell, Mike Simpson, Joe Cunningham, Joe Gallagher, Joe Mingione, Charley Manley, Bill McCarthy, Tommy DeFelice, John McCool, Calvin Townes, Wayne Sutkus, Nick Cirone, Jim Leonard, Ed Cassidy, Joe Braun, John Convery, Frank O'Donnell, Jack Gillespie, John Tomosky, Tom Bielli Dan Bielli, Carl Mingione. Bob Mahan, Tom George, Bill Serody, Ed Baxter, Steve Hamilton, Calvin Townes, Angelo Masciantonio, Harry Schumacher, Mike Hissler, Miles Stitt, John Paczosa, George Southcott, Tom Bazis, Tom Ostroski, Tom McCool, John Brady, Joe Donnelly, John Heppler, John Kelly and many, many more. We will miss our Former Coach and longtime friend...

He was the Real Deal!

Honoring World War II Veterans and Father John Joseph McGarrity '26

During the November 13, 2015 Veteran's Memorial Mass at West Catholic Prep, a plaque was unveiled honoring the 153 West Catholic High School for Boys students who died in World War II. Among those listed is Father John Joseph McGarrity '26 who was ordained in 1933 and served as a Chaplain in the US Navy..



John Joseph McGarrity of the Langley, lost in the battle for Java, 1 March 1942.

Chaplain John Joseph McGarrity reported on the USS Langley (CV-1/ AV-3) in January 1942, while the ship was in Darwin, Australia. Admiral Felix B. Stump who was in command of the Langley shortly before Chaplain McGarrity joined the ship, in response to a request for information about the chaplain, wrote on June 18, 1947: "The following I do know; the Langley badly needed a chaplain. After Father McGarrity arrived on board, there was a distinct and definite improvement in both morale and morals of the crew,

with many less cases of Mast than previously. He took an interest in the entire crew, Catholic and Protestant both." On February 27, 1942, while ferrying planes from Australia to Java, the Langley was attacked from the air by the Japanese about 74 miles south of Cilacap Java. The ship was hit with a terrific salvo of bombs. Fires broke out and the ship began to settle. The order to abandon ship was given about 13:30. The survivors were picked by the two destroyer which were escorting the Langley. At that time, only 11 of the Langley's complement were missing. The Langley, which was originally the Navy's first aircraft carrier, was then sunk by gunfire from one of the destroyers.

On February 28 and March 1 the destroyers rendezvoused with the Navy tanker Pecos, which was directed to receive the survivors of the Langley. The destroyers then returned to Java, while the Pecos headed for Ceylon. Six hours later, Japanese aircraft spotted the tanker and a three hour battle ensued, which resulted in the sinking of the Pecos. One of the destroyers, which had been with the Langley, heard the distress signal and hurried to the rescue. According to the testimony of Langley's Captain, R.B. Blackwell, Chaplain McGarrity survived the sinking of the

DREAMING BEYOND THE END ZONE COACH MAC

There is a lot of quiet pride in our hearts today. The passing of our coach, Vince McAneney, has rallied numerous teammates and friends to share their treasured moments. Though time and distance has separated us, the intangible values that were instilled upon us during our high school careers will remain with us forever.

People come in and out of our lives on a daily basis but the effect they have on us is permanent. Coach Mac had the ability to transfer his love and knowledge to all. To coach, to teach, to discipline and then continue to lead is a gift. Coach had that gift. Our coach had the skill to develop leaders and make a tremendous difference in our lives.

He would raise the bar and awaken everyone around him to rise above their failures. These experiences enabled everyone to gain strength through their adversities.

The Quiet Pride that we have at this moment is what Coach Mac was all about. The confidence we possess in who and what we are without the need to say a word is a reflection of the beliefs he demonstrated both on and off the field.

Some people live a lifetime in a minute. For my teammates and I, our time with our Coach was an eternity. Our coach was a disciplinarian whose role was to guide, direct, comfort, console and then discipline. He always said that most students come to school with an equal dose of potential. What made the difference was opportunity. He provided every student athlete that opportunity.

Coach Mac always created high expectations and set numerous standards for all of his student athletes. These demands helped us develop poise and self-confidence. He allowed us to dream and become the most positive and enthusiastic person possible. His philosophy was, "Life is a series of contests and teamwork is the essence of life." This philosophy resonates in all of his players. He always told us that life is not a race, but indeed a journey. He believed that dreaming was a necessity, because dreaming allowed you to become that which you aspired to be.

Coach Mac was our teacher and coach on and off the field. He was our beacon of hope and our guide to follow the correct principles in our journey of life. He would never diminish one's self-esteem, only enhance it. As our coach, he taught us how to block and tackle, more importantly, he inspired and motivated us to reach our potential and believe in the power of love and respect for all.

Our Coach Is The Ultimate Model Of Consistency.

Vince McAneney, thank you for being COACH MAC and allowing us to DREAM BEYOND THE END ZONE!

With Admiration and Appreciation,
Tommy DeFelice

Langley. "From the reports of the survivors", wrote Blackwell, "he administered aid and comfort to all hands within his reach up to the time he was last seen." The Chaplain was not among the 220 men saved from the combined crews of

about 700 of the Langley and Pecos. McGarrity was carried on the casualty rolls of the Navy as missing from March 1, 1942 until December 15, 1945, when his status was changed to "presumed dead".



Hall of Famer Lou Nolan

“Hall of Famer Lou Nolan”, has a nice ring to it.

After announcing the names of many Hockey Hall of Famers over his career, Nolan, one of West Catholic’s own, will now have the words “Hall of Famer” forever in front of his.

Recognizing Lou as an iconic member of the Philadelphia Sports community, The Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame will be inducting him as part of its 2015 class for his work as the longtime public address announcer of the Philadelphia Flyers.

I got together (through the wonderful world of multimedia) to ask Lou about his experiences at West Catholic and the road he took to become one of the most recognizable voices in Philadelphia.

I asked Lou about his time at West Catholic and the memories come rushing back. Lou has had so many great memories. Things like coffee at Ann’s across the street from the school, or simply walking around the block during lunch. Even Mr. Sikorski’s Haiku came immediately to mind.

There are so many that it would take days to list them. But most of all, he remembers the friends he made then and still has today from West Catholic - whether they were from his neighborhood in Southwest Philadelphia or those he met during his four years roaming West’s hallowed halls - those are his best memories.

Growing up, Lou called 61st Street and Lindbergh Blvd. his home. “St. Barney’s” was his parish.

“It was a great neighborhood and growing up, we played baseball and football on empty lots and later on our organized teams,” Lou said. Growing up he played for the Southwest Colts for baseball and the Elmwood A.C. for football. He was quick to mention both were pretty good teams.

The path to Broad and Pattison, where he is arguably the most recognizable voice in



Philadelphia sports today, began at 49th and Chestnut streets and was paved through West.

“I believe that my time at West prepared me to move on with my life,” Lou said. “I arrived, like all freshman, awestruck at being in high school, and left prepared to meet the world head on.”

Lou recalled how nervous he was the first time he had to address his class at West and how poorly he did. It’s funny considering now he is addressing 20,000 people at the Wells Fargo Center at least 41 times per season.

Lou became a hockey fan while attending St. Barnabas. He befriended a classmate whose uncle was a goal judge for the Philadelphia Ramblers of the

old Eastern Hockey League.

Lou and his friends frequented the Friday night Ramblers’ games. His love for hockey escalated quickly and he became

a rink rat by night and played street hockey by day.

He remembers taking the No. 36 trolley to 13th and Market Streets just to buy the newest hockey publications. His excitement skyrocketed in 1967 when he saw the NHL was coming to Philadelphia.

That summer, while vacationing in Margate, N.J., he met Joe Kadlec. Kadlec would become the first public relations director for the Flyers and hired Nolan to work as a press box assistant. Soon thereafter, Nolan took over the public address announcer job and, as they say, the rest is history. Finally, I asked Lou how it felt growing up in Southwest Philly

and now having his name mentioned among the names of the great individual athletes he grew up watching.

“[Southwest Philly was a place of] great friends and great neighbors,” he said. “It was just a terrific place to be from.”

In his Hall of Fame induction speech, which he was proud to say was heard by a table full of his Southwest Philly and West Catholic buddies, he told those in attendance how in awe he was of the names that came before him.

He mentioned an entire group of stars he idolized growing up, most notably Hall of Fame NFL linebacker and Philadelphia Eagles great Chuck Bednarik. Lou wore Bednarik’s No. 60 when he played for Elmwood A.C.

“It was an awesome and humbling experience to think that a kid from Southwest could wind up in the Philly Sports Hall of Fame,” Lou said.

We would like to congratulate Lou Nolan... make that Hall of Famer Lou Nolan... on this wonderful achievement and here’s to wishing him many more great years as “the in-arena voice of the Philadelphia Flyers.”

Class of 1970 Celebrates Combined 45th reunion

by Charles Hopkins '70

What a great night was had by all at the Springfield Country Club last October 23rd it was awesome to see your high school even grade school classmates. Where did that 45 years go? Wow!

First Kudos and Thank you for the excellent team that makes all our reunions happen Mary Mulholland, Eleanor Gallagher, Lilliani Able (all MBS girls), Mary Ellen Noble (St. Francis de Sales) and Bob Farrington (St. Barnabas). This starting five always does a great job, Muchos Gracias from all your classmates at 49th and 46th Streets.

The good that comes out of an evening like this is limitless and priceless. For example, sister Peggy McCullough IHM, West Girls '70, who is the principal and CYO director at Saint Barnabas, received donations to outfit the basketball team with their new uniforms, that continue to be green, white and orange with shamrocks and six new basketballs were donated by Bill McDevitt from B&E Sportswear. A \$1,000 check was also presented to Cathy Callanan West Girls '70 who is St. Barnabas enrollment manager and alumni director for the school’s greatest need. St. Barnabas enrollment increased by 100 students the past September greatly job Cathy.

There are good people like Bill Cory (MBS) who helps West students with their college ap-

plications and Al Perry (St. Barnabas) who sits on a number of charitable boards who always remember his grade school and high school roots (St. Barnabas & West Catholic) as his friends.

Another bird who chooses to remain anonymous works with the IHM Sisters at St. Francis de Sales and their adult education classes. He also helps to feed the homeless at Old St. Joe’s in Philadelphia with Sloppy Joe’s and the same guy is a facilitator to help indigenous people in Peru



Maggie Mulvihill Rubinate and Charles Hop Hopkins

with water filters and essential medical operations.

Mr. Bob Farrington, a Brother Burr and AOH man heads up the Dennis Kelly Hyberian Huger Project. This program benefits Catholic institutions like Little Sisters of the Poor at 54th and Chester Ave and food kitchens run by the IHM sisters in our neighborhoods. This program collects food

from 30 Catholic parishes and 8 Catholic High Schools. Super Job Bob!

Also another Brother Burr, Mr. Larry Legner (St. Clements) is a director of Christian Services at Malvern Prep High School, we will be hearing more from Larry soon.

The point is we all can do something to help the IHM sisters and faculty at St. Barnabas, St. Francis de Sales grade school and the Christian Brothers, Sisters and faculty at West Catholic Preparatory High School.

As we were given the priceless gift of Catholic school education let us help to return the favor.

These bonds we have with our schools will never be broken.

It is never too late to help out a little, whatever your means. We don’t want to look back and say, Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda! Consider using your time, talent and treasures while you still have all your marbles, well almost all your marbles, we all have lost a few along the way. In the peace prayer of St. Francis of Assisi there is great wisdom.

“It is in giving that we receive.” What is cerebral guy, he got it, he saw the big picture.

Let’s live our Legacy and keep the opportunity for Catholic Education alive and thriving in

Southwest and West Philadelphia.

The West Catholic Spirit is best demonstrated when we have a collective effort and teamwork.

Let’s go Burrs, step up and show your emotional ownership. Our time is now. Let’s get a win for the Blue and White, West Catholic High.

We Are the loyal Sons and Daughters who have spread her fame.

For our 100th year celebration in 2017, we hope to see everyone come out and celebrate -

“Hop”

West Is Best!

West Catholic Merchandise SHOP ONLINE NOW!

Alumni Merchandise items provide the opportunity to spread West Catholic Spirit & Pride while supporting your Alumni Association. You can see all of the merchandise and place your order at

www.WestCatholicAlumni.org

* Sweatshirts * Baseball Caps *

* Jackets * Regular / Mock Turtleneck *

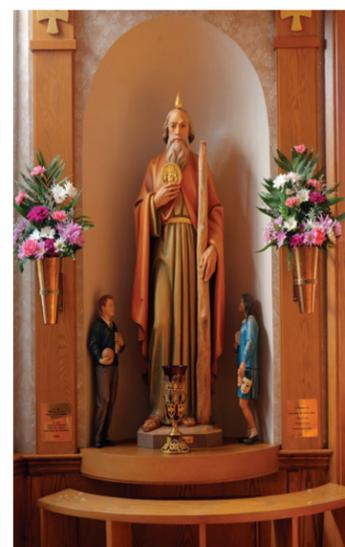
* Tee Shirts * Golf Shirts * Burrland Shirts * Sweat Pants

* Hooded Sweatshirts * West Catholic Print 49th St. * Flags

* Banners * Pennants *

CHECK OUT ALL BURR ITEMS ONLINE!

Stop and take note of the little things...



The photograph to the left shows the St. Jude niche in the West Catholic Prep chapel. The niche and statue were donated in the memory of Joan Marie McAllister Duffy, '50 by her family, which also arranges for the flowers shown in the photo to be replaced on a weekly basis. If you have not visited the chapel in the last few years you may want to schedule a visit as the Alumnae Association made donations to improve this holy space.

3rd Annual West Catholic Alumni Veterans Appreciation Mass by Johnnie Walker, Jr. '86



Veterans straightened up, stood a little taller, and on command, simultaneously executed a flawless hand salute as if they had never left the service. Veterans from all Branches of the Armed Services were represented serving in just about every era of American history dating back to WWII. The Mass was conducted by Fr. Jerry Carey WC '85. At the conclusion of mass,

killed in action serving their country during WW II. The picture is dedicated in loving memory: "West Catholic Alumni killed in WW II" with the West Boys motto "Pro Deo et Patria" (For God and Country) prominently displayed. They honored that motto with their lives.

Retired US Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Randy Duck, WC '84, prepared a Veterans Day video tribute to honor our WW II Survivors. Thanks to Ivory Allison, WC '97 the survivors were with Certificates from the City of Philadelphia commending them for their service. The three also received WW II pins, WC Alumni Pins, and a framed copy of the WW II Memorial Photo that was presented to the school.

Whenever Veterans come together, we always remember our fallen. This Veterans Mass was no exception. Tom A wreath was presented by Retired US Army Capt Arnold Mapp, '85 and WW II Survivor Michael Sheils '43. United States Army Lieutenant Martin Murphy, WC '88 played Taps from the balcony of the Auditorium to honor all of our fallen. The Playing of Taps is very special to all service members it is looked upon as the most appropriate and touching part of a military memorial.

The lyrics for Taps written by: Horace Lorenzo Trim
Day is done,
gone the sun
From the lakes,
from the hills,
from the sky
All is well,
safely rest
God is nigh.

Fading light
dims the sight
And a star
gems the sky, gleaming bright
From afar, drawing near
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise for our days



Neath the sun, 'neath the stars,
'neath the sky'
As we go, this we know
God is nigh.

They truly are the Greatest Generation.

I would like to thank Jim Mulhern our Veterans Committee Chair. Jim has resigned as a member of the Board of Governors for the Alumni Association. Thank you for all your hard work and years of dedication to the school, fellow Alumni and the Veterans Committee. I would also like to thank Randy Duck, who worked tirelessly to coordinate with the school and made sure everything came together, and the rest of the committee that helped to make the event such a success. Next year, we hope to see even more West Catholic Veterans come out for this tremendous event. If you would like to help prepare next year's Mass or join the West Catholic Alumni Veterans Committee, please contact Johnnie Walker via E-mail at fstsgetwalker@comcast.net

On Friday November 13, 2015 the Veterans Committee of the West Catholic Alumni Association held the 3rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Mass at West Catholic Preparatory High School. The Students were on hand as the veterans of West Catholic were honored. This year's special guests were from the class of

Chairman of the Veterans Committee Jim Mulhern WC '60 welcomed the students, faculty and guests and introduced Lieutenant Commander Jack Daly '76 USN (Ret.) as the Guest Speaker.

Lieutenant Commander Daly addressed the student body with a captivating presentation detailing his service career. The Lieutenant Commander then spoke about the West Catholic family and the significance of being



1943 WW II Veterans Harry Helms, Cliff Edgcombe and Michael Sheils.

Each year this event has gotten bigger and better thanks in large part to the coordination and cooperation of our Veterans Alumni Committee and the School. This year over 70 Veterans attended the Veterans Appreciation Mass. It was an awe inspiring sight as the Veterans came to Attention on command as the Army Color Guard marched in while the West Catholic Orchestra played a stirring rendition of the National Anthem. You could see the pride on their faces as the

associated with the its history and values. His message was well received by the students, faculty and fellow Alum in attendance. The Lieutenant Commander's remarks were followed by a memorial presentation and WW II tribute.

Tom McGinn, WC '65 with the help of Harry Helms and Cliff Edgcombe, both from '43 presented a Memorial Photo to President of West Catholic Preparatory High School, Brother Richard Kestler. The photo was taken by Tom McGinn and is a list of 153 West Catholic Alums and their Graduation years that were



Help Rebuild the Grotto, one brick at a time



8x8 sample brick with personalized message

As part of the West Catholic 100 year Anniversary celebration; The Veterans Committee of the West Catholic Alumni Association is going to rebuild the Grotto that was located at the Boys school. The Grotto was presented by the West Catholic Mothers Club in memory of the West Catholic Students who lost their life in service to their country. When the Boys school was torn down the grotto was salvaged with

the hopes of one day being able to relocate it on the Combined School grounds. Now with your help and the help of our Brick Campaign we hope to raise enough money to put the Grotto back on West Catholic property where it belongs. "PRO DEO ET PATRIA" Please go to our donor website using the following website www.PolarEngraving.com/WestCatholicAlumniAssociation

To Uniformed West Grads
We've been successful in getting the names of many of you that have served your country!
If you haven't let us know your current whereabouts, please fill out the coupon below and get it off to the committee soon!



West Catholic Alumni Association Needs All Veterans or Active Military

Are you a veteran or active military that has graduated from a school who's motto is "For God and Country?"
 The Alumni Association newly-formed Veterans/Military Committee would like to hear from you concerning your service to these United States!
 Please supply the requested information below and mail to:
 Mr. Jim Mulhern '60, Chairman
 244 Baltimore Pike, Unit 433, Glen Mills, PA 19342
 or e-mail to veterans@westcatholicalumni.org
 Any questions may be directed to any committee member listed below:
 Jim Mulhern (USMC) '60 - jmulhern@aol.com
 Rich McCann (US Army) '68 - webmaster@westcatholicalumni.org
 Harry Mirra (US Air Force) '52 - harrymirra@RCN.com

Name.....Branch of Service.....
 Street.....City.....State.....Zip.....
 Phone.....e-mail.....

29TH ANNUAL BURRS AT THE BEACH ALL CLASS REUNION!



Once again it is time for you to make plans to attend Burrs at the Beach. Westy's Irish Pub in North Wildwood NJ will be hosting on Sunday June 26, 2016 The 29th Annual Burrs at the Beach All Class Reunion. Our gracious hostess Peg West will once again welcome the West Catholic family to her lively establishment. Westy's Pub provides multi-dimensional party areas that include a huge upstairs covered deck overlooking the Inlet. A large air conditioned bar just inside the deck and of course the huge main air conditioned bar area downstairs. They will provide numerous complimentary food courts inside and out, upstairs and down with their usual culinary delights. There will be plenty of bars upstairs and down providing your favorite beverage. Believe it or not tickets are still just \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Thanks to an anonymous donor from the class of 1964, the 2016

Burrs will once again present Blackthorn, as the featured entertainment. Blackthorn is one of the premier cover bands in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey areas. Blackthorn plays a lot of cover music plus their traditional Irish music they are so well known for. Burrs at the Beach will also present DJ Jerry Smith; DJ Jerry will once again spin records that cover every era to satisfy all musical tastes between Blackthorn sets. Blackthorn and DJ Jerry Smith dazzled the Burrs with a versatile mix of traditional Irish music, golden oldies and traditional club mixes that appealed to the many generations of Burrs in attendance. The combination of live entertainment and DJ worked perfectly. We were forced to dance in the aisles because the dance floor was packed all day long.

We were pleased to welcome so many younger West Grads to Burrs at the Beach for the

first time. Our older alums remarked repeatedly that they enjoyed the opportunity to share their experiences, some history and traditions of West Catholic with our younger alum. The weather was perfect and Blackthorn was entertaining but the credit goes to the Burrs at the Beach Committee.

The Burrs on the Beach committee continues to do a spectacular job year in and year out. The committee Co-Chairs Tom Dorian, George Light and Peggy Sheffield Panichelli have done a remarkable job of organizing Burrs and making Burrs at the Beach the Best All Class Reunion of its kind. The Burrs on the Beach Committee members implemented a focused social media campaign on Facebook and Linked-In. The Committee was sure that changing the date to the last Sunday in June and the combination of DJ Jerry Smith and Blackthorn would encourage our West Catholic family to return to Burrs at the Beach in large numbers. That is exactly what happened! More importantly the changes appealed to our younger Burrs as we saw a large increase in attendance from our younger alum. This year we are expecting an even better turnout thanks in large part to conversation between the classes on the Alumni Facebook page.

Based in large part to

conversation on the Alumni Facebook page trying to determine which class was best represented the Alumni association thought it would be a lot of fun to turn this into a class competition. The Alumni Association is going to provide a prize for the class that has the most members in attendance at this year's Burrs at the Beach. So class leaders and reunion planners start getting the word out to your classmates and show your Burr Pride!

This year we will have 2 buses one leaving from West Catholic Preparatory High School Parking lot at 10:30

Johnnie Walker

Tip O'Leary's and 11:00 am sharp from Haggerty's Reserve your seat early as we only have 55 seats on each bus; so if you are interested fill out the bus coupons and send them in so we can get an accurate count.

We will continue the popular 50/50 drawing that sent three people home with just under a combined total of \$2,000.00 winnings. To make sure that everyone has a chance to win one of these prizes we will have many committee members filtering through all areas so that you may buy tickets. All funds raised by Burrs at the Beach goes to West Catholic Preparatory High School for student tuition assistance.



am and we one from locations in Delaware County; Tip O'Leary's Saloon at 300 West Chester Pike in Havertown, PA. (610) 789-1414, ask for Cathy Murphy and Haggerty's at 2373 Macdade Blvd Holmes, Pennsylvania 19043 (610) 461-9534 ask for Frank Rodia. Pick up time is 10:30 am sharp at

I look forward to Burrs every year to catch up with friends, old neighbors and classmates. It's the one time each year when the West Catholic family comes together. I hope to see you all there. Please plan to attend so that we may continue to keep WEST BEST!!

Maybe The Time Has Come BY B. M. (WCBHS - 1962)



On a December night, over thirty four years ago (1981), Daniel Faulkner was killed in the line of duty. That day, he left his home and his wife to begin his shift with the expectation of coming home. He was only 25 years of age. His story touched me because he was a southwest boy who grew up and later settled in the area that I knew all so well.

He was the youngest of seven children, born to an Irish-Catholic family that settled in the southwest section of Philadelphia (Wilton Street). Unfortunately, his father (who

drove the 13 trolley for the old P.T.C) suddenly died of a heart attack when Daniel was a young boy. Daniel was raised by his working mom and his older siblings. The boys used to take orders at the Acme (54th and Chester Ave) and later took turns working at Cy-Harolds. Daniel left High School before graduating and joined the U.S. Army where he earned his High School Diploma and an

Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. Daniel had a dream of working in Law Enforcement with the hope of someday becoming a prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office.

His law enforcement career began with him becoming a corrections officer but his goal was enhanced when he became an officer in the Philadelphia Police Department in 1975. Daniel met his wife to be (Maureen) around 1977-1978 and they were married in 1979. They bought a house in southwest Philadelphia where Daniel became active and

was the neighborhood leader for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the organizer of the Annual Softball Marathon to benefit that charity. One of his childhood friends had suffered from the disease and Daniel felt strongly about helping in the fight against M.D.

Daniel Faulkner was a young man with clear goals and dreams. He truly represented an American Story in the best



traditions of our nation. He was raised by a loving family and was building his own family with the same love and determination with which he had grown up. He took

time to serve his country. He was bright and energetic—caring and giving to his neighborhood, to his friends and to his profession.

I have a vague recollection of Daniel's brother Patrick who graduated from West Boys in 1969 and I was informed that another brother, Lawrence, graduated in 1966. What I have come to realize is that this was a neighbor, a good family and a good man and I would hope to see the Alumni / Alumnae and the Administration of West Catholic Prep honor this man whose life was

shortened and to honor his family by making Daniel a member of the West Catholic community - to award him an Honorary West Catholic diploma. I have wanted this for years and suggested this many times in the past and have recently been given the opportunity to express this to the Alumni/Alumnae by some of the members of the Executive Board of the Alumni Association. I would like to thank them for the opportunity and hope that, Daniel Faulkner, will be honored by my fellow graduates.

THE EMISSARY
is currently issued twice a year by the Alumni Associations Communications Committee If you would like to contribute please send you ideas, questions, comments, photos, suggestions, updates on family, friends or classmates, etc...along to westcatholicalumni@gmail.com

West Catholic Sports Class of 1956 60 Year Anniversary By: Ed Kerr, Jr., '60

The West Catholic football team of 1955 was led by former University of Pennsylvania star quarterback, Carmen Falcone. Coach Falcone also played in the National Football League with the Eagles and New York Giants. He was a blocking back and T-Formation quarterback playing in the 1945 and 1946 Blue-Gray games and co-captained the North squad in 1946. Coach Falcone's staff at West Catholic included Charley Pastorius a star lineman for the 1951 West team that won both the Catholic League and City of Philadelphia titles. While the Burrs of 1955 had convincing victories over St. Thomas

More, St. Joe Prep, Roman Catholic and John Bartram, they finished the season with a record of 4 wins and 4 defeats. While not winning a



championship this team played hard fought games led by their All-Catholic running back, #22 Jim McLaughlin, his co-captain George Mullholland, Jack Kirlin, George Ott, John Hopkins, Bob Saraceni; Frank McNally who would become a legend at the new West Catholic as an important member of Coach Brian Fluck's coaching staff. While football was playing a competitive schedule with key performances coming from the players mentioned above, the

basketball team enjoyed a very good season. Key contributors were: Jim Dunn, John Driscoll, John O'Reilly, Ray Brown, Bob Dickey, Ed McCafferty, Bob Fagan, George McHenry, Frank Cona and Rich Clune, Jimmy Usilton's 1956 team went to the finals of the Catholic League only to lose to North Catholic by 10, the same difference they enjoyed in a victory over the Falcons during the season. Interesting note about the West Catholic vs. Bishop Neumann contest, the game was played at the former South East Catholic at 7th & Christian Streets, since the Gymnasium at 26th & Moore had not yet been completed.

SUPPORT YOUR



- HOW CAN YOU HELP...**
 * **MAKE A DONATION ONLINE**
 * **PURCHASE MERCHANDISE**
 * **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME**

Go to our website
www.WestCatholicAlumni.org
 get involved & help make a difference!

www.WestCatholicAlumni.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

May 10 - Alumni Association Meeting

May 12 - Boys Class of 1958 will celebrate the 58th Anniversary with a luncheon at the Clarion Hotel, Essington, PA. For information contact Frank Adolf at fjadfa1539@comcast.net

JUNE

June 3 - Senior Induction Ceremony at West Catholic

June 13 - Alumni Association General Meeting

June 25 - WC/ SWCA Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Wildwood NJ

June 26 - Burrs At The Beach - Westy's Pub - North Wildwood NJ

SEPTEMBER

9/11 Memorial Mass - West Catholic Preparatory Auditorium date TBD

Cardinal O'Connor Golf Outing - more details to come

OCTOBER

Homecoming Weekend

NOVEMBER

November 4 - CLASS OF 1966 50th REUNION call Dot McShane 215-755-4354 or Frank Tallon 610-446-3160
November 19 CLASS OF 76 40th Reunion Girls & Boys Reunion Lazaretto Ballroom, Please contact Patti Gallegher Dougherty @ pdougherty01@comcast.net

DECEMBER

2nd Annual Secret Santa Brigade -sign up early to make a difference in the lives of some of our West Catholic Families!

MARCH 2017

Sports Hall of Fame Now accepting nominations for all sports. please email westcatholicalumni@gmail.com with the name, class and sport and your reason for the nomination!

APRIL 2017

96th Communion Breakfast date TBD

MAY 2017

100th Anniversary Gala - more details to follow Be sure to visit the Alumni Website and get the most up to date information on all of the upcoming events and news about the Burrs and West Catholic!

for up to date info visit us on the web at www.westcatholicalumni.org

Class Reunions, Luncheons and Events

Your Alumni Association can provide your Reunion Committee with a current listing of your classmates. Any Class planning a reunion or that would like to plan one, please call the Alumni Office at 215-387-8560 If you are having a gathering of any kind let us know about it. We can post it online at www.WestCatholicAlumni.org as well as put it in print for your right here in the Emissary. Just send an email to westcatholicalumni@gmail.com or call the alumni office at 215-387-8560

Own a business in Pennsylvania?

Give through your state taxes Pennsylvania offers a rewarding program for businesses to send their states taxes to West Catholic as a donation. Called Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC), you can provide scholarships and financial aid for our students who live in underachieving school districts of which over 95% of our student body qualifies. Your state business

tax dollars can bring young men and women out of these failing schools and offer them a chance to excel here at West Catholic. The process is as simple as filling out a one page form.

Contact Andrew Brady '02 to learn more about the program at abrady@blocs.org or call Andrew at 484-704-2309.

IN MEMORIAM

May They Rest In Peace Please keep the families of our deceased in your prayers

NAME	CLASS	NAME	CLASS	NAME	CLASS	NAME	CLASS	NAME	CLASS
John J Davis Sr.	1937	Rev. Msgr. Robert T. McManus	1945	William H. Logan III	1951	James A. Bendel	1957	Joseph Yanak	1964
George A Kuhn Sr.	1937	William R. Johnson	1946	Henry J. Lample Sr.	1952	Michael J Gardner	1957	Raymond F. Colliton	1965
Joseph F. O'Donnell	1938	Francis J. McMenamin	1946	James J. Dunleavy	1952	Edward J Mc Cafferty	1957	Thomas L Kirk	1965
Father Phillip Barr	1938	Father James R. Brady	1947	Rev. Msgr. Hugh P. Campbell	1952	Thomas B. McEvoy	1957	Dennis B. Bourke	1966
Charles V. Whalen, Jr.	1939	James A. Heavens Sr.	1947	Walter F. McNulty Jr.	1952	Ernest M Pellicciotti	1957	Richard M. Bradley	1967
James H. Boylan	1939	John F Mortimer	1947	John P. Gibbons	1953	Robert E. Gormley	1958	Brad N. Lewis	1967
Thomas F. Cain	1939	Edward T. Suffern	1947	Michael J. Dougherty	1953	Walter F Riess Jr.	1958	Henry J Rodgers	1967
Walter A. Donikowski	1939	Peter J. Brown	1948	John F. "Jack" Maguire	1953	Domenick A. DeBlase	1959	Thomas V. Garr	1969
Francis "Dixie Dunbar	1940	George V Doney	1948	James R Teta Jr.	1953	William Luther	1959	Michael R Padula	1969
Elizabeth Cassidy Courter	1941	Robert McKenna	1948	William A. Dever	1954	Francis J McManus Jr.	1959	Janetta Hardy	1972
Walter J. Fite	1941	Anthony J. Ragusa	1948	Frank R Acquarola	1955	Joseph A. Coffey Jr.	1960	Michael P. McGeehan	1972
James J Magee	1941	James T. Kane	1949	Frank P. Cabrelli	1955	Gerald Harley	1960	Richard Johnston	1975
Thomas J Tobin	1941	John Duffy	1949	Michel P Fahy	1955	John G McMurrrough Jr.	1960	Robert J Trasatti	1978
John J. Botley	1942	John J Fossett	1949	Charles J. Reilly	1955	Robert G Soyka	1961	Gerard M Schuhl	1983
Joseph Boyle	1942	John B. Luttrell	1949	William H. Stewart	1955	Robert J Birzes	1962		
Paul V. Harkins	1942	James F. Carrow Jr.	1950	Joseph M Flanagan	1956	William J Delany	1962	class year could not be confirmed	
George M. Harrington, Jr	1943	John J. Skane	1950	David J Kelly	1956	Harry A. McManus	1962	Martin J. Porrini	
Edward F Lindsay Sr.	1943	Thomas L. Trainor	1950	George A, Matters	1956	John Erins	1964	Thomas S. Leonard	
Charles A. Bosch	1944	James F. Warrington	1951	George F. McLane	1956	James F. Kelly	1964	James E. Scully Sr.	
Neil E. Sandman	1944	William C. Ward	1951	Joseph L Pretzello	1956	Peter Ward	1964	Hugh J. Fitzgerald Sr.	
John J. Fitzpatrick	1945							Nicholas R. DeCredico	
								Frank J. Agent	