West Babylon Alumni Foundation

Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

November 2, 2013
Program

Pledge of Allegiance
Welcome
Ralph Rienzo ‘64, President,
West Babylon Alumni Foundation

Superintendent’s Message
Anthony Cacciola ‘79

Board of Directors’ Award
Margaret (Peggy) Ehrensperger

Dinner

Hall of Fame Inductees
Patrick M. Farrell ‘73
Michael J. Rizzo ‘67
Dominick Varrone ‘67
Dr. John Bernardo ‘64

Closing Remarks
Ralph Rienzo

Dessert
Hall of Fame Inductees

2009
Erica Crespi '88
Jonathan Reese '86
Mozelle Thompson '72
Judy Skillen
Senator Owen H. Johnson
Helmer Petersen (posthumously)

2010
Thomas C. Teufel '88
Dr. Charles Thompson '72
Thomas McAteer '71
Justice Ralph Costello '59
H. Austin Sheldon, Jr., (posthumously)

2011
Dr. William G. Hawkins '87
Lawrence Doyle '76
Dr. Christopher Proto '72
Dr. Daniel McCally '64
Major Melvyn Kloor '59

2012
Dr. Debra Viti '77, (posthumously)
Eric Kraft '61
Silvio Impagliazzo

2013
Patrick M. Farrell '73
Michael J. Rizzo '67
Dominick Varrone '67
Dr. John Bernardo '64
Hall of Fame Board of Directors' Awards

2010
Dr. Robert J. Manley

2011
Martin P. Kennedy
Dr. Anthony Capone
Mathew Wilensky

2012
Frank Taplin

2013
Margaret (Peggy) Ehrensperger
MARGARET (PEGGY) EHRENSPERGER

Peggy Ehrensperger began her teaching career at West Babylon High School in 1973, after graduating from Adelphi University in Garden City, NY. She started in the Physical Education Department. Three years later, she obtained her master’s degree and accepted a position teaching Health Education. She was also part of team teaching in the Humanities Program offered at the high school. Thirty-seven years is a long time to spend in one school district, but Peggy could never have been happier to begin and end her career in West Babylon.

Through the earlier years, Peggy coached field hockey, volleyball, and basketball, and met many wonderful students and young athletes. Many opportunities were extended to female athletes during that period, due to the inception of Title IX. It was a time of change and a time of re-evaluation, which opened up many avenues for both young men and young women.

One of the most challenging undertakings of her career was serving as Advisor to Blue and Gold. This theatrical event raised at least $10,000 per year in scholarship money. Although highly competitive and often controversial, Blue and Gold taught students responsibility, self-respect, and was all-inclusive. It also offered a unique opportunity to learn about different cultures and time periods in history in an entertaining context.

Under Peggy’s advisement, Leaders’ Club served as a platform to launch many volunteer programs. She taught students to be civic minded and to think globally. The liaison that was established between the West Babylon High School and the Christa House was evidence of how a community can help the less fortunate.

Any student who played a part in the International Milk Project, Haiti Relief, the World AIDS Day theatrical production, the Breast Cancer Walk, AIDS Walk, or March of Dimes, will remember what it means to step outside of oneself and help others.

To sum it up, here’s what Peggy said to her students: “It is important to do well, but it is more important to do good.”
Patrick Farrell is a proud, lifelong resident of West Babylon. He graduated from West Babylon High School in 1973 and is also a Veteran of the U.S. Army.

Pat’s volunteer service began with the West Babylon Fire Department where he attained the rank of Captain of Co. 8. He was involved with the Department’s Rescue Squad and the Racing Team. Pat coached soccer for the Our Lady of Grace Soccer League which later became the South Shore Soccer Club. He also coached for the West Babylon Football Conference League.

He began his association with the West Babylon Community Youth Center as a hockey coach. Ultimately, Pat took what was a one room building and through his efforts, perseverance and countless hours helped create and develop the West Babylon Community Youth Center. Pat’s vision and ultimately a dream come true was for him to see the Senator Owen H. Johnson Community Youth Center built and dedicated in 2006 with the support of Senator Owen Johnson and Babylon Town Supervisor Steve Bellone. Pat said it was a very proud moment for him, the Youth Center Board, his family and our town. For over twenty years, Pat has served as the President of the Board of Directors. The Youth Center continues to grow as the Center hires over 40 teenagers each year from the community. With his leadership, through participation in the Wounded Warrior Program, Special Olympics Wheelchair Basketball Training, and the Adopt a Family Program, the center also serves as “a way for us to pay back” by assisting families in need during the holidays, replenishing our church pantries and lending support to the community throughout the year. In collaboration with the Town of Babylon, the gymnasium at the Youth Center was renamed “The Patrick M. Farrell Gymnasium”.

Working with Legislator Dave Bishop and Town of Babylon Supervisor Steve Bellone, Pat was instrumental in the development and construction of the “Field of Dreams” which was the first artificial turf field for a non-profit organization.

In 2003, Pat was elected to the West Babylon Board of Education and served until 2012. During the last three years of service, he held the position of Board President. He is proud to be a member of the West Babylon Wellness Organization, Vietnam Veterans of America and American Legion Post # 1634. Pat is also an active member of the West Babylon Sports Parents Organization continuing to spend many Fall Saturdays volunteering in the concession stand raising scholarship money for graduating High School seniors.

Pat’s wife Maria is also a West Babylon graduate. Pat and Maria have two children, Ryan and Nicole, who are West Babylon graduates as well.
MICHAEL J. RIZZO

Michael Rizzo, born in Brooklyn, moved to West Babylon in 1958 when he was ten years old. He attended the Main School, West Babylon Junior High and graduated in 1967 from West Babylon Senior High School. Michael was always very patriotic and loves his country. He was, and still is, “red, white and blue all the way”. Upon graduation from high school, he enthusiastically joined the United States Marine Corps. He served in Vietnam and received the Purple Heart medal.

After a lengthy recovery in St. Albans Naval Hospital, his Navy doctor suggested he attend college. His goal was to be a History teacher and he hoped to make his career in West Babylon. He attended C.W. Post College graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1974. His goal and dream came true. He was offered a job in West Babylon teaching World History while working on his Master’s Degree which he received in 1976. His motto, which he shared with his students was “enthusiasm is contagious”. He did his best to demonstrate this motto every day.

During his 37 years of service at West Babylon, he was also employed as an Attendance Teacher, High School Assistant Principal, and class advisor. During this time, he also received his Professional Diploma in Administration and Supervision.

In 1986, he transferred to the West Babylon Junior High as Assistant Principal. In 1993, he was appointed Principal of the Junior High. It was as Principal of the Junior High where he felt he made the most impact on his students. Immediately upon his appointment, he introduced the motto “Be All You Can Be” to his staff, students and parents. He tried his best to live up to this motto and encouraged the staff, students and parents to do the same. Often when he addressed students and staff, the motto was used to make a point. The bottom line was “give your all”, try hard and do your best! A message he hoped his students adopted in their daily life.

In 2008, he was appointed West Babylon Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. He feels he made significant staffing decisions while in this position he found so rewarding. He retired in 2010.

In addition, he worked diligently on the original committee to establish a public library in West Babylon. For over a year, the committee campaigned for a library. This was accomplished in 1981. Today, we have a state-of-the-art library in West Babylon.

He was a proud member of the West Babylon Lions Club for 33 years, serving as secretary and president. He received the Melvin Jones Award for Lionism. An award he is very proud of.

Michael is married to his wife Joan since 1969. Joan is also a 1967 West Babylon graduate. They have two children, Tracey and Frank, and four wonderful grandchildren.
DOMINICK VARRONE

Dominick Varrone graduated from West Babylon High School in 1967 and attended S.U.N.Y. at Cortland where he earned a B.A. in Psychology. Upon graduation in 1971, he enlisted in the New York Air National Guard where he served for 12 years, being honorably discharged at the rank of Master Sergeant. While in the National Guard, he joined the Suffolk County Police Department in 1972 where he served for over 39 years, working his way up through the ranks from Patrolman to Chief of Detectives. He retired as Chief of Detectives on 12/31/11.

As a police investigative supervisor, he had been involved in the highest profile cases that the Department has faced in the past two decades such as the 1994 Long Island Sniper case and the crash of TWA Flight 800.

In 1992, as a Detective Lieutenant and Commander of the Suffolk PD Kidnap Investigation Team, he headed the investigation of the disappearance/kidnapping of 9 year old Katie Beers, a crime story which garnered national and world-wide attention. This year marked the 20th anniversary of Katie’s rescue and Katie Beers has released a book “Buried Memories”.

More recently as Chief, Dominick had been in charge of such high profile cases as: “The Patchogue Murder of Marcello Lucero”, “The Search for Missing Person Shannon Gilbert”, “The Gilgo Beach Serial Murders”, and “The David Laffer/Medford Pharmacy Murders”.

He holds a Master of Professional Studies degree in Criminal Justice Leadership from St. John’s University and is a graduate of the 189th session of the F.B.I. National Academy.

Dominick has lectured at the F.B.I. National Academy as well as NYPD’s Homicide School. He has appeared on numerous TV news and talk shows including “Prime Time Live”, “the Discovery Channel” and “20/20”. In July of this year, he was a featured guest on an hour long episode of CBS’s “48 Hours” about the Long Island Serial Killer.

In 2003, while serving as the Second Precinct Commander, Dominick was selected by the Huntington Tri-Community and Youth Agency to their “Hall of Honor” for community service and dedication to youth. In 2011, while serving as the Chief of Detectives, he was named “2011 Law Enforcement Person of the Year” by ASIS International.

Dominick has been a lifelong resident of West Babylon where he resides with his wife Antoinette. Their two children, John and Catherine, are both West Babylon High School graduates; both are married and also reside in West Babylon.

Dom’s lifelong passion has been jazz music and he is an accomplished tenor saxophonist. He participated in the West Babylon Alumni Band Tribute Concert for Ed De Iulio who passed away in May of this year. Dom has fond memories of West Babylon High School, particularly, of the many teachers who had a great impact on his life: “I am forever indebted to Barry Titone who got me started on sax and Ed De Iulio, who with a background as a former marine, taught us discipline and how to strive for excellence; he was one of the most positive influences on my life who helped make me who I am”.


John Bernardo is a 1964 graduate of West Babylon High School. He attended the University of Illinois in Urbana, where he earned a degree in Mathematics with honors, in June 1968. He worked briefly at Grumman Aerospace in Bethpage before enrolling at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago in 1969. He was awarded the Doctor of Medicine degree with honors, in 1973 and trained in Internal Medicine at New York Hospital-Memorial Hospital and Boston City Hospital. Dr. Bernardo studied Pulmonary Diseases at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland.

In 1979, he returned to Boston where he joined the faculty of the Pulmonary Section at Boston University School of Medicine. He currently is Professor of Medicine and Research Professor of Biochemistry at Boston University. Dr. Bernardo is Board certified in Medicine and Pulmonary Diseases. He attends on the Pulmonary and Allergy clinical consultation services and in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Boston Medical Center. He also serves as Tuberculosis Control Officer for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In these capacities, he is engaged in basic science and clinical research studying cell signaling mechanisms and tuberculosis. He is active in national tuberculosis work and is immediate past Chair of Stop TB USA and past-President (2006-2007) and current President-elect of the National Tuberculosis Controllers' Association. His research has been supported by NIH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Bernardo lists numerous scientific publications in his vitae.

Dr. Bernardo resides in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He married the late Nancy Barry of Central Islip in 1971. He and Nancy have 2 children, Michael of Harrison, New York and Elizabeth Szklenik of Framingham, Massachusetts. He also has a granddaughter, Sophie Bernardo of Harrison, New York.
ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation was established in 1997 and re-organized in 2008. The West Babylon Alumni Foundation is comprised of graduates from 50 years of students.

The purpose of the Foundation is to perpetuate the “tradition of excellence” in the West Babylon School District.

The Foundation has set goals of awarding scholarships, creating a “Hall of Fame” and establishing a website, as well as a grant program for student clubs and organizations.

THE MISSION

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation, Inc. is a broadly based, non-profit organization whose purpose is educational and charitable to secure and distribute contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations for the benefit of the students in the West Babylon Public Schools and by doing so, perpetuate the unique experience and traditions.

ADVISORY BOARD

Donald Cowdell
Robert Duggan
Thomas McAteer

Jonathan Reese
Judy Skillen
Mozelle Thompson

2013 OFFICERS

President – Ralph Rienzo
Vice President – Chris Connors
Treasurer – Noreen Lico-Wood
Secretary – Joan Datena Weinschenk

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elaine Billings Alexander
Barbara Burrows
Anthony Cacciola
Carol Modafferi Foisset
Rosemary Rizzo Menendez
Louise Pastore Scelza
Sheila White

You can find the Foundation on the school district’s website at:
www.wbschools.org and also at www.westbabylonalumni.org

Register as an alumni ~ See Reunion listings ~ Get Foundation Information

Or contact us at:
wbalumni@wbschools.org
# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## 2008 SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Janene Gaffney

## 2009 SCHOLARSHIPS

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**
Miss Taylor Davino
Miss Grace Drewes

## 2010 SCHOLARSHIPS

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**
Miss Molly Bianco
Miss Emma Leary
Miss Emily Toner

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION ALBERT J. RITACCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
Mr. Jesse Powers

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION TONY CANNIZZARO SCHOLARSHIP**
Mr. Mark A. Palminteri
Miss Amanda Whitaker

## 2011 SCHOLARSHIPS

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**
Miss Kerry Clancy
Mr. Andrew Howard
Miss Jamie Rizzi
Miss Taylor Stone

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION TONY CANNIZZARO SCHOLARSHIP**
Miss Amanda Birr
Miss Amalia Drewes
Miss Alexa Goebel

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1960 ARTS SCHOLARSHIP**
Miss Amanda Birr

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1960 ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIP**
Mr. Thomas Walthers
Miss Taylor Webb

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION HELMER PETERSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
Miss Amalia Drewes
Mr. Shane Salanitri

**WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION ALBERT J. RITACCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
Mr. Daniel J. Apuzzo
Mr. Jeffrey Orelien
2012 SCHOLARSHIPS

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Justin Fitzpatrick
Miss Deandra Livoti
Miss Stacie McGann
Miss Jamie Nankervis

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION TONY CANNIZZARO SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Mark Carr
Miss Jennifer Hirshkowitz
Mr. Samuel Schmid

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION BERNARD "BUNNY" BRENNAN CLASSIC SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Paul Chiappone
Mr. Gaetano Innamorato

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1961 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Sydney Davino
Miss Allison Lazzaro

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1986 MEMORIAL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Ashley Marinello
Miss Rachel Mercorella

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION RICHARD J. DOYLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Rachel Mercorella

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION PAUL O’BRIEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Megan Ossmann

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION HELMER PETERSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Melissa Flaherty – 4 year school
Miss Salina McAlvin – 2 year school

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION ALBERT J. RITACCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Tyler Hartmann
Mr. Michael Kata
Mr. Michael Richardson
Mr. Reginald Robinson
Mr. Unique Ford
2013 SCHOLARSHIPS

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Joseph Campbell
Miss Bianca Latragna
Miss Heather Lian
Mr. Thomas E. Rhatigan, III

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION TONY CANNIZZARO SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Joseph Meighan

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION RAYMOND M. MEISENHEIMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Jessica Leeb

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1962 SUPERSTORM SANDY SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Jordan Musante
Miss Jessica Prager

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION HELMER PETERSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Lauren Marciano - 4 year school
Miss Francesca Deantonio - 2 year school

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION FRANK TAPLIN SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Sarah Bosworth

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION RICHARD J. DOYLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Taylor Buscemi

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION PFC SALVATORE ARMATO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Kathleen Tonnesen

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION BERNARD “BUNNY” BRENNAN CLASSIC SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Kerrin Toner

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION CLASS OF 1986 MEMORIAL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP
Miss Heather Egan
Miss Michelle Konik

WEST BABYLON ALUMNI FOUNDATION ALBERT J. RITACCO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Mr. Jacob Lipani
Mr. Clifton Melhado
Sponsors

West Babylon Teachers Association—Patricia Squicciarini, President
West Babylon Lions Club—Robert Congiusta, President
Cosmo's Service Station—Joseph Barbieri '72
Brunello's Pizza & Pasta—John Raimondi '89
Long Island Title
WB Fire Depart Chiefs—Chief James A. Campbell, Chief of the Dept
Green Cactus—Chris Connors '76, Larry Doyle '76, Bob Kerzner '76.

Donors

Leroy & Noeleen Douglas (In honor of Murry Friedland,
Mr. Douglas' 9th Grade Algebra teacher at the WBHS 1956-1957)

Mrs. Theresa McKenna (in honor of Mike Rizzo & Peggy Ehrensperger)

Mrs. Frances DeSimone Becque-Class of 1975

Melvin and Ruth Noble

Mr. Jon Link (in honor of all inductees/awardees)

Mr. Mike Serigano – Class of 1974 (in honor of Grace Serigano)

Dr. Daniel McCally (in honor of Dr. John Bernardo)

Mr. Donald Cowdell
Michael & Joan Rizzo
Ms. Margaret Ehrensperger

West Babylon String Ensemble
Under the Direction of Elizabeth Leidel

Anika Chowdhury, Eric Froehlich, Christina Kielczewska,
Madison Milito, Anthony Morante, Christiana Morante,
Tara Smith and Cristina Soto
ALMA MATER

The Eagle is a symbol of the high school we hold dear.
A school that those of us who know, regard without a peer,
Her colors Blue and Gold, when seen, do gladden every eye,
Of all those sons and daughters of our own West Babylon High.

Chorus

Oh, dear old Alma Mater to you we will be true,
You'll live forever in our hearts, West Babylon we love you.

“Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle”

Miss Samantha Bifulco, Class of 2013 Graduate,
and business owner of TerraNut, Inc,
provided the “NutPunch” favors.