

It's Membership Renewal Time

Please Act before Dec. 15 Deadline

This issue of 1111 Echoes concludes the Reds Heritage Society's 18th successful season. As one of our valued members, it is time now for you to renew for the 2018-19 season. Your membership dues again will be only \$25 for the full season (just 48 cents a week).

To remain on the Society's membership rolls you must act by the Dec. 15 deadline. So please put your new membership form at the top of your "To do" list.

As a paid up member, you'll continue to receive three newsletters annually, plus exclusive invitations to our 19th Annual Reunion and other special events.

If you already have paid your membership dues for 2018-19 you do not have to take any action. To check your membership status, call Mal Goldenberg at 401-782-6623.

We sincerely thank you for your continued support.

A Heritage Society membership makes an ideal and affordable Christmas gift. Act today!



Shirley Toppazzini is presented with a bouquet during her acceptance of R.I. Hockey Hall of Fame honors for her husband, the great Zellio Toppazzini.

Rhody Honors Hockey Greats

Sixteen 'pillars of the game' inducted into R.I. Hall of Fame

By Mark Diver
Assistant Sports Editor
Providence Journal

Editorial note: The Providence Journal and author have given our Society the right to publish this article in 1111 Echoes.

Sixteen hockey legends were inducted into the new Rhode Island Hockey Hall of Fame on Thursday night, Sept. 20, at the Twin River Event Cen-

ter in Lincoln, R.I.

"As players and as pillars of the game, our charter class represents the very best of our state's rich and illustrious 120-year hockey heritage," said Hall of Fame chairman Vincent Cimini before a crowd of nearly 400 people.

"We conceived this Hall of Fame to be more than simply a tribute to great players or a me-

Rhody Honors Hockey Greats

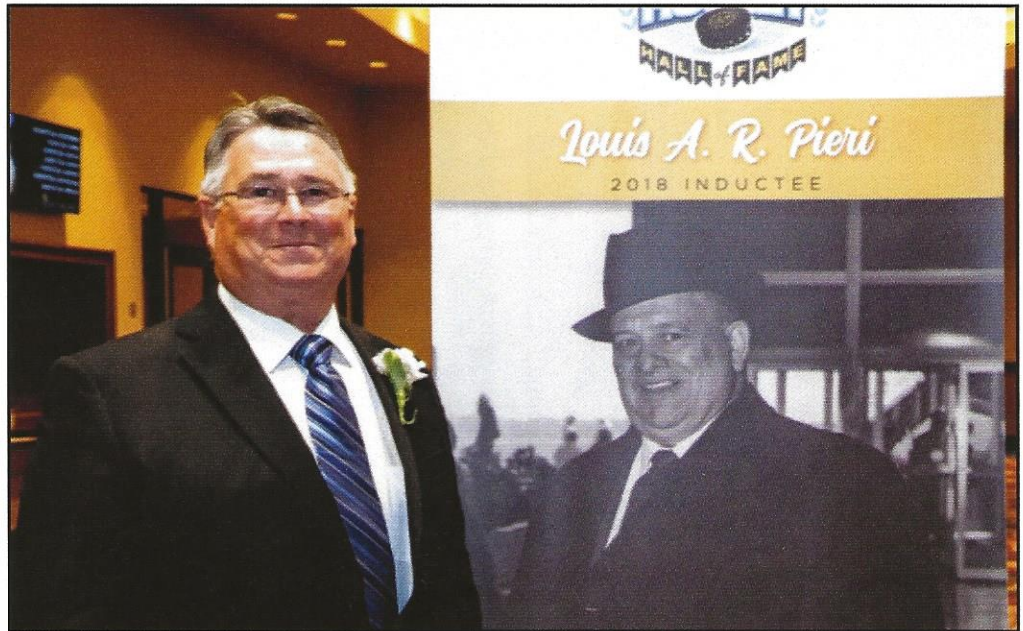
From Page 1

morial to fond memories. It is an investment in the future of Rhode Island hockey — an inheritance of evidence and inspiration we leave to future generations that hockey dreams really do come true.”

The inductees: Bill Belisle, Curt Bennett, Harvey Bennett Sr., Bryan Berard, Keith Carney, Joe Cavanagh, Sara DeCosta-Hayes, Cammi Granato, Lou Lamoriello, Brian Lawton, Lou Pieri, Dick Rondeau, Mathieu Schneider, Chris Terreri, Zellio Toppazzini and Ron Wilson. For now, the Hall of Fame is a virtual shrine located at RIHHOF.com, but bigger plans are in the works.

“In the coming months we hope to install an interactive “Wall of Fame,” a public memorial at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center to pay perpetual tribute to our inductees. Eventually, we plan to create a Museum Exhibit to memorialize our illustrious hockey history and charitable programs to expand the opportunities for more young Rhode Islanders to play and enjoy our great game,” said Cimini.

Also honored on Thursday night was 94-year-old Ralph Warburton, who was the first recipient of the Malcolm Greene Chace Trophy for “Lifetime contribution of a Rhode Islander



Lou Pieri, grandson of Reds owner and R.I. sports legend Louis A.R. Pieri, stands by the banner of his grandfather at the Hall of Fame induction.



Banners of 2018 inductees line the hallway outside the banquet room at Twin River Event Center.

to the Game of Ice Hockey.” The trophy is named after a Rhode Islander who was instrumental in the introduction of hockey in Rhode Island the Northeast in the 1890s.

An All-Stater at La Salle Acad-

emy, Warburton was a star at Dartmouth in the 1940s. He became the first Rhode Islander to skate in the Olympics in 1948 in St. Moritz, scoring 16 goals in eight games to lead the American team.



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Handshakes and Laughs Start Reunion Weekend

By Joe Rocco
Heritage Society Board of Directors

There was no shortage of hugs, handshakes and laughter on Friday, August 3rd at the annual meet and greet welcome reception to kick off "Reunion Weekend" at the Hampton Inn in Warwick.

Among the 70 who attended were former Reds players including Willie Marshall, Bruce Cline, the oldest living member of the 1955-56 Calder Cup winning team, Ray Clearwater, Danny Poliziani, Howie Menard, Doug Keeler and Buzzy Deschamps. Some of the former players took their turn at the microphone speaking fondly of their days wearing a Reds jersey including Andre Peloffy of North Carolina, who attended this reception for just the second time and first time in 10 years.

Mike Corrigan came for the first time. He made the trip from Florida. The former Springfield Indian, who also played on a Stanley Cup winning Pittsburgh team, was delighted to be among old friends even though he never played for the Reds.

No former player took longer to get to Rhode Island than Ron Garwasiuk, who drove in from Alberta, Canada, to attend for the first time. He remarked throughout the weekend what a fantastic time he was having, and he plans to recruit former players from out



Boston comedian Steve Guilmette keeps the crowd in stitches.

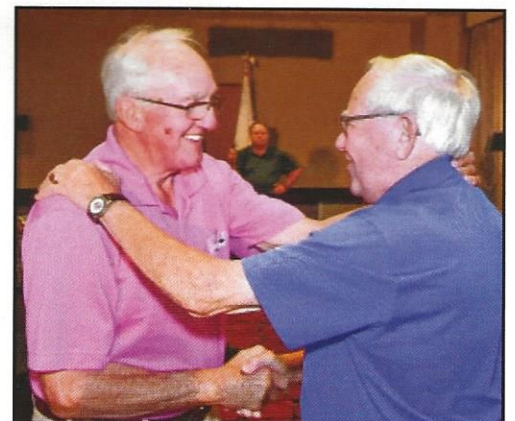


John Finley and Donna Buck.

west to attend next year.

Hall of Fame trainer Pete Demers, who was with the Reds for two seasons in the late 1960s, remains a loyal participant in Reunion Weekend. Pete flew in from Los Angeles.

Boston comedian and special guest Steve Guilmette was a big hit with a 30 minute set that was family-friendly and very funny.



Dan Poliziani and Bruce Cline say hello.

Golf was among his many topics. "So I had to get some exercise and I took up golf. Lost 30 golf balls. Turns out I'm the only guy that has to have his ball retriever re-gripped".

The enthusiasm from all in attendance served as another testament to a strong tradition of passion and loyalty to a Reds team that was beloved by so many.



Helen Duffy, wife of the late George Patrick Duffy, shows her Frank E. McCaffrey Award after the presentation by Heritage Society Board Member Tom McDonough, left.



Boston Bruins announcer Jack Edwards shares some tales from the black and gold.

A Hat Trick of Honorees

McCaffrey Award goes to women who support shaped the Reds

By Bill Connell
Heritage Society Treasurer

The 2018 Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society Reunion continued on Saturday evening Aug. 4 with a formal event at Chelo's in Warwick. The highlights of the evening included awards presented to three amazingly committed women who defined grace and distinction in supporting their husbands' careers. Honors also went to AHL all-time leading scorer Willie Marshall, and Jack Edwards,

Boston Bruins play-by-play announcer.

Long overdue in being recognized, the Heritage Society paid tribute to a triumvirate of women whose husbands helped define the franchise. Shirley Toppazzini, wife of Zello Toppazzini, "The Greatest Red" ever to lace up a pair of skates, Helen Duffy, wife of Reds play-by-play man and Rhode Island "Sports Parade" legend George Patrick Duffy, and Marielle Mayer, wife of "The Needle," superlative goaltender Gilles Mayer, were honored for

their service to their husbands, families, and the organization. It was very rewarding to see these women receive Frank E. McCaffrey Memorial "Fan of the Year" Awards for the commitment they made to their husbands' careers both on and off the ice. It was a fitting twilight tribute to the women who mattered most during the Reds heyday.

Those in attendance had the pleasure of listening to a man who, after his playing days end-

Continued on Page 5

A Hat Trick of Honorees

From Page 4

ed, devoted himself on a spiritual plane. Willie "The Whip" Marshall is the lion of the American Hockey League.

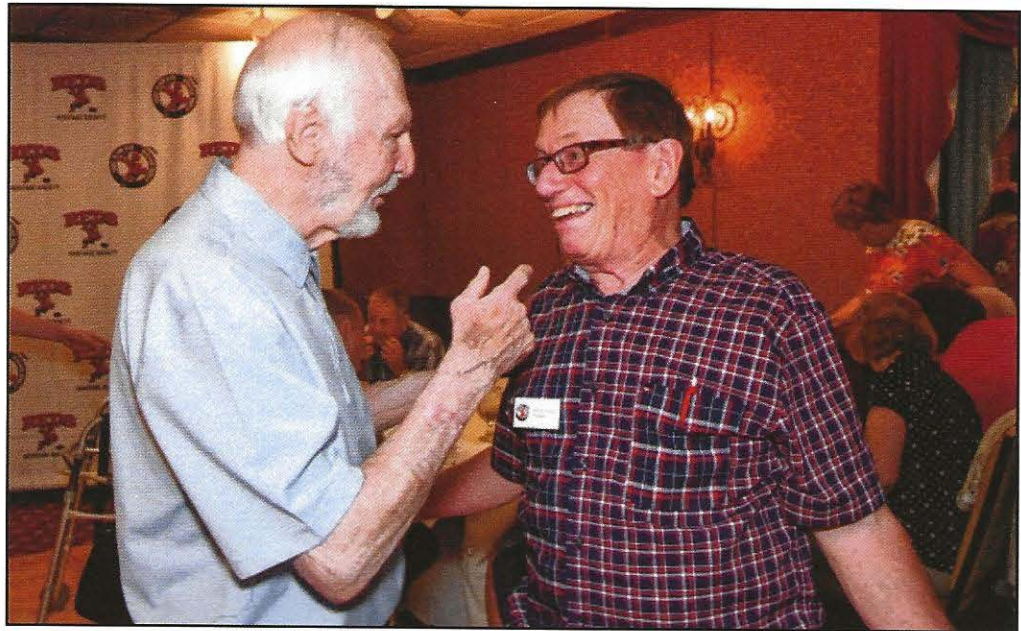
He holds all-time records for most goals, most points, most assists, most hat tricks, and most games-played. He played in Providence for three seasons in the mid 1960s.

His humility and devotion to a higher existence were on full display as he related anecdotes and some highlights of his career to an eager audience. During the 2003-04 season, the AHL honored Mr. Marshall by naming an award after him given to the league's leading scorer.

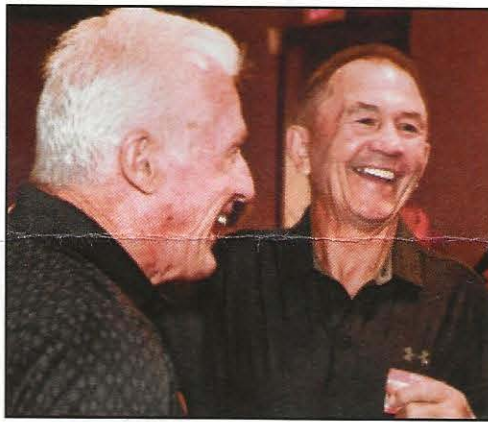
Following the meal, the evening continued with keynote speaker Jack Edwards. The impeccably dressed "Voice of the Bruins" regaled the group with an amazing timeline of his career. Nearly all were very surprised to discover that Jack worked for NBC10 in the mid-1980s, and he looked back with fondness on his time in Providence, even commenting that he still communicates with Channel 10 veteran Patrice Wood, his coworker from thirty years ago!

The UNH alum went on to describe how he seized the opportunity to land the Bruins' job, the holy grail of New England hockey broadcasting.

It was a great evening spent in the company of awesome guests who had much to offer. Looking forward to next year's reunion!



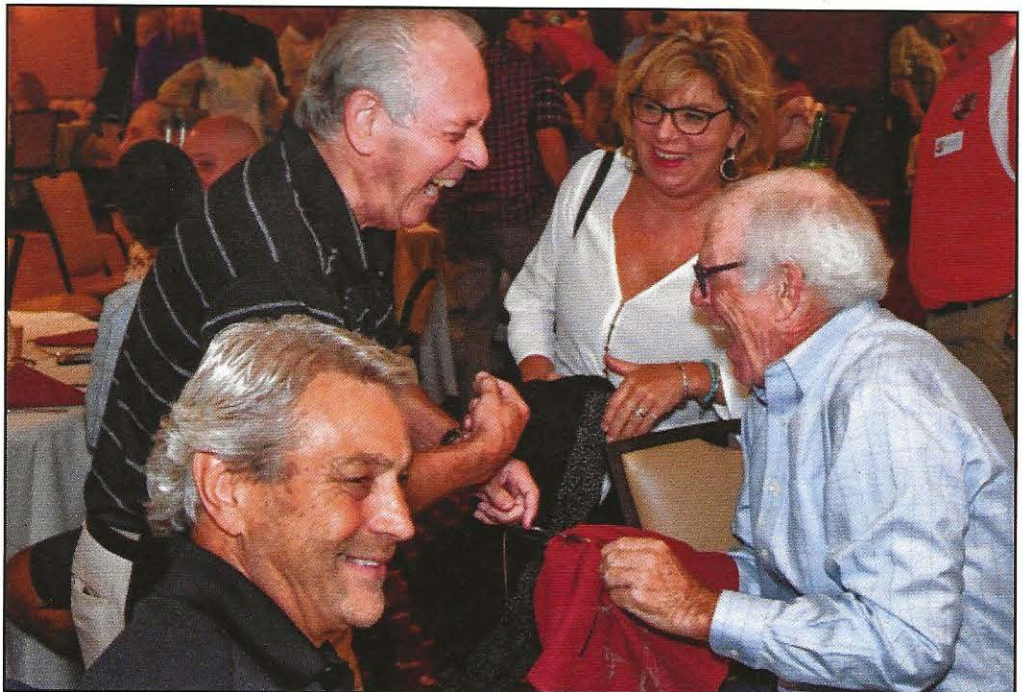
Hockey legend Willie Marshall and Heritage Society Secretary Bill O'Connor.



Ray Clearwater and Bob Leduc.



Shirley Toppazzini receives her award.



Andre Peloffy, Howie Menard and Hartland Monahan.

The Word of the Day: LEADERSHIP

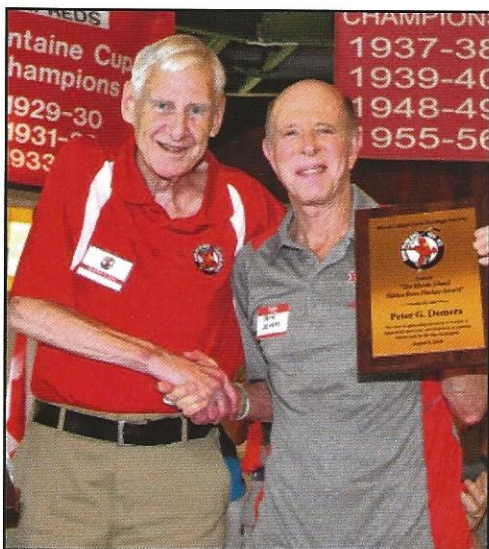
By Arnie Bailey
Heritage Society Vice President

The Sunday program at the 2018 reunion of the R.I. Reds Heritage Society was all about leadership.

A sell-out crowd of close to 250 turned out under balmy temperatures and summer skies at the Goddard State Park carousel.

Tops Award winners for the Society's 19th annual reunion were George Army and Dave Creighton, who brought their special brands of leadership to the hockey franchise.

Army was the pioneering team trainer who served the Reds longer than anyone else, a total of almost 40 years. Army's own career in sports had begun with baseball



Pete Demers receives the Native Born Hockey Achievement Award from Society President Buster Clegg.



AHL legend Willie Marshall, recipient of the first-ever Ray Ross Memorial Award, addresses the crowd.

where he was a catcher in the minor leagues for 15 seasons, also catching some of that game's greatest – like Walter Johnson and Lefty Grove – during off-season barnstorming tours. George's son Tom and daughter Sharon DiNapoli accepted the award for George Army who passed away in 1969.

Creighton capped a 12-season NHL career with four years with the Reds in the AHL, most of that time as player-coach. He is one of just a handful of players to play at least 600 games in both the NHL (where he played 615 games with four teams) and the AHL (800 games). An inspirational leader, he is the last player-coach to be named the AHL's Most Valuable player.

It was trainer Army's inspiration that led Pete Demers into that profession and a career that began with the Reds and continued to the NHL and eventually to a place in the Hockey Hall of Fame. Demers grew up in the shadow of the old R.I. Auditorium and was once one of the "rink rats" at that historic facility. He received the Society's Native Born Hockey Achievement Award.

An award given for the first time this year went to Willie Marshall, the AHL's all-time scoring leader. The Ray Ross Memorial Award honors the memory of the speedy forward

Rhode Island Reds Hockey Heroes take the stage at the Sunday reunion barbecue. A sell-out crowd of almost 250 people packed the carousel building at Goddard State Park.



The Word of the Day: Leadership

From Page 6

who was a fan favorite as a Reds player, then a devoted supporter of the Reds Heritage Society. The award commemorates perseverance in both hockey and life.

Willie talked about his colorful career and signed copies of his new book, "The Willie Marshall Story: My Icy Road To Recovery." Ross played his entire pro career in the AHL at a time where there were only the original six NHL teams. Marshall, despite his scoring exploits in the AHL, played only 33 games in the NHL

One of the special guests at the Sunday event was Rick Middleton, just a few days after the Boston Bruins announced they would retire his number 16 in ceremonies scheduled for November 29. "Nifty" scored 402 goals for Boston placing him third in franchise history behind Johnny Bucyk (545) and Phil Esposito (459). He played for the Reds in

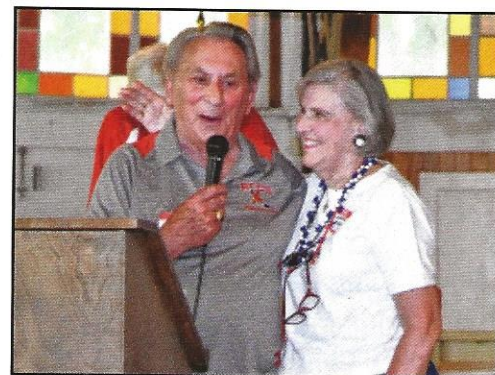


Bruce Cline entertains some of his younger fans.

1973-75, scoring 36 goals among his 84 points.

Also honored on Sunday were the high school players selected as "Unsung Heroes" for the Society coaches in the R.I. Interscholastic League (see Page 8).

Delicious grilled pizza hoers d'oeuvres and a luncheon featuring steak, chicken and much, much more added to the afternoon's excitement, as did the silent auction and raffle.



George Army's son and daughter, Tom and Sharon, accepted the Tops Award on his behalf.

Heritage Society Recognizes Unsung High School Heroes

By Andre Mayer

Heritage Society Board of Directors

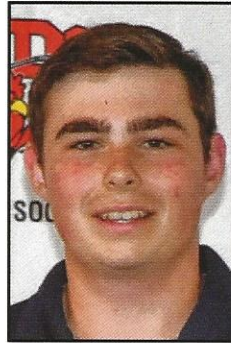
This year Rhode Island high school hockey coaches submitted a total of 15 nominations for the annual Unsung Hero Awards. The awards are given in memory of three legendary former Reds players according to position; the Chuck Scherza award for forwards, the Ferny Flaman award for defense, and the Gil Mayer award for goaltending or exemplary defensive play.

This year's recipient of the Chuck Scherza award for boys was Nick Klassner, representing the Rogers/Middletown/Rocky Hill Co-Op team. Smithfield High School's Sydney Nobrega was voted the girl's award winner.

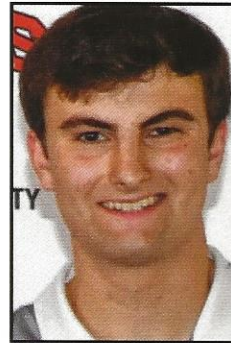
Nick was not a natural hockey player. He had to use his heart and passion for the game, as well as his dedication to himself and his teammates, to work his way into the lineup. His hard work and upbeat good nature were significant reasons for the team's success this past season.

Nick stood out as an honor roll student at Rogers High School while co-managing his family's Three Angels Fund, which raises money for the Newport Hospital Cancer Research Fund. He also assists a friend with Downs Syndrome to enable her to manage her life more easily.

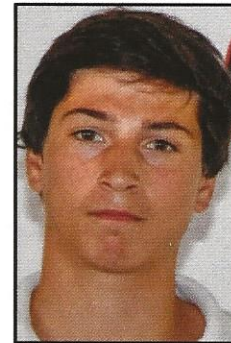
Sydney received early acceptance into the Salve-Regina Nursing program. She taught herself and now speaks fluent



Nick Klassner



Tyler Piekarski



Nick Bernardo



Symantha Ahaesy

Spanish. Throughout her high school career, she has volunteered to mentor students before school to help them improve their grades. A quiet but effective leader, she gives 110% on the ice and for that was voted her team's captain.

Tyler Piekarski of Smithfield High School and Symantha Ahaesy of LaSalle Academy received the respective Ferny Flaman awards.

Tyler received excellent grades at Smithfield, was voted captain of the team and was named a Hobey Baker Award winner for his constant display of character and sportsmanship.

He also managed to lead his Sentinels defensive corps in scoring this past season.

According to her fine coach, Sean McNamara, Symantha was asked to play defense because of her superior skating ability and her knowledge of the game.

She enthusiastically accepted this re-assignment knowing full well that she could miss out on individual awards but would benefit the team with the move.

Off the ice, she volunteered to

assist young players in northern RI and coordinated the team's Christmas Drive to provide holiday gifts to the residents of Amos House in Providence. She was also an honor student.

The Gil Mayer award was presented to defensive standouts Nicholas Bernardo of Barrington High and to Shannon McCamish of the Warwick Girls' Co-op team.

Nick was converted from forward to defense and rivaled his netminders for shots blocked.

In doing so, he became one of the top defensemen in the state. Even as a blueliner, he was a major contributor to his team's scoring.

He was a quiet leader who set a winning example for seniors and freshmen, alike.

Shannon was captain of her team and took this responsibility to recruit and train new players for the team.

She was an advocate for good sportsmanship in all aspects of the game. Most notably, Shannon played through both physical pain and the emotional strain of dealing with the untimely death of her best and closest friend.