

*Distinguished Members  
National Wrestling Hall of Fame*

*From*

*New York*

**Vincent Zuaro 1984    Frank "Sprig" Gardner 1986**

**William P Farrell 1987    Leroy Alitz 1992**

**Ed Banach 1993            Lou Banach 1994**

**Jeff Blatnick 1999            Gene Mills 2000**

**Lou Giani 2003**

*Outstanding Americans*  
**David Pottruck 1994**

**Hiraoki "Rocky" Aoki 1995**

**Steve Friedman 1993**

**William "Billy" Baldwin 2003**

*Outstanding Officials*  
**Pascal Perri 1995**

**Mark S Piven 1997**

*7th Annual  
National Wrestling Hall of Fame  
and Museum  
Dinner and Induction Ceremony*



*September 21, 2003  
RIT INN & Conference Center  
14586 W Henrietta Rd.  
West Henrietta, NY*

## New York Chapter Mission Statement

The future of American Society depends upon the existence of a strong citizenry, comprised of individuals with leadership qualities based upon self-discipline, self-reliance and self-confidence.

The sport of wrestling helps build these characteristics in youth, regardless of their physical, economic, cultural or geographic backgrounds. The National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum seeks to broaden the understanding and development of these values in the following manner:

1. Through recognition of those who have demonstrated these characteristics while achieving or developing excellence in the sport as wrestlers, coaches, and contributors.
2. Through recognition of those who have demonstrated these characteristics while achieving excellence in other walks of life after participating in wrestling.
3. Through the maintenance of documentation and memorabilia that depicts and preserves the history of the sport.
4. Through the stimulation and encouragement of those who establish and conduct activities at all levels nationwide.
5. Through the development of State Chapters that will continuously strive to enhance the image of the sport of wrestling at the state and national levels.

## Induction Program

2:00 pm

### Reception

3:00 pm

### Welcome and Introductions

Art Connorton  
New York State Chapter  
Board Member  
Master of Ceremonies

3:15 pm

### Invocation

Rev. Arthur Jones  
Mt. Sinai Church of God & Christ  
Binghamton, NY

### Dinner

4:15pm

### Awards Ceremony

Art Connorton

### Presentations of Jackets

Jack & Sonja Stanbro  
Dir. New York State Chapter  
NE Dir. State Chapters

### National Wrestling Hall of Fame

### Closing Remarks

Michael Clair  
National Wrestling Hall of Fame  
State Chapters Executive Director



## New York State's Lifetime Service to Wrestling

### Donald DeBadts



Like his fellow 2003 inductee, Frank Marotta, Don DeBadts is a recipient of the Leo Bernadi Award from the Section 5 Wrestling Officials Association. Don received this award in 1986 in honor of his outstanding service as a past president of the organization, as a trainer of officials, and as a member of its executive board. Don also worked with Frank and others in developing New York State's officials evaluation system. In short, Don is another reason behind the outstanding success of high school wrestling in Section 5 and in New York State.

Don took over as head coach of the wrestling program at Deposit Central High School in 1963. He stayed there for two years and produced two Pioneer League Championship teams in 1963 and 1964. Then he moved on to Liberty Central High School where his teams went undefeated in 1965 and 1966, becoming City DUSO League Champions and Village DUSO League Champions. In 1968 Don became head coach at Geneseo Central School. He remained there until his retirement from coaching in 1992. In 1978 and 1980 his teams were Section 5 Class B Champions. He coached teams to the Livingston Conference Championship in 1980, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987.

Many of Don's wrestlers went on to compete at the collegiate level. Of particular note are Ron Lewis of Potsdam State; Kevin Richard, an NCAA Division III Champion; and Ray Ruliffson who has the second highest number of career wins at R.I.T. Don coached three Section 9 individual champions during his early years and more than 20 for Section 5 while at Geneseo Central.

To keep active he also coached cross country, track, football and baseball.

Don is a Life Member of the Section 5 Wrestling Officials Association, a charter member of the Section 5 Friends of Wrestling, and the founder and current treasurer of the Geneseo Central Sports Boosters. He has served as wrestling chairman of Section 5 from 1983 to the present. He has directed the Genesee Valley Tournament for thirty years. He evaluated officials at several NCAA Division I tournaments in the 1980s and 1990s. He introduced the 22 point scheduling system to New York State. And he served as Director of Recreation for Geneseo from 1972 to 1999.

Somehow, Don also found time to serve as president of Geneseo Kiwanis and has compiled a 25 year perfect attendance record with that fine fraternal organization.

In recognition of his talents as a coach and of his years of dedicated work with officials, coaches, volunteers, boosters and tournament organizers for the continual improvement of our sport, the National Hall of Fame proudly inducts Donald DeBadts.

## New York State's Lifetime Service Award

### Frank Marotta



The success of high school wrestling in New York State, and certainly in Section 5, is due in no small part to Frank Marotta. He loves the sport - that goes without saying. More important, he loves the kids.

After graduating from the University of Rochester in 1959, Frank returned to his high school alma mater and began a 35 year career as a social studies teacher in the City of Rochester School System. His coaching and officiating career began in 1961 when he became the Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach at Madison High School. He became the Head Wrestling Coach at Madison in 1970 and held that position until the school was closed in 1981. While he was the JV Coach, his teams lost only one dual meet in nine years. His dual meet record as Head Coach is 101 - 25. Madison was its league's champion outright in 1972, 1975 and 1980 and was co-champion in 1974 and 1978. He coached many Section 5 champions; and several of his wrestlers went on to compete at the collegiate level.

His high school coaching ended when Madison was closed. Frank then taught at East High and assumed heavy responsibilities in that school's accelerated academic program until his retirement in 1994. In 1994 he received the Excellence in Secondary Teaching Award from East High and The University of Rochester.

Although no longer coaching a team, Frank continued to teach wrestling as the head male instructor of the NCAA sponsored National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) at Monroe Community College during the summers of 1981 to 1994.

Frank became the Executive Secretary of the Wrestling Officials Association of Section 5 in 1965 and he represented Section 5 at state meetings since then without ever missing a meeting. In 1976 he was elected NYSWOA Vice President and was appointed chairman of the Ethics Committee. Frank served as President of the NYSWOA from 1978 to 1980 in which capacity he attended the National Rules Meetings representing New York State and served as the Official Rules Interpreter for the state. Since 1980, Frank has served as the Chairman of the NYSWOA Selection Committee which screens applicants nominated by local chapters to officiate at the State Championship Tournament. Frank is also the Chairman of the NYSWOA Evaluation Committee (and has been since 1980) reviews and evaluates the 12 officials who work the state tournament each year. His computer database includes evaluations of every official who worked the State Tournament since 1978.

In the early 1970s Frank was involved in the organization of the Association of Greater Rochester Sports Officials, which later became the United Sports Board Council (USBC), for the purpose of negotiating fees and working conditions between Section 5 and all sport officials' groups. He is currently the Vice President of the USBC and represents the WOA of Section 5 before that organization.

Frank was one of the organizers of the Friends of Section 5 Wrestling, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting high school wrestling in the area. This group does all the things you could expect of it, including soliciting contributions, running an annual golf tournament to raise money, hosting an annual Dinner of Champions, sponsoring a Section 5 Wrestling Hall of Fame and providing uniforms, warm-ups, T-shirts and such to their wrestlers. In addition, the organization helps Brockport Coach Don Murray in the running of the Brockport/Oklahoma Wrestling Tournament which is accompanied by a wrestling clinic each November, giving their kids a chance to see some outstanding Division I competition each year.

Frank's efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 1975 he received the Leo Bernadi Award for outstanding contributions to officiating. He received the National Federation Award in 1985 and the Terry Justice Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to wrestling in 1992. He was inducted into the New York State Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1994. Last year he received the Friends of Athletics Award for outstanding contributions to coaching.

A great coach, a fine teacher, a tireless volunteer for his sport, a benefactor to countless kids, Frank Marotta enjoys the esteem of all who have worked with him. He brings a sense of professionalism to all his endeavors on behalf of our sport that reflects well on all of us, and especially on himself. He is very deserving of the recognition by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.



## New York State's Lifetime Service Award

### Walter Teike



Ever wonder why Section 5 enjoys such wrestling success? Well, here's one reason - Walter Teike.

Walt began his coaching career in 1957 at Brockport High School. Over the next decade he spread his coaching talents around building good programs in the Rochester area at Pittsford High School, Bishop Kearney High School and Edison Tech High School before settling in to direct the program at Spencerport High School in 1966. He remained there until 1981 and compiled an outstanding record.

His Spencerport Wrestlers were New York State Co-Champions in 1975. He produced nine consecutive Monroe County championship teams and seven Section 5 championship teams. He retired from coaching for a while after 1981, assuming the duties of Athletic Director at Spencerport; but he eventually returned to the mat as the coach of Monroe Community College's team from 1989 to 1991 and at East Rochester High School in 1992 and 1993.

In 1993 Walt resettled in Tucson, Arizona and has continued coaching at Amphi High School and Catalina Foothills High School there.

Walt has coached six Amateur Wrestling News All-Americans, two Division I All-Americans, and two Junior College All-Americans. His overall record, so far, is 312-68-5.

He was the Junior World Team Leader in 1975 and in 1977.

Walt is also an accomplished wrestling official at the high school and college levels, and he has continued to officiate matches in Arizona.

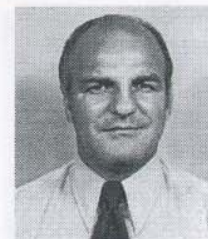
It bears mentioning that Walt served as Equipment Manager for the 1997 NCAA National Championship University of Arizona basketball team.

Walter Teike was inducted into the New York State High School Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1991.

New York wrestling is the poorer for Walter Teike's relocating to the Southwest, but he greatly enriched it for years and thoroughly deserves the recognition of the National Hall of Fame bestowed upon him today.

## Outstanding American from New York State

### Frank Anthony Bettucci



Frank Bettucci is an alumnus of Cornell University which is located in his home town of Ithaca, NY. He graduated in 1953 and, after service as a first lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne Division, also earned an MBA there in 1958. While an undergraduate he compiled a record of 45-0-1. He was an NCAA Champion and was voted the Outstanding Wrestler of the 1953 NCAA Tournament. He also earned three EIWA titles in the years 1951, 1952 and 1953 and was the Outstanding Wrestler in that competition in 1953.

Frank wrestled for the Army and for the New York Athletic Club after graduating from Cornell. His post graduate record is 155-2-10. He won National AAU titles in 1957 and 1960, and he won the Wilkes Open Tournament (then called the "Rose Bowl of Wrestling") a record eight times. Frank was a member of the United States Olympic Team in 1956 and again in 1960. He went undefeated in USA Olympic Wrestling in each of those years and was selected as the Outstanding Competitor in the 1956 Olympic Tryouts. Unfortunately, injuries prevented him from competing at the 1956 and 1960 Games. He was also the National YMCA Champion from 1954 to 1961. Frank has been honored with memberships in the New York State Wrestling Hall of Fame, the Cornell University Hall of Fame, and the Eastern Inter-collegiate Hall of Fame, selected in each instance upon his first nomination. He also served as an Assistant Coach and Freshman Coach at Cornell from 1961 to 1965. He is especially proud of his undefeated 1961 freshman team, winners of that year's West Point Freshman Championships.

In 1966 Frank went to work for the federal government's Agency for International Development (USAID) -first assignment: Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam. As Deputy Provincial Representative, Frank was the liaison between provincial government authorities, USAID and US Military officials on all aspects of USAID development programs within this province of 5,000,000 inhabitants.

Frank remained with USAID in Vietnam until 1975. He kept track of people, equipment, projects work progress, money and costs, etc. during extraordinary times and under extra-ordinary circumstances. He developed and managed programs for urban and rural youth. He became the chief American advisor to South Vietnam on the operation of the port of Saigon and other Vietnam ports, a position that required staggering logistical and management skills. He located and directed needed supplies and equipment for AID projects throughout the country. He managed housing arrangements for over 900 USAID personnel. By 1973, Frank was preparing, reviewing and recommending capital improvement projects throughout Vietnam involving millions of dollars in infrastructure development. Eventually, he became a trade specialist whose duties included investigation and surveillance of importers of supplies and equipment for USAID projects in South Vietnam.

After leaving Vietnam in 1975, Frank served in Haiti as a supervisor of capital improvement projects and proposals. From 1978 until his retirement from USAID in 1989, Frank served in Washington as Regional Executive Officer with responsibilities for East and South Africa. He also undertook extended assignments (2-3 years) in Ouagadougou and Burundi and temporary duty assignments (three months each) in Harare, New Delhi, Zimbabwe, Mbabane, South Africa (three times), Rwanda, Nairobi, Swaziland, and Somalia.

In short, Frank Bettucci has compiled a superb record as a wrestler and an accomplished career as a public servant who has gone where most needed and admirably served the needs of our nation and of the world. The National Wrestling Hall of Fame is very pleased to honor him today as an Outstanding American from New York.



## New York State's Lifetime Service Award

### Joseph W Shifflet



Some coaches spread their talents around; some settle into a comfortable slot and work miracles there year after year. Joe Shifflet was the head wrestling coach at the Sweet Home School District for 21 years: Won 332, Lost 54, Tied 3.

Joe's teams won 13 league championships and placed second five times. They won six Sectional Championships. He coached 70 individual league champions, 14 Section 6 Champions, and eight of his

wrestlers placed fifth or better in State Championship meets.

From 1970 to 1978 Joe's teams produced 26 individual Sweet Home Sectional Champions. From 1979 to 1990 he coached 44 ECIC individual champions. Nine of those championships were won by wrestlers named Joe, Tim and Tom Shifflet. A list of 34 of Joe's most successful high school wrestlers shows career records ranging from 53 wins, 25 losses, 1 tie to 165 wins, 15 losses, 1 tie.

Joe has also coached baseball, track, and football at the high school level with notable success. He has served as Assistant Coach at Buffalo State College and at the University of Buffalo. He has run many Federation and AAU Tournaments for all age groups and for many years ran the Section 6 Championship Tournament.

In 1986 Joe was honored as the Western New York Coach of the Year. He received the Western New York Sportsmanship Award for Wrestling in 1989. In 1994 he was recognized for his achievements as a wrestling and football coach and as an athletic director by the Amherst Avenue of Athletics Hall of Fame. He was elected to the Sweet Home Coaches Hall of Fame in 1995.

Today, the National Wrestling Hall of Fame gratefully recognizes the years of service and the accomplishments of Joseph W. Shifflet.

## New York State Medal of Courage

### Robert John Sulkoski



Rob Sulkoski is seventeen. He was born to young parents who were unable to care for him, and he has lived in eleven different foster homes since the age of three when he was diagnosed with what he describes as a mild case of cerebral palsy. At age eleven, Rob underwent the first of eight surgical procedures on his legs. Tendons were lengthened, bones manipulated, and muscles moved around. After several months of immobility, Rob was able to discard his leg braces, walkers, and wheelchair.

Rob found wrestling while attending the Junior High School at Queensbury. We'll let him speak for himself:

"When I was in seventh grade, I really wanted to play football, however I couldn't run fast enough or manipulate the ball well enough. So, my good friend John Payne (who now wrestles varsity @ 112 lb for Queensbury) told me to try wrestling. Well, I talked to the modified coach and he said no way, it was too dangerous. So I went to the school nurse and again the answer was no. So I tried an intramural program called Mat Rats and liked it. So next year, I asked again, and the answer was still no. So on the first day of practice, I just showed up and he gave me one scrimmage with a team-mate. After that, I was immediately given a spot on the team. However, I rarely got a match. So after a long, boring season, I quit my wrestling career."

Rob moved to a couple of new foster homes, and new schools, winding up living in Milford and attending high school at Oneonta. This was not a good period for Rob. His grades slumped; he goofed off; he became depressed. Then he began to turn things around.

"My junior year was very successful! I got my life back on a fairly good track I did pretty well academically also. In late October I decided to restart my wrestling career, and I found that I enjoyed it most of the time. The running and training was very hard on me due to lack of good cardio-conditioning. But I am starting to run months before this coming season starts.

For me wrestling does many things. It helps me with: physical conditioning, building physical, emotional, and mental strength, focus, frustration, social life, and much more.

I started up again, wrestling at the JV and varsity levels at Oneonta. I didn't win much except for forfeits, but I learned a lot this past season. I learned that no matter how boring that first season on modified was, I never should have quit, but I'm glad I started again and I plan to keep wrestling throughout college. I feel that I was very successful this season, however this coming year is my senior year and I need to try harder this year."

Every coach wishes for a young man like Rob Sulkoski.

The National Wrestling Hall of Fame proudly awards the Medal of Courage to Robert John Sulkoski.



## *Presenters for the Honored Guests*

*Out Standing American from New York*

Honored Guest: Frank Bettucci

Jack Stanbro

*Medal of Courage*

Honored Guest: Robert Sulkoski

Tom Marks

*Life Time Service Awards*

Honored Guest: Donald DeBadts

Walt Peterson

Honored Guest: Frank Marotta

Jim Wild

Honored Guest: Joseph Shifflet

Tom Shifflet

Honored Guest: Walter Teike

Dr. Ron Winnie

Previous Honorees:

Earl Fuller, Jim Howard, Leo Johnson, Tom Robertson

Don Quinn, Norm Foster, Ed Michael, Richard Post, Art Connorton,

Stan Elinsky, Steve Erber, Frank Sorochinsky, Orlando Turco

Lacey Jones, Jack LaBombard, Frank Millard, Stan Riggs

Elmer Akley, Doug Lobdell, Laurence Rector, Jack Williams,

Steve Friedman, Bill Layton, Jimmy Miller, Roger Miller, Carmon Molino

Board of Directors

New York State Chapter

National Wrestling Hall of Fame

*President-Jack Stanbro*

Fred Kemp Edward Michaels

Jim Howard Tom Robertson Stan Elinsky

Art Connorton Leo Johnson

Thank You

For

Attending

And

Helping

Celebrate

These

Deserving

Honorees

## Honorees' Special Contributions

Pat Dischino	Orlando Turco
Mark Stephens	Roger Miller
Barb & Don Kovalchik	Alfred C Feuz
Art J & Judy Connorton	John Love
Mr & Mrs Bob Ray	Elmer & Shirley Akley
Louis Pettinelli	Earl Fuller
Lacey & Shirley Jones	Lynn Tewksbury
Mark Reed	Tom & Cindy Polsinelli
Mr & Mrs Marwode Neracker	John Spencer
Samuel Linsner Warsaw Cent. Sch.	Frank & Roberta Marotta
Shawn Hughes	Jack Williams
Peter J Damick	Rick & Leslie Scoville
Ralph Stephens	Dwight C Rhodes
Madison Football & wrestling Alum	Al Bevilacqua-AC Sports
Frank Deangelis	Bill Welch
Jenifer Austin & Sheridan Moore	Edward & Joyce Francis
Mr & Mrs Randy Ackley	John Reese
James Howard	Ray Magee
Charles R White	Marilyn & Randy Nutter
Herb Schutt Ithaca "61"	Ted Bondi
Norm Foster	Don DeBadts
William T & Sharon W Dunn	

A special thanks to the people who have contributed to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame through the NY Chapter. Their contributions make this recognition possible.

## Donations received after printing

Peter Hainey	Ronald Winnie
Ken Stead-SV Wrestling Club	Ronald LaRocque
Frank Millard	David Dunlop
Laurence Rector	Scott Corley & Family
Dan Erickson	Robert A Mosley
Geneseo Tuff Guys WC	Marie & Judi Bettucci
Red Fedele's Brook House Rest.	Stan & Sue Elinsky