

COVENTRY HIGH ALUMNI HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2015

Fab Five into Coventry Hall

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COVENTRY— Five additional inductees to the Coventry High School Alumni Hall of Fame will be honored tonight by the Coventry High School Alumni Association (CHSAA) at their annual induction ceremony at Quidnessett Country Club. The reception begins at 6 p.m. and the dinner and the program starts at 7.

The five Coventry alumni include a war hero, teacher, radio station owner, social worker and coach, each of whom has a commendable list of accomplishments throughout their careers that earned them a spot in the Alumni Hall of Fame. Each of the following biographies has been submitted by the CHSAA.

Joshua Chiarini, Class of 2000

After five great years at Coventry High School (he repeated a year due to illness), highlighted by five years of participation in the Air Force JROTC Program, Joshua Chiarini, Class of 2000, joined the U.S. Navy and became a US Navy Corpsman. After initial training, he was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in support of operations there. Later he was transferred to the 2nd Marine Division, where he was deployed to Iraq three times between 2004 - 2007. During his deployments he was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest award for gallantry and the Navy Achievement Medal for Valor for actions against the enemy while under fire.



Chiarini

After his deployments, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Chiarini worked at the base medical clinic at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Rhode Island. There, he treated students with head colds and sprained ankles. It's about as far from Iraq's Anbar province as you can get, he said, a job that doesn't quite fit with the Silver Star on his chest.

On Oct. 22, 2007, Chiarini, a native of Coventry, received the nation's third-highest award for combat valor in a statehouse ceremony attended by Rhode Island's then Gov. Donald Carcieri, two U.S. senators and several state legislators. Chiarini estimates he has been in at least 20 gunfights while deployed. He had ridden in 30 convoys hit by roadside bombs and three suicide bombers. His squad has been fired on by insurgent snipers, during which time he treated more than 100 wounded Marines and never lost one.

So to Chiarini, what he did in February 2006 was not that different from what he did many other days in Iraq. But Marine officials thought differently.

"He reacted the way he did for one simple reason: to take care of the Marine at his right and the Marine to his left," said Brig. Gen. David Berger, 2nd Marine Division's assistant division commander, who presented the Silver Star to Chiarini. "He would not let his fellow warriors down. He used himself to protect his comrades. We can not ask anything more."

On the morning of Feb. 10, 2006, Chiarini — who was with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit — was riding shotgun in the third vehicle of a Marine patrol in Anbar when a roadside bomb detonated near the lead vehicle. Dodging



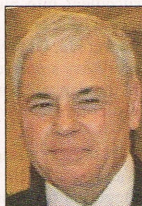
enemy fire, Chiarini ran 200 meters to the wounded Marines. One by one, he directed three of them to limp toward the armored Humvee, while he followed them, laying down covering fire with his M16. Then, with one hand, he carried the more seriously wounded interpreter to the rear, turning his body sideways at times to lay down cover fire. When they reached the rear of the armored Humvee, Chiarini began treating their injuries. About five minutes later, a Marine quick-reaction force arrived from a nearby base. Once its corpsmen began treating the wounded, Chiarini grabbed his rifle again, killing several insurgents, including a 12-year-old boy who was spotted with a detonator.

All of the wounded Marines survived; a few weeks later, Chiarini ran into one of them, a corporal nicknamed Redhead, at a Camp Lejeune, N.C., pool hall. Earning the Silver Star was special, Chiarini said, but he got the most meaningful tribute he ever received for his work in Iraq not at the statehouse, but at 8 Ball Pizza more than a year ago.

A current resident of Coventry, Joshua is a member of the North Providence Fire Department where he is a first responder and he works to support local veterans organizations like the Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association, the Patriot Guard Riders, and Wounded Warriors, among others.

Ernest DiMicco, Class of 1966

Another inductee, Ernest D. DiMicco, was born on March 14, 1948. Ernie was the oldest of six children which provided him with early family responsibilities. After living in West Warwick and Coventry during his early years, he moved to Cranston where he attended Stadium Elementary School. He was involved in safety patrol and joined scouting, beginning as a Cub Scout and advancing through the Boy Scout program, reaching the rank of Eagle Scout at age 15.



DiMicco

After going to school in Cranston, his family moved to Johnston for junior high, and then to Coventry in time to start high school. While in Johnston, Ernie began to caddy at Alpine County Club but after 3 years, he was selected out of 150 caddies to work in the golf shop, where he sold merchandise, cleaned clubs, and assisted club members. At age 20 he was named caddie master where he managed 150 boys on a daily basis and acted as the starter for the course. He held this job all the way through college.

During high school Ernie was involved in numerous activities including class office, student council, debate club, Saturday Seminars at URI. He served as Vice President of the Student Council as a junior, and President in his senior year. He attended the National Student Council conference in 1965 in Lexington, Kentucky, bringing many ideas back to his school.

Ernie graduated in 1966 and moved on to attend Providence College majoring in physics. In 1970 he began to teach general science and by 1974 he had earned his master's degree from WPI. In the fall of 1974, Ernie was approached by then Principal James DiPrete to be the Student Council advisor. The group was small and needed some new energy.

Upon accepting the position, Ernie immediately moved to make the group more democratic and more inclusive by allowing student to join and have equal privileges with the members elected from their class. He also moved to get the council involved in state, regional, and National Activities. In 1980, Coventry HS was chosen to host the 1984 NASC National Conference, an event that brought 2000 people to Coventry and some \$4.6 million dollars to RI.

Ernie assembled a great team and the conference was a huge success. For his efforts, he was given the Distinguished Service Award from NASC and was named Citizen of the Year in 1984.

In the years that followed, Ernie was named Advisor of the Year 4 times and Region 1 Advisor of the Year in 1989 and 2004. During his time as advisor the Homecoming Parade was

Inductees left indelible marks after graduation

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founded (1979), the Varsity Revue became a regular event (1979), and Spirit Week was developed. In 1980-82 he served as the first president of the CHS PTSA and working with parents, developed the first Career Day which continued every other year from 1981 to 2004.

During the late 1980's and 1990's, Ernie served as a soccer coach, the Webelo Leader, a member of the Troop 4 Coventry Committee, an adult leader at a youth camp, SLTP, was a retreat leader at his church. His wife Marilyn was instrumental in his success as they raised 3 sons together.

In 1996 Ernie was named Science Department Chair. During his time he lobbied to increase the science budget from \$3,800 to \$17,000. All of the department textbooks and much of the technology was updated during his term. Mr. DiMicco wrote some \$280,000 in grants, many to purchase technology and train teachers and worked to hire a number of great new teachers for the department and raised the Science Fair to a new standard. He retired from Coventry after working 36 years, with 32 having been spent as student council advisor.

Other highlights include being named a National Board Certified Teacher in 1990 and being chosen to represent New England on the National Association of Student Councils Executive Board from 2004 -2007, serving as adult co-chair in 2007.

After retirement he began working as a physics teacher and student council advisor at Woodstock, Conn. He was also instrumental in founding the CHS Alumni Association which has given \$39,000 in scholarships in 5 years and inducted 19 individuals into the Hall of Fame.

Gary Osbrey,
Class of 1979

As a child, Gary Osbrey was glued to the radio. Every day after school he would call the local radio station in



Osbrey

West Warwick, WSVP-1450 with requests and contest attempts. He dragged his mother to every live broadcast to meet the DJ's and get a free record. While attending Coventry Middle School, he learned about the Coventry High School radio station, WCHS, which later went on the air as WCVY 91.5.

He immediately began his countdown to high school so he could join the radio station. He and the other students, under the leadership of Ken Grady, worked hard to raise the money required to put WCVY on the air. The dream became a reality in 1978. Also in 1978, just before he returned to Coventry High School as a senior, he was hired as a part time announcer at WKRI in West Warwick, a job he held through his senior year and beyond.

After graduation in 1979, an additional stint was added at WSAR, Fall River and he purchased and started a mobile DJ company. He was hired full time at WNRI in Woonsocket in January of 1980. In 1981, at age 20, he began his 34 year run at WINY in Putnam, CT, which he and his wife Karen purchased in 2001. Community service is the backbone and lifeblood of WINY and Gary and Karen and the radio station have received numerous awards and recognition over the years for their efforts including Business Leader of the Year, Civic Achievement Award and citations from the Conn. General Assembly.

Gary has served as President of the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and Putnam Rotary Club as well as Assistant District Governor for Rotary International District 7890. He is currently vice president of the church council at St. John Lutheran church in Brooklyn and is also founder and chairperson of The Holiday Dazzle Light Parade, an annual event which draws nearly 20,000 people to

Putnam, Conn. Gary lives in Putnam with Karen, his wife of 28 years, and starts each day the same way he has for his entire adult life, by giving humble thanks to God for His abundant blessings and grace.

Elizabeth St. Pierre,
Class of 1980

A member of the Coventry High School Class of 1980, Elizabeth St. Pierre graduated from URI with a BA in Psychology in 1985. She began career in human services working in Substance Abuse Treatment at Talbot Treatment Centers as an Activity Therapist and Intake Coordinator. As Intake Coordinator, Elizabeth did intakes for the program at hospitals, and in the prisons to help people addicted to substances access treatment options. Later, she worked for 3 years in the 2nd Congressional District Office in constituent services specializing in helping seniors, working on healthcare issues and assisting people cut through "red tape" for Rep. Claudine Schneider.

In 1990 Elizabeth became the first Program Coordinator for the "East Bay Coalition for the Homeless," a transitional housing program for homeless families with children. During her tenure, the transitional housing program grew from providing one apartment to 12 units added two staff and a 2 year after care follow up program to provide ongoing case management and stabilization for the families. In 1992 the Program was named by RI Housing as the "Outstanding Non-Profit of the Year." Ms. St. Pierre continued her service to helping people after moving to Massachusetts in 1994, through volunteer work in her church while raising her two children, which included teaching Sunday School, establishing a



St. Pierre

women's group, and creating a special outreach fund to help local families facing financial and medical hardship due to having a severely disabled child.

She continued this work by partnering with the local ARC chapter for 8 years as a member of her church Outreach Committee and attended school part time, to obtaining her Master's Degree in Social Work from Simmons College in May 2001. She has worked at the VA Boston since 2001 as a Social Worker, in the transportation service to integrate patient access and retention while addressing the benefits. In 2006 she became the Transportation Service Chief for VA Boston, overseeing all medical transportation of patients. During this time she managed a staff of 32 and \$6 million budget. During her time as chief she was awarded numerous "Special Contribution" Awards from VA for the improved Customer Service and overall efficiency.

In 2008, Elizabeth became the Manager of the VA Boston Fisher House, a 20-suite Comfort Home for Military and Veterans families while their loved one is hospitalized. The Fisher House accommodates over 100 families a month from New England and all over the country. It is the only Fisher House in New England. As Manager, she has received special recognition for her compassionate care from both the VA as the recipient of the Director's "Golden Heart Award", and The VFW of Massachusetts "Appreciation Award." She has expanded her role at VA Boston by attending the Harvard Medical School Ethics course, and serves as a member of the VA Ethics Consultation Service, assisting families and providers who request help when facing ethical questions. Ms. St. Pierre facilitates the VA Social Work Masters Trainee Program Peer Support group. She has served on National VA Fisher House Policy Committees and published articles in the National VA Social Work Magazine. This past year, she completed her "Six Sigma Green Belt Certification" through

Bryant University, and is currently doing research in the areas of systems redesign for better access and delivery of care to Veterans and their families in the systems of care. She continues to support many other charities attending events, volunteering as time allows.

Serge Bouyossou,
Class of 1989

Lastly, Serge Bouyossou, a Coventry High School class of 1989 graduate, has served as a Vice President of Tides Family Services, a social services agency focused on improving the lives of youth at risk,

for 17 years. In 1992 he married his high school sweetheart, Liz Carlson, and they have seven children. As a community activist and child advocate, he as invited over 30 children into his home and helped hundreds of others by sponsoring their judo and wrestling training.

He is a successful entrepreneur who has owned and operated three businesses, which he liquidated to focus his attention on helping others through the sports of judo and wrestling by expanding the operations of his training center; Mayo Quanchi Judo and Wrestling. He is a Former Olympic and World Team coach for USA Judo and has been named Outstanding Coach of the Year four times by the United States Olympic Committee.

Serge's impact on the children he has touched cannot be measured. Serge knows that critical attention and support for youth can completely change the direction of a young person's life and he has dedicated his life to saving these children.

The Coventry High School community is very proud of his accomplishments and finds him most deserving of induction into the Hall of Fame.



Bouyossou