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# Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 2017

The Alumni Hall of Fame was established to recognize and honor individuals who were educated and inspired by the Port Jervis School District.

## Joseph Ricciardi, '36



Joseph Ricciardi worked for the Kissen News Agency in Port Jervis from the age of 8 until 1970, when he and his wife, Grayce became the owners of Jay's Handy Corner in Matamoras, PA which was eventually renamed "The Mayor's Corner". He served in the Army in WWII from 1941-1944. He was an umpire for the Port Jervis Little League for more than 20 years and after retiring from it was invited back many times to throw out the first pitch for Opening Day! Joe served on the Matamoras Recreation Committee, the Matamoras Planning Board and was the Treasurer of the Pike County Cooperative Office. Joe was an avid bowler in his younger days, and bowled in many leagues at Port

Jervis Bowl. In 1987, he was inducted into the Middletown Bowling Association Hall of Fame for his achievements. In 1971, Joe was elected Mayor of Matamoras, Pennsylvania, an office he held for 31 years until his retirement in 2002.

## Bob Lefferts, '59

In High School, Bob Lefferts was Senior Class President. While in school, he lettered in three sports: Golf, Basketball and Baseball in addition to receiving Athletic Honors as a member of the Duso League First Team Golf. Bob enlisted in the US Navy upon Graduation from PJHS with the rank of 3rd Class Yeoman. He was assigned to work in the Pentagon for full enlistment under President Kennedy. He left the Pentagon three days before President Kennedy's assassination. Mr. Lefferts then took his love of Golf to the next level, becoming a Golf Coach for Pensacola Junior College. He was a Board Member of the Ohio Golf Association and also the Greater Pensacola Golf Association. He also volunteered much of his time over the years to the sport he cherished, becoming a Volunteer Golf Rules Official for the NCAA Golf Championship at Ohio State University, the Northern Ohio Golf Association, the Orange Bowl Junior Golf Championship and the USGA

"Open Section Qualifier". He also personally participated in many Golf Tournaments in his career.

In addition to being the Owner/President of Bob Lefferts Marketing, he is Founder/Chairman of the Board of the PJHS Tournament Association, a charity in Port Jervis awarding financial assistance for college to students who were PJHS and Delaware Valley HS Golf Team Members. He is also a member of Santa's Little Helpers Charity, donating gifts at the holiday season. Currently, Bob is the Consultant of Estates 1 Condo Association, and Manager of the property.

## Gary Spears, '71



Gary Spears has been a tireless worker in our community, particularly with our youth. He coached football, baseball and softball in Port Jervis, during which his senior league Girls' All-Star team won District 19 and NYS Section 2 titles.. He spent 21 years coaching Pop Warner and has now returned to coach his grandchildren in the PJ Youth Football League. He also coached Little League baseball and softball for more than a decade in the 80's and the 90's and is now involved again because his grandchildren are participants. He was a founding member of Grace Fellowship Church. He has served on the Deerpark Planning Board, the Town Board and he is now Supervisor. He is also the Chairman of the Deerpark Republican Committee. He worked for his family business,

DV Sand & Gravel until it was sold in 1986. He is the owner and builder of Lakewood Estates in Huguenot.

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## Michael DelPriore, '75



Taking his background in architecture to a smaller scale has enabled Michael DelPriore to turn his love of architecture into a lifelong career passion. Growing up in Westbrookville, NY and attending PJ Schools from kindergarten through high school graduation, DelPriore went on to receive his AAS degree in Architectural Technology from SUNY Orange and then to Brooklyn's Pratt Institute where he graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1980. He began his work career building scale models for one of Manhattan's top interior design firms before he established Ryerson Studio in 1986. Since then he has gone on to build projects for many Fortune 500 companies, top real estate developers, city planners, architects, hospital and medical facilities, sporting venues, retail giants and colleges and universities with his work showcased internationally and in numerous publications

including The New York Times, USA Today, Interior Design Magazine, The New York Post and The New York Daily News. A particular passion for DelPriore is historic preservation. DelPriore currently sits on the Kingston Heritage Commission. His models have been used to help raise money for many state and national historic buildings. DelPriore is a former faculty member at Pratt, establishing the school's first architectural model making program. He also taught Interior Design at the Fashion Institute. DelPriore and his wife Michele have 2 sons, Alexander and Daniel and reside in Kingston, NY.

## Luann McCarthy, '76



Luann McCarthy was a 1982 graduate of Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. In 1990, she graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a Masters in Health Education. In 1982, she started coaching and substitute teaching in Port Jervis. In 1985 she was hired as a full time Physical Education teacher at ASK (Anna S. Kuhl) Elementary School. In 1991 she was transferred to the High School. Luann taught and coached in the district for 33 years. During her tenure, she coached at various times: Modified Girls' Soccer, JV Volleyball, Varsity Volleyball, JV Girls' Basketball, Varsity Girls' Basketball, Girls' Varsity Tennis and Boys' Varsity Tennis. Luann coached Girls' Varsity Tennis for 32 years and Boys' Varsity Tennis for 11

years. She won a conference title in Girls' Basketball in 1999 and coached the Girls' Championship Tennis teams in 1998 and 1999. Luann was inducted into the Port Jervis Coaches Wall of Fame in 2015. She was the recipient of the John MacKechnie Recognition Award from the PBA. The tennis courts at Church Street and the scorer's table at the high school were both named in her honor.

## Jessica Curtis, '98



Jessica Curtis is the youngest person elected to political office in Port Jervis history - she was 22 years of age when she was elected and served as a council woman for our hometown. Jessica was a former Producer of Special Events and Politics at Fox News Radio. During her tenure at Fox, she produced live coverage that included broadcasts of Presidential debates, primary elections, national conventions and Presidential inaugurations. Prior to Fox News Radio, she was Associate Producer at New York City's 77WABC Radio. Ms. Curtis is currently the Executive Director at GOPAC, which is a Republican state and local political training organization. GOPAC Chairman David Avella stated that Jessica has oversight of the management of GOPAC staff and

implementation of its programs as well as directing the national expansion plan to strengthen the organization's mission as the Republican Party's premier center for educating and electing a new generation of leaders. In addition, Curtis is also an NRA Certified instructor in the fields of Pistol and Personal Protection.

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