



**Office of the Mayor**  
**Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
DATE: October 17, 2012

CONTACT: Alexander Marion  
Press Secretary (315) 448-8044

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**MAYOR STEPHANIE MINER  
TO INDUCT NEW CLASS  
INTO NORTH HIGH SCHOOL  
HALL OF FAME**

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner, joined by Baye Muhammad, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs, will lead the induction of a new class of members into the North High School Hall of Fame tomorrow, October 18 at 11:00 AM.

Nineteen alumni were chosen for their accomplishments in athletics; business; community service; education; government service; science; volunteerism; and visual, performing arts, and journalism. Many of these individuals are well-known names in the Central New York community; while others have made significant contributions throughout the country.

The North High Hall of Fame, begun by Vince Stagnitta, Class of 1955, and Louis Aiello, Class of 1959, recognizes graduates of the former school who “distinguished themselves in school, career or community and are representative of the school’s spirit, mission and quality of programs.” Mr. Stagnitta and Mr. Aiello formed a committee of alumni, including William Amato, Carmen D’Eredita, Jim Killius, “Dodge” Monteleone, Dan Rizzo, and Peter Vercillo.

North High opened in 1908 on the Pond Street hill, and before closing in 1964, thousands of students passed through its doors. Its former location is now the location of the Bishop Harrison Senior Apartments and Pompei North Apartments.

Below is a listing of the Class of 2012 Inductees.



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**NEW HALL OF FAME MEMBERS**

**Dr. Anthony T. Frascati, '13**

***Science***

After graduating from Syracuse University in 1917, Dr. Frascati entered a graduate program in Chemistry at John Hopkins University. During World War I he served in the Chemical Warfare Service where he developed a process for chloracacerophenone, the tear gas now employed the world over by civil authorities. His work as a research chemist began at DuPont and National Analine Company where he participated in producing the first commercial indigo in the United States. However, his primary interest was perfumery. In 1929 he began working in this industry first as the head of the department of Ungerer and Company and then as a perfumer and research chemist for Max Factor in Hollywood. From 1936 to 1948 Dr. Frascati was the Technical Director of Firmenininch and Company in New York City. In 1947 he was the prime mover in the organization of the American Society of Perfumers, serving as one of the first officers and second organization president. Considered an expert in the perfume industry, Dr. Frascati was a major witness in a famous murder trial, the first in legal history in which perfumery was used to obtain a conviction.

**Esther Foley, '26**

***Journalism***

After graduating cum laude from Syracuse University in 1930, Esther worked as a Home Economics teacher at Eastwood High School and served as the Vice President of the Home Economics Association. Moving to New York City, she began a series of employments which combined her education in Home Economics and her interest in writing. As head of the research kitchen in the Home Institute of the New York Herald Tribune she also wrote articles on Food for the New York Herald Tribune Magazine. Esther also wrote for several magazines including the American Home, True Story and The Ladies Home Journal. One of her first literary efforts, a short story, "The Farmer's Wife", appeared in the Saturday Evening Post. After spending most of her adult life in New York City she returned to Syracuse where she served as clinic dietician for St. Mary's Hospital and the St. Camillus Nursing Home. A member of the American Dietetic Association and well respected in the Food Industry, Esther was a frequent guest food judge at the New York State Fair.



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**Margaret Long Arnold, '30**

***Education***

After graduating from Syracuse University in 1934, Margaret established the Department of Speech and Dramatics in the Syracuse City Schools District and also served as a consultant to the Columbia Broadcasting System. In 1939 she married Dexter O. Arnold and moved to Concord, N.H. A civic-minded individual, Margaret was a prime mover in organizing the First New Hampshire Governor's Conference on Aging in 1956. She was honored by the University of New Hampshire with a medal as the state's most distinguished citizen. In 1962 Margaret became President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (a National Organization with headquarters in Washington D.C.). Honors for her civic work continued and in 1963 the Saturday Evening Post profiled her. In the interview she was quoted as saying "I decided a woman had to expand the walls of her house to include the community. You have to pay rent for being a free woman in a democracy, and volunteer work is the way you do it." Later she moved to Washington, D.C. and served as the head of Women's Activities Division for the American Association of Retired Persons. After retiring in 1994, Margaret returned to Concord.

**William C. Rapp, '35**

***Business***

Upon graduation from Syracuse University in 1939, Mr. Rapp worked at the General Electric Company for seven years. At this time he began his employment in the Automobile Industry working as the General Manager at the Billingsworth Bailey Pontiac Auto Dealership in Syracuse for eight years. In 1954, Mr. Rapp purchased the company and moved the dealership to its present location at the corner of Burnet Avenue and Thompson Road. Mr. Rapp has been recognized as one of the local pioneers in the development of multiple dealerships at one central location. His community work included the Presidency of the Syracuse Automobile Association, a member of the Syracuse University Society of Fellows, a member of the Board of Directors of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce and Superintendent of the Sunday School at the 1st English Lutheran Church. He was a loyal alumnus of Syracuse University and an avid supporter of their athletic programs.

**Anthony Creme, '39**

***Athletics & Education***

Anthony was a first team All City League recipient in football, basketball and baseball at North. He received a football scholarship to George Washington University. He served in the Air Force in World War II and the Korean War, where he achieved the ranks of First Lieutenant and Captain. He taught physical education at Blair High School in Montgomery County, Md., while



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coaching football, basketball and track. He taught social studies at North and also coached football. After obtaining a Master's degree from Syracuse University, Anthony served as a Guidance Counselor at Vocational and Corcoran High Schools. He was a Vice Principal at Corcoran and a Principal at Henninger. At the time of his death in 1973, he was the Director of Continuing and Occupational Education for the Syracuse City School District.

**Diogene Dodge Monteleone, '46**

***Athletics & Business***

While at North High School, Dodge excelled in football and helped lead North to a city championship while a post graduate student. Dodge went on to Morrisville where he was co-captain of the 1949 undefeated team. He returned to Morrisville as an assistant coach and was later inducted into their Hall of Fame. These experiences led directly into his coaching of the Syracuse Bisons and Syracuse Stars semi-pro football teams and his volunteer involvement in youth football throughout Onondaga County. He was especially strong in teaching football's fundamentals to the young, upcoming players. Diogene Monteleone's successful business career began in 1973 when he and partner Frank Orso acquired Royal Electric Co. This Northside establishment became not only a place of business but a local gathering center for conversation ranging from community needs to sports and politics.

**Anthony Tex Simone, '46**

***Athletics & Business***

While at North High School, Tex excelled in both baseball and basketball and made all-city in both sports. This laid the groundwork for his future in local baseball. Following his commitment to the U.S. Army, Tex began what developed into a long, distinguished career with our own Syracuse Chiefs in 1961. He continued to gain more responsibility within the organization and went from business manager to public relations director and onto Chief Operating Officer in 1997. Tex was very involved in bringing the new stadium to fruition when MacArthur Stadium was torn down; so much so that the new stadium is on TEX SIMONE DRIVE in his honor. Anthony Tex Simone is the recipient of numerous awards and achievements. Among his distinguished honors: Mayor's Achievement Award; Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce Community Citizen Award; and both the Syracuse and International League Halls of Fame.

**Joseph S. Carfagno, '51**

***Visual Performing Arts***

His classmates voted him "Most Talented of the Class of 1951". Joseph attended Le Moyne College and then entered the military and served in the Korean War. He performed with the "USO" and on the Armed Forces Radio with his group "The Cavaliers". He returned to Syracuse after his discharge and



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enrolled in the Syracuse University School of Music and studied piano. He played for famous entertainers such as Sammy Davis Jr., Bob Hope, Jerry Vale, Tony Bennett, The Four Aces, and Chubby Checker. Joe was the assistant music director of The NYS FAIR for thirty three years. During those years he was affiliated with the TV shows “Magic Toy Shop” and “The Jim Deline Show”. He is presently the lone survivor of the original Stan Colella Orchestra that was founded in 1972. He also performed with the Syracuse Symphony and in 2004 was inducted into “Sammy’s Music Hall Of Fame”. Joseph is currently the Executive Secretary of the Professional Musicians of CNY.

**O. Mark De Michele, ‘51**  
***Business & Community Service***

After graduating from Syracuse University in 1955, Mark was a vice president and Syracuse office manager of L. M. Harvey & Company, assistant advertising manager of Sealright Corporation of Fulton, and advertising manager of Engelberg, Inc. of Syracuse. In 1961 he began his 17 year career at Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, moving from advertising manager to Vice President of the Corporation. After moving to Arizona in 1978, Mark joined the Arizona Public Service Corporation as Vice President of Corporate Relations. In the next 17 years, Mark served as Executive Vice President, President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer for the Arizona Public Service Corporation. Following his retirement from the Arizona Public Service Corporation in 1997, he served as interim CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Development Corporation, stepping down as Chairman and CEO in 2010.

**Dr. Mary Gimbattista Ampola, ‘52**  
***Science***

Dr. Ampola graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts from Syracuse University in 1956, and received her M.D. from the State University of New York College of Medicine, Syracuse University. During her career, she has been a practicing pediatrician in Boston and Atlanta, and a professor of Pediatrics at Tufts University. Dr. Ampola has accomplished many things in the field of pediatric genetics, the most notable being the first treatment of a child with a genetic metabolic disorder in the early 1970s. Until that time, children were at great risk of dying from genetic metabolic disorders. Dr. Ampola has also made contributions to medical research through the publication of two books of her own, as well as 16 chapters included in other books, and 27 scholarly medical articles.

**Dr. Rosemary Gimbattista Agonito, ‘55**  
***Education & Community Service***

Dr. Agonito graduated from Le Moyne College with a major in English Literature in 1959. In 1972, she received her Doctorate in Philosophy from Syracuse University. She taught at the college level, beginning at Maria Regina College, Colgate University and then Eisenhower College. Continuing her interests in educating the public about women’s issues, she joined a small group in Seneca Falls to help establish the National Women’s Rights Historic Park. In 1983, Dr. Agonito left academia to



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create a gender equity consulting /training firm — New Futures Enterprises. During this twenty-year period she designed programs which educated the public on the importance of equality in schools and the workplace. An award winning author, Dr. Agonito has written several historical novels focusing on the role women have played in developing America.

**Daniel C. Rizzo, '59**

***Government Service & Education***

Dan was his senior class Vice President. Dan served his Country through service in the US Army for 28 years, including an overseas tour in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. On his return to the U.S., Dan maintained his service in the Army, retiring in 1994 with the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Dan became the Chairperson of the Onondaga Community College Library in 1973. Under his leadership, the OCC Library was always at the cutting edge of Library Science, such as creating a Braille collection to accommodate the visually impaired. He was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship in 1966. He also was the President of the OCC Federation of Teachers Union. Upon Dan's retirement from OCC in 2000 (after 34 years of service) the Board of Trustees Awarded him the distinguished "Honor of Professors Emeritas". Dan has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the North High School Hall of Fame.

**Gerald Santy, '59**

***Education & Performing Arts***

Gerald began teaching music in 1963 at Stagnitta Music, and continues to educate young people in a studio attached to his Northside home. Throughout his career, Gerald has been recognized for his outstanding work in music education. He has received many awards, including the Gerald Santy Day acknowledgment at the June 22, 2000 Syracuse Jazz Fest, the Educator of the Year Award in May of 2006 from the CNY Jazz Orchestra, and the Hall of Fame Music Educator Sammy Award in June of 2008. However, the real testament to his devotion for music can be found in the passion he has instilled in his students. His students perform professionally throughout the United States and Europe, always mindful that he helped them "find their sound."



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**Edward Kochian, '62**  
***Government Service***

Edward received a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the State University of New York at Oneonta in 1967, and a Master's in Public Administration from the Maxwell School in 1975. His government service began in 1968, and through the years Edward's work included the Onondaga County Office of Management and Budget, where he served as an administrator in Human Services, and as the Deputy County Executive/Chief Operating Officer. During his tenure as the Deputy County Executive, Edward was responsible for directing several major projects for the county, including the Alliance Bank Stadium, the Onondaga County Convention Center Complex, management of the strategic plan for solidification of County Credit Ratings, and the negotiation of the City/County solid waste agreement. In September of 2009, in recognition of his service, the county legislature renamed the county office building The Edward Kochian County Office Building.

**Joseph F. Riccelli, '64**  
***Business & Athletics***

Joe was a star player in football and basketball for North in 1963 and 1964. With North's closing after the 1964 school year, Joe finished his illustrious high school playing career as a Henninger Black Knight. He earned a Division I scholarship to the University of Buffalo where he made the All-Northeast Team as a defensive tackle. Joe's work ethic, determined ambition, and just plain hard work led to his highly successful trucking and transportation business, Riccelli Enterprises, Inc. Joe is truly a civic-minded person who generously supports a broad array of community programs including support to local colleges, high schools, and public events. He gives freely of his resources and most importantly, his time to insure he gives back to those who always supported him. Joseph Riccelli will never forget where his roots are planted.