



# SEAGULL SENTINEL

Volume 11, Issue 2

Fall-Winter 2011

## HALL OF FAME HONOREES

### ANTHONY GAETA 1927 – 1988



Anthony Gaeta graduated McKee High School in 1945. After a short stint in the armed forces, he attended both New York and Cornell Universities.

Beginning as a clerk in the borough tax office he eventually became a tax assessor thus beginning a 39 year career in public service. He was an aide to John Murphy and in 1972, he was elected to the city council. He was chosen to complete Borough President Robert T. Connor's term in office. Later, he was elected to this same office and won a re-election in 1981.

During his time in office, Anthony was said to be low-key, but he fought for more police officers, firefighters, teachers and sanitation workers. He also was against revamping the Board of Estimate. He envisioned using the lower level of the Verrazano Bridge as a rail link to Brooklyn.

He left office a year before the end of his second term. He accepted an appointment as Chairman of the New York City Retirement System. Anthony then became Vice President of R.J.K. Brokerage. He was a director of Staten Island Community Bank.

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### JERRY DELUCA 1932 - 2011



Jerry DeLuca graduated from McKee in 1949, was truly a giver. He gave of both his time and money.

Jerry a well-dressed, soft spoken man knew what he wanted to do when he graduated high school and that was to have one of the best automobile businesses on Staten Island. He opened Wadsworth Transmission in Fort Wadsworth before moving his business to Stapleton where it became Jerry DeLuca Complete Auto Diagnostic and Repair Center.

He served as both president and board member of the Staten Island Rotary. Jerry was also on the board of directors of the Staten Island Mental Health Society, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and the Staten Island Botanical Garden. He was also a member of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce and Friends of the College of Staten Island.

He was named a Paul Harris Fellow and a Rotary Giant. The fellowship is the highest honor given by the Rotary International. Jerry also received the Louis R. Miller Business

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well here we are again, cool weather approaching; I have to start wearing long pants, flannel shirts and wool hats. I hope I can find my long johns.

We at the Alumni had a very pleasant summer group that went on a paddle boat ride out of Tom's River, with a great dinner and dancing music. Not to mention some very intelligent conversation.

Our hall of fame ceremony went very well at our Alma Mater. We inducted the former Borough President, Anthony Gaeta, and businessman and philanthropist, Jerry DeLuca. Mrs. Gaeta and her daughter Susan attended the ceremony along with Jerry's son-in-law, Dave Haaf. It's just a shame this honor has to be given posthumously.

We're all anticipating the holiday season. For me, it's the best time of the year. For a while, we all seem to be a little friendlier and lot more helpful. With four children and seven grand kids, our home is full Christmas morning. This may seem strange to some people being all my children are married, and everyone knows you have to share the holidays with the in laws. But my wife Terri came up with the brainstorm some years ago to have a Christmas morning brunch, so we have the whole family over here, along with some extras. There are always presents under the tree, so after we all eat Papa hands out the presents. Papa's name is Ken just in case you didn't figure that out. And then if anyone has to go to the in-laws in the afternoon everybody's happy. This year hopefully, will be much happier because some of our troops will be coming home in time for the

holidays.

Next year will be much better for all of us, I hope. We will have our spring luncheon at the Old Bermuda Inn sometime in May, which will include a couple of surprises, so be on the lookout for a flyer in the mail. Or if you have an e-mail, let us know and we can e-mail you and save the postage.



Sincerely,  
Your president,  
Ken McIntyre

### Anthony Gaeta (continued from p. 1)

He died at the age of 61 on December 26, 1988.

Gaeta Park in Willowbrook was dedicated to his memory on October 22, 1994,

### Jerry DeLuca (continued from p. 1)

Leadership Award from the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce. He received the Distinguished Community Award from the YMCA and was recognized by many Staten Island organizations such as: Meals on Wheels, Alzheimer's, Youth Board of Alzheimer's, Staten Island Friends for Hospice, Staten Island Children's Museum and the College of Staten Island.

Ken McIntyre and Mildred Del Bove presented Jerry with his award at the Spring Luncheon held in May, 2011.

Jerry died on July 19, 2011.

## A LETTER TO JOHN

*Louis Cenci was a devoted teacher, principal and superintendent and friend of John De Palma. This is a letter sent by Louis to John when Louis joined the McKee Alumni and Friends Association and John would like to share it with us.*

Dear John,

Congratulations on the new organization you are building. It is long overdue. I want you and all who are helping great success. Please include me in heart and in spirit. I am not able to come to meetings etc. due to age, (83) a heart condition, (Pacemaker) and a condition called Pagets. Despite it all I feel great, life is good. My wife is in great health and after 61 years we are still friends and even hold hands. God has been good to us as I hope and feel he has been to you and your family.

I walked into McKee Vocational and Technical High School on November 29, 1949 with a high school diploma and a substitute license to teach Electrical Installation and Wiring. Thirty years later I retired with three degrees, wrote three books and became the first Italian-American to become a high school superintendent, also the first to come from vocational education. When that happened I felt I was successful for all of us of the same lineage.

I do not write this to boast, it is instead a prayer of thanks to the good Lord and to my years at McKee and the foundation it provided me. Of course I include Moses Sorola who gave me various tasks to do which also taught me more about the business

of education. I was criticized by several allowing him to burden me, but I understood something they did not, also I was eager to learn my new vocation. I cannot omit a colleague who was a model teacher, friend and human being, Mr. De Palma. You and I were at one time, the only two vocation teachers on the staff with masters degrees. I have not forgotten you and your example of a teacher who understood and loved kids. Your tenure as principal of Staten Island Tech was a foundation of work of enormous importance.

We were victims of bias within the educational community. I learned it when I went up to the Chancellor's Office for a final interview before becoming a superintendent and the Chancellor Irving Anker asked if I might not rather be a superintendent of vocational education since the academic schools were more demanding of written and verbal skills. He lost out. Anyway that is all in the past and I remember the past with understanding, satisfaction, and indeed happiness.

Well enough for nostalgia, God bless you, the family and your project. My greetings and love to all.

Auguri Infinali,

Lou

*(Louis C. Cenci died at the age of 91 on November, 27, 2009. The Staten Island Advance referred to him as a Renaissance Man)  
1919-2009*



## POPP'S PERSPECTIVE



Again, it is my pleasure to bring you up to date, sort of, on the recent McKee alumni activities. As always, it is a privilege to spend time with my "boys and girls" and a special delight to pass on this information to all of you.

To begin with, it was truly great to be visited by John Armstrong, the founder of the Alumni Association and "President emeritus ." John, a resident of the state of Washington, has had an illustrious career in government and with the Boy Scouts of America. He is hale and hearty and keeping up with his long-time volunteerism. Millie and Joe Del Bove joined us for lunch and we had a wonderful get-together.

Our enterprising president, Ken McIntyre, arranged for an evening boat ride on Tom's River, N.J. on September 30th. We had a great time. Richard Taeschner and his lovely wife, Catherine, provided good company. About thirty alumni and spouses



*2011 Boat Ride*

attended. It was good to see Joe Lattuga and his wife, Bernie and Ed Morand and his wife. Joe is forever busy with his real estate business.

We had a lovely event on October 12th, when the Hall of Fame ceremony took place in McKee. Jerry DeLuca and Antony Gaeta were honored posthumously. Both contributed generously to our borough. Our memories of them both will keep them forever in our hearts.

Among many of my dearest recollections of my happy days at McKee are the wit and humor that made John De Palma such a great asset to our school. Weren't we lucky!

Was it only yesterday?

See you soon,

Lilian M. Popp

## AWARD CEREMONY

A Hall of Fame ceremony was held in the Black Box Theater at McKee on October 12, 2011. Several officers, members and family members attended the ceremony and viewed the plaques which were placed in the Hall of Fame.

The McKee Ensemble, conducted by Mr. Guarneri, provided musical interludes.

(Ed. Note: The Black Box Theater is a performing arts theater located on the second floor of McKee High School.)

(See photos on page 7)



*HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2011 – October 25, 2011

### CREDITS

Membership		
New Members	60.00	
Renewals	100.00	
Lifetime	150.00	
		310.00
Donation		100.00
Received check in error		150.00
Events		
Holiday Party 2011		350.00
Total		\$910.00
Balance from June 30, 2011		<u>5,077.14</u> <b>\$5,987.14</b>

### DEBITS

Accountant fee	200.00	
Florist	57.16	
Supplies/postage	370.30	
Donations		
CSI Foundation		50.00
Oasis Christian Church/ General & Board Meetings.		100.00
Returned check to member sent in error	150.00	
Hall of Fame Refreshments	160.00	

Total	\$1,087.46	
		<b>\$5,987.14</b>
		<u>- 1,087.46</u>
Balance 10/25/2011		<b>\$4,899.68</b>
Donation to school (2002 – 2011)	\$33,552.25	

Submitted by Millie Del Bove, Treasurer  
Fall-Winter 2011

## WE MOURN

the loss of three members.

Jerry DeLuca  
Class of 1949

Steven Salaycik  
Class of 1942

Gwendolyn Simmons  
Class of 1943

## DONATIONS

John Carew  
Class of 1957

James N. Fritze  
Class of 1943

John Pietromonico  
Class of 1954

## LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Dora Arslanion  
Class of 1949

John Gino  
Faculty

## SAVE THE DAY

Holiday Luncheon

December 16, 2011  
Staaten

Call Millie at 718 442 1065  
for information

2011 Spring Luncheon





McKee Career-Tech High School  
McKee Alumni and Friends Association, Inc.  
290 St. Marks Place  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
Telephone: 718 442 1065  
Email: [McKeeassoc@msn.com](mailto:McKeeassoc@msn.com)  
Website: [mckeecths.org](http://mckeecths.org)

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Lilian Popp  
Catherine Taeschner  
Anthony Varriano  
Founder  
John Armstrong  
Off Board  
Frances Dowling  
Social Secretary  
Newsletter Editor  
Roberta Sparandera

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## July

Michael Amoa, Kenneth Anderson, Frank Besser, Stephen Blair, Salvatore Carangelo, Thomas D'Alessio, David L. Godaire, Rosemary Hoffmann-Ferrara, Ed Knutsen, Robert Lewis, Anthony J. Mangogna, Libby Marrazzo, Donald T. Mathieson, Philip A. Moretti, Martha Rossitto-Tumese, Carol Ann Salerno-Labita, Robert Superti, Don Yacona..

## August

Mary Azzaretto-Lindeman, Don Buttermark, Benjamin N. Cattano, Sr, Raymond D. Dahlstrom, Joseph Del Bove, Philip Devlin, Joseph DiPaolo, Joan Frischholz-Fortin, James N. Fritze, Charles F. Gerhard, Roger Heidelberg, Herbert Joyner, Richard W. Kempton, Robbie Kubiak-Cherkaski, Frank A. LaRocca, Alessandra Saipher-LaVigne-Holbach, Bernard A. Lopez, John Maher, Robert J. Maloy, Anthony Mancino, Joseph Mancino, Jr., Michael Massa, Lou Motola, Lucretia Pennini-Berwanger, John Pietromonico, Joseph Michael Quinn, Marie Rohan, Theodore Roman, Ellen Rourke-Adkins, MaryAnn Santore-Ruff, Emil Senfleben, Richard F. Taeschner Sr., Antoinette Versalls-Luciano, Al Zawada,

## September

John Carew, Marguerite Cohen-Riccardi, Thomas E. Connelly, Gloria Cordes-Elliott, Walter J. Drake, Dawn Gamboa-Nappi, Gustave Grecsek, Jr., Louis J. Guerriero, Joseph Lattuga, Elena-Frances Mancini-Moschello, Albert Massa, Anna Mathiasen-Pisano, John Miller, Janet Nedwidek-Maskarinetz, Josephine Palmeri-Perocco, Joseph Pietromonaco, Joseph Piscitelli, Frank Quagliotti, Joseph R. Ruff, Howard Silverman, Roberta Sparandera-Cherkaski, Alan Spitalnik, Roger Stella, Anthony Varriano, John Widlund, Bob Winkler.

## October

Thomas Calandra, Dolores Covino-Bouwman, Dominick D'Angelo, John J. DeForge, Lester Driscoll, Michael Fagone, Salvatore Gerardi, Thomas Hannon, Joe LaBarga, Rose Malfa-Portera, Robert Meeker, Gasper W. Mogilnicki, Patrick Rizzo, Robert Ruggeri, Marge Santo-Devlin, Joseph Schiavone, Fred Schweifinghaus, Helen Unrein-LaManna, Lynn Wells-Thatcher, Walter P. Werra.

## November

Rose Barbato-Moretti, Anita Beyer-Terrana, John Buono, Marie Cafaro-Battipaglia, Michael Cherkaski, Margaret Christiansen-Swanton, James J. Dankelman, John DeMeo, Alberta D. Doerr-Muir, Edward Elliott, Nicholas Festa, Philip Garisi, Anita Grecco-Miocciulla, Glen A. Hall, Maryann Kowalski-Seror, Joseph Magliocco, John Manna, Kenneth McIntyre, Shirley McKay-Copeland, Irene J. Molway-Quill, Frank Mushnick, Lewis Reno, Louis Soriano, Frances Vazzana-Hemmerly.

## December

Howard Berwanger, Shelton Bright, Sr., Anna Carlo-Labbate, Frank Castranova, Ricky Cherkaski, Larry Corsi, Pat DeMeo, John A. DePalma, Charles J. Ferguson, Jacqueline E. Hansen-Tobin, Concettina Immitti-Tarasiewicz, Ed Kahan, Ralph LoPresti, Annette Maiello-Rooney, Estelle Mangin-Neube, Joseph Manna, Nicholas J. Pakidis, Ramon R. Quevedo, Donald Quinlan, Nellie Sakshaug-Bolt, Thomas Thatcher, Bernard Thomassen, Charles Thomassen, Rosemarie Unrein-Andriulli, Carmela Varriano-Mazza, Robert Viggiano.

