

PATRICK REILLY & JOSEPH PIACENTINO, JR. **HUMANITARIANS AWARD 2011**

Pat Reilly and Joe Piacentino are two examples of persons who have given mightily to Kings Park. They have given extraordinary amounts of their time and, just as importantly, they have conveyed their knowledge and sense of values to generations of Kings Park kids.

Most people who knew Pat Reilly as their milkman would have been surprised to know that he was as tough an individual as anyone could find – a fighter who won two Bronze Stars in WWII and actually fought the great Sugar Ray Robinson. It was this toughness and this “fighter” spirit that helped Pat establish and run a soccer program in a town where none existed before. What he started in the ‘60’s became a soccer dynasty in Kings Park. Pat carried the soccer program on his shoulders in the beginning years. He operated as a “one man band” doing it all – driving, scheduling, teaching, buying equipment, enlisting the help of other parents and getting them to buy into his dream of a town-wide soccer program and getting them to realize the value to be found in the sport. Married to a WWII Navy Petty Officer – Mary Lovett – they raised a family of four; 2 girls and 2 boys. They all were taught to stand on their own and do their best. The soccer taught by Pat found its way into the school system and the high school had golden years of outstanding players and teams. There are Kings Parkers who became All-League, All-County, All-State and professional soccer players who gained their first taste of soccer under Pat’s teachings.

One of Pat’s protégés was Joe Piacentino, who graduated from Kings Park High School in 1976 and Syracuse University in 1980. A computer expert, Joe has been working at Brookhaven National Labs since 1998. Soccer is one of his passions. Before, during and after college, getting a job and settling down, Joe has always been involved with soccer. His personal involvement began to evolve from playing to mentoring, coaching and managing programs. He has coached boys and girls travel and school teams, winning titles on many different levels. He is proud that his teams have also won quite a few Sportsmanship Awards over the years. Joe has worked tirelessly to improve the soccer program and was one of the prime movers in the enhancement of Tiffany Field and its maturing into a first-class place to play. He is quick to point out that there are many members of the Kings Park Soccer Club who devote a great deal of time to our town and work just as hard to help our kids. His continued involvement with the Kings Park Soccer Club and his 40 years of Kings Park soccer experience is a testament to the legacy of Pat Reilly, a legacy that Joe carries on today, with others, keeping kids on the proper path and in good health.

We salute Pat Reilly and Joe Piacentino for their combined efforts over the years doing great things for our kids.

THANK YOU PAT & JOE!!