



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

January 2019

CSHOF Inductee Brian Whalen 1946-2018



Brian Whalen, 71, of 3200 Dutch-Hollow Road, Bemus Point, N.Y., left us at 11:35 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018, at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Brian was born Nov. 12, 1946, in Jamestown, N.Y., a son of the late Bernard W. "Pat" Whalen and the late June M. Fellows Whalen.

He was a 1965 graduate of Jamestown High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army shortly after graduation. He served for three years and was honorably discharged as a Private E-5.

He returned home in 1968, where he and his father, Pat opened Chautauqua Shooters Supply to supply reloading services initially for the Jamestown Police Department. Brian has owned and continuously operated "Chautauqua Shooters" at its current location for nearly 45 years. In addition, he worked full time for National Fuel Gas retiring after a 34 year career.

Brian was well known as a world class trap shooter. He began shooting at age seven, thanks to his father, at the Celoron Rod & Gun Club during the 1960s. During that time he claimed the county's junior skeet championship and many trap and skeet titles as an adult. In 1977, he won the United States Open Skeet Championship and the New York State Skeet Championship. For 30 years his shooting ability produced dozens of local, state, regional and national titles in both doubles and singles competition. He won the New York State doubles championship in 1983, 1993 and 1997 and the singles AA crown in 1983, 1986 and 1990. In Pennsylvania he won the Pennsylvania Grand Doubles Championship in 1983, the Pennsylvania State Shoot AA singles crown in 2001 and the PA Shoot Handicap title in 2005. He also won four Zippo championships and was the only person to ever hold both the New York State skeet championship and the New York State trap championship titles. He was recognized for achieving a competition classification AAA-27- AAA, which is the highest ranking in competition trap shooting. For his achievements in the sport of trap shooting, he was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2008 and is also a member of the New York State Amateur Trapshooting Association Hall of Fame and the New York State Amateur Trapshooting Association State Champions.

He was a life member of the American Trap Association and served as a New York State delegate to the ATA national board of directors from 2005-17. He served as president of the Penn-York Trap League in 2006 and 2007 and was the longest living member of the Celoron Rod & Gun Club, where he was past president. He was also a member of the War Vets Recreation Club, the National Rifle Association and a past member of the Falconer Rod & Gun Club. Brian was also an instructor, coach and sponsor of the Maple Grove Youth Junior and Senior High Trap Club and a volunteer instructor for BOCES Criminal Justice Program in firearm safety and trap shooting.

Brian is survived by many loved ones, his wife Bonnie Ford Whalen, whom he married July 6, 1994; his children: Brian Whalen (Kathy) and Nikki Whalen-Lombardo (Nick), both of Bemus Point, and Stacie Chamberlin of Sinclairville, N.Y.; his grandchildren: Taylor, Justin and Kamarin Whalen, Gabriel Brian and Damian Kincaid Lombardo, all of Bemus Point, Jordan and Brandon Chamberlin, Elizabeth and Jessica Hornburg, all of Sinclairville; a great-grandchild, Amara Chamberlin of Sinclairville; two sisters: Bonnie Hardenburg of Mayville, N.Y., and Sandy Kleinfeld (Chuck) of Jamestown; his faithful caregivers: Kaitlynn, Sydney and Michele; and the caring people from Chautauqua County Hospice and Palliative Care.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Patty Dauphine; and a nephew, Billy Kinney.

The funeral was held in the Fluvanna Community Church. The Rev. Dayle F. Keefer, retired pastor officiated. Burial was in the Lake View Cemetery.

Save the Date – June 15th



The Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame is planning for its second annual golf tournament, Saturday, June 15, 2019, at the Chautauqua Golf Club. The tourney is open to inductees, members and friends of the CSHOF. **Stan Marshaus**, a 2006 CSHOF inductee, Board Director and former club pro at the Chautauqua course, and **Sam Restivo** a 2017 CSHOF inductee are co-chairmen of the event.

The event will be a shotgun-start scramble with men's, ladies' and mixed divisions. Thirty-one (31) foursomes will be registered. There will be food and drink on the course and a post-match meal will be provided. The projected fee is \$300 per team (\$75 per player.)

Further details will be announced as plans become finalized. To reserve a spot for your foursome, send an e-mail to randy28b@netsync.net or call 716-640-6219.

Inductee Donations



Phil Gravink, a 2007 inductee, now living in New Hampshire, recently visited the CSHOF to donate an oar and a framed photograph from his memorabilia collection.

The oar was used by Phil during 1957 as the stroke of the Cornell University eight-oared crew. The crew was undefeated as they won the Intercollegiate Rowing Association American Championship, the Grand Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta in England and the European Championship in Luzerne, Switzerland. The oar was presented to Phil by his Cornell coach, Stork Stanford, at a homecoming banquet in Clymer on Aug. 1, 1957.

The framed photograph is of a quilt that resides in the sports archives at Cornell University and is used as a backdrop on the dais at Cornell rowing events. It is a long-standing tradition in rowing that each team member bets his shirt in a winner-take-all contest with his opposites from all of the other boats in a regatta. Back in the boathouse after a race, all the losing opposites seek out the winner, congratulate him and surrender their shirts. During Phil Gravink's career at Cornell, 1953-1957, he won 108 shirts and lost just five, as his crew never finished worse than second. Several years later, Phil's sister, Deleo, his wife, Shirley, along with his mother and mother-in-law, cut the school colors from 50 of those shirts and sewed them into a quilt.

In the photo above, Phil is between his daughter, Jill, and wife, Shirley.



2017 inductee **Maceo Wofford** was bearing "gifts" when he visited the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. The former Jamestown High School, Iona College, Erie Hurricane and Jamestown Jackals basketball standout donated some of his personal memorabilia to the CSHOF from a career that spanned nearly 25 years.

CSHOF president Randy Anderson.

Joining Wofford in the photo is

2019 Induction Banquet



The Board of Directors of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame has announced the inductees who will comprise the Class of 2019. The inductees are **Cheryl Bailey, Tiffany Decker, Vince Gullo, Jack Harper, Chuck Johnston, Luella Kye, Michael Lopriore, Bob Palcic** and **Mark Weaver**

These nine individuals will be formally inducted at the CSHOF's 38th Annual Banquet, Monday, February 18, 2019, at the Lakewood Rod and Gun Club. In addition, outstanding local high school, collegiate and community athletes will be recognized and CSHOF Legacy Awards will be presented.

Tickets for the induction dinner are priced at \$50. 2018 banquet reservations can be made by calling chairman Chip Johnson at 716-485-6991



Bailey

Decker

Gullo

Harper



Johnston

Kye

Lopriore

Palcic

Weaver