



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

September 2025

Peter B. Hubbell

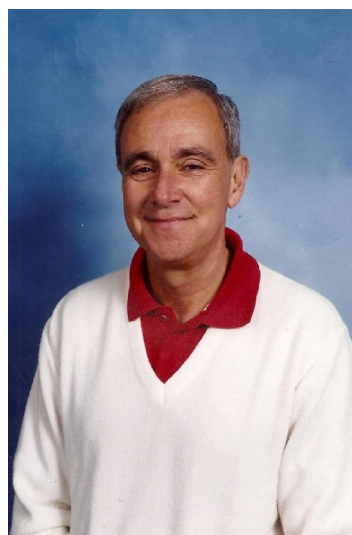
March 22, 1938 – June 1, 2025

From the very beginning, the microphone was Pete Hubbell's friend.

The son of legendary Buffalo sportscaster Ralph Hubbell, he began helping out in the broadcast booth during games when he was 9.

From 1960 to 1972, he was the smooth-voiced public address announcer heard by thousands of Buffalo Bills fans at War Memorial Stadium.

As sports director for radio station WJTN-AM in Jamestown, Mr. Hubbell provided play-by-play and commentary for more than 2,000 games and tournaments before he retired to Siesta Key, Fla., in 1998. He died June 1 in Sarasota, Fla., after six months of declining health. He was 89.



"Money wasn't important to him. That's why he stayed in Jamestown," his youngest brother Phillip said. "He said, 'If you enjoy what you are doing, you can have a good life.'"

Born in Buffalo, the oldest son of three children of Ralph G. and Ann Bolton Hubbell, Peter Bolton Hubbell was president of his eighth grade class at School 22 and received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award.

At Bennett High School, he was captain of its Yale Cup champion basketball team in his senior year and shortstop on the baseball team. He earned Buffalo Evening News second team all-star honors in both sports as a senior and was a first-team Yale Cup All-Star. He was also an honor student, a Student Council member, treasurer of his junior class and the senior class secretary.

Graduating in 1954, he went to Colgate University on scholarship and played basketball until he was sidelined after his junior year by a knee injury. During summers, he played baseball in the Buffalo Muny League and was an All-American Amateur Baseball Association All-Star.

An English and history major at Colgate, Mr. Hubbell joined the National Guard after he received his bachelor's degree in 1958 and began working as a staff announcer at WESB in Bradford, PA. He was sidelined once again by injuries he suffered in a crash on Route 219 in Concord as he was returning to Bradford from a visit home in April 1960.



Southern Tier radio station mogul Simon "Si" Goldman, a family friend, gave him his next job at WGGO in Salamanca. He then became sports director and morning host at WBTA in Batavia, and was hired again by Goldman in 1967, this time for his flagship station, WJTN.

In addition to hosting afternoon and evening programs, including a nightly sports talk show for 17 years, he called hundreds of high school games, as well as Little League baseball, the New York-Penn League Jamestown Expos, Jamestown Community College teams, Babe Ruth World Series games in Jamestown, golf tournaments and the local soap box derby races. He went with the JCC basketball team to Hutchinson, Kan., to broadcast from the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament.

His gift for compelling commentary was at its best in a Jamestown Expos game against the Niagara Falls Rapids on Aug., 6, 1990, when the crew of "Candid Camera," the hidden camera TV show, was in the ballpark.

In the set-up, the Jamestown catcher sent bizarre signs to the starting pitcher, who got so flustered that he was ejected. Mr. Hubbell and his sidekick in the broadcast booth, Skip Pierce, were unaware of the joke and gave a deadpan account of the proceedings. The episode can be seen on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmBNRTl6blw>.

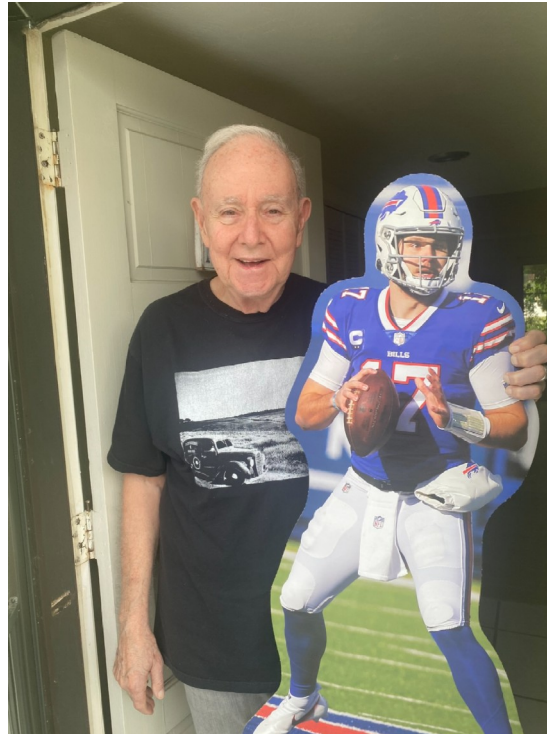
“The beauty part was the play-by-play,” executive producer Peter Funt told the Jamestown Post-Journal years later. “When I finally did get back to the editing room and I was able to listen to the clean radio feed of these wonderful guys, I was just blown away. I realized immediately that this was the meat and potatoes of what we got. They’re bringing the whole thing to life and yet they, too, were surprised.”

Mr. Hubbell took a seat beside his father in the 1970s to call the plays for television broadcasts of Buffalo’s Harvard Cup football games. He also was behind the microphone as master of ceremonies for many sports banquets, including the induction dinners for the Chautauqua Sports hall of Fame. He was one of the hall’s inductees in 2001.

A low-handicap golfer, he shot 5 holes-in-one and continued playing regularly until two years ago. A perk for employees at WJTN was membership at Maplehurst Country Club in the Town of Busti.

“He didn’t have to go to work until one in the afternoon,” said his brother, who was his longtime golfing partner, “so he played five, six times a week.”

Post-Journal sports editor Scott Kindberg, in a tribute following his death, recalled how Mr. Hubbell and another program host, Jim Roselle, played what might be considered the longest round of golf in 1971, starting from the WJTN studios in the Hotel Jamestown on West Third Street and finishing almost 7 hours later on the course at Maplehurst, more than six miles away. Mr. Hubbell won the match with 196 strokes. Roselle shot 228.



Survivors include two daughters, Jody Hubbell Menz and Karen Winslow; a son, Peter Jr.; their mother, Barbara Ann Budny Hubbell; his brother, Phillip; his partner of 30 years, Cathy Dunlop; her daughters, Rhonda Kunzle and Robin Porter; ten grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Pete was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

James F. McElrath

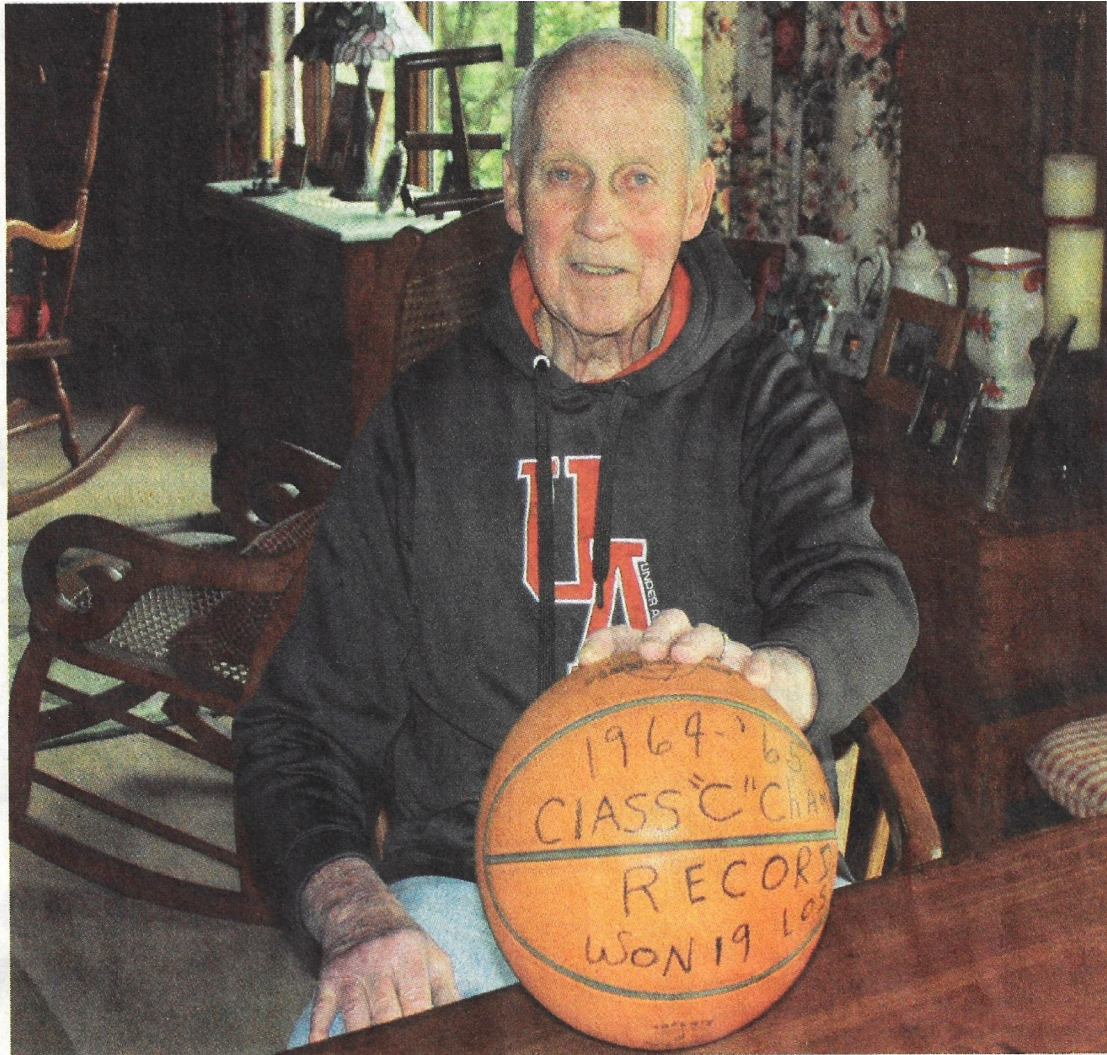
September 25, 1935 – July 25, 2025

James Frederick McElrath Sr. died at home on July 25, 2025. He was born in Oakmont, Pennsylvania on September 25, 1935 to Clarence Brandon McElrath and Frances Irene Crain/Cryan. He moved to his beloved hometown, Mercer, Pennsylvania at an early age where he would go on to live a storybook life as an All-State basketball player who played for his future father-in-law. His love for basketball continued into his college years where he played at Westminster and Grove City colleges.

James began his work life in 1957 when he accepted a job as school teacher and basketball coach at Panama Central school. He would go on to lead Panama basketball to four sectional championships in just eight seasons with an all time record of 125-30. For his accomplishments as a player and a coach he is in both the Mercer and Chautauqua County Sports Halls of Fame. He was also inducted into the Mercer High School Hall of Fame.



His teaching career continued at Washington Jr. High in the late-1960s when our family moved to the northside of Jamestown. During his early teaching career, he worked second jobs at Brown Bilt Shoe Store on Friday evenings and at Fairmount and Love School playgrounds in the summer months. James heard a higher calling during his 30s and left coaching and teaching to become a Principal. After some time at both Cassadaga Valley and Jefferson Jr. High School, James was offered the job at Jamestown High School for the 1976-77 school year where he stayed until his retirement in 1995. He was a highly regarded Principal by most students, staff and peers. He would attempt to memorize the names of the students by studying yearbooks each August before the school year would begin. He knew that relationships were the key to a healthy culture. He loved the staff at JHS and frequently ate lunch with the custodians because he valued their importance and enjoyed their company.



Jim McElrath, seen here with the game ball from the 1965 Section 6 Class C championship game, built a basketball powerhouse during his time at Panama in the 60's before moving on to Jamestown as principal. (Photo by Scott Eddy)

Though he no longer coached due to family commitments, he still valued athletics and strove to make Jamestown High School as elite athletically as it was academically. He fought to get Jamestown in the ECIC so that Jamestown could be in a NY state league and his crowning achievement was probably getting the gymnasium built that bears his name- the James F. McElrath Gymnasium- affectionately called the MAC. The gym was named for him upon his retirement 30 years ago.

In retirement James continued to serve his community as a School Board member and a City Council member. He always valued the importance of bipartisan work.

He was preceded in death by the love of his life: Marianne Hoffman McElrath who passed on September 16, 2009, his parents, his siblings: Mary Louise, Bud, Bob, Sis, Dick, and wee Elizabeth Anne McElrath, and his brother-in-law, Dr. Graham Hoffman.

He is survived by his children: James Jr (Myriam Mayshark), Karen, Michael (Maggie) and Amy. In particular, we thank Amy for leading the wonderful caregiving of our Dad since the passing of Marianne. James is also survived by Mary Evelyn Rice Hoffman (sister-in-law) and Loren Mayshark (son of Jim's daughter-in-law).

James is survived by his three grandchildren of whom he was particularly fond: Kevin (Aarushi), Brandon (Alina) and Aoife as well as his only great-grandchild, Neel. He loved his nephews and nieces, and in particular, Tim Reznor, whose phone calls, annual visits from North Carolina, and humor were deeply loved. We thank numerous friends and former students for visiting throughout the years. Jim loved the annual visits from the Jefferson "boys" (Steve as honorary member) and we thank them. He talked about your visits for weeks. We also are grateful to Rich Pinciario for his thoughtfulness and visits, Debbie Myers for her wonderful help and friendship that spanned over 2 decades, Linda and Don Wood for their friendship, beautiful cards, and support since the 1960s, the players on the Panama basketball teams, Bill Rollinger and Bob Herring for their long-term friendship and kindness, Cheryl Nelson for her special friendship and love for Jim and Marianne, the Thursday Bridge players for their competition and friendship – at one point, they brought the Bridge game to Jim during one of his rehab stints in Heritage Green. There are dozens of others who visited Jim over the years and our omissions here are due only to grief. Thank you from our hearts.



The Earth Angels of Hospice helped Marianne and now Jim as they passed over. We are very appreciative of the work that the Hospice Angels do for people in our County. We are lucky and blessed in their presence. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Chautauqua Hospice and Palliative Care, Chautauqua Striders (for their focus on academics and mentoring) or to the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame (for their understanding of the importance of sports and community).

View a 2024 interview of Jim conducted by Greg Peterson:
<https://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/jimmcelrath.php>