# Metuchen High School Hall of Fame

# CLASS OF 2026 INDUCTION CEREMONY

*Thursday, October 15, 2026*

*6:30pm*

Metuchen High School
400 Grove Avenue
Metuchen, NJ

## Metuchen Public Schools 2026-2027

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
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**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**
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Tania Herzog, Psy. D., Assistant Superintendent
Deneane Bonassisa, Ed. D., Director of Special Services
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Dr. Kevin Lukenda, School Physician
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Brian Stike, Metuchen High School Assistant Principal
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Vincent Costanza, Ed. D., Campbell Elementary School Principal
Brooke Kirschner, Campbell Elementary School Assistant Principal
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**DISTRICT CURRICULUM SUPERVISORS**
Ashley Bosgra, Art, Music, World Language, & Gifted Education
John Cathcart, Health & Physical Education
Ilana Kurtin, School Counseling
Kathryn Lemerich, Secondary STEM
Patricia Lewis, Special Education
Louis Manziano, English Language Arts & Social Studies
Lindsey Omark, Elementary Instruction, Instructional Technology, & Multilingual Learners

# Metuchen High School Hall of Fame

## Induction Dinner & Ceremony
## Thursday, October 15, 2026

6:30-6:45pm
Pledge of Allegiance & National Anthem
Welcome Remarks

6:45-7:15pm
Buffet Dinner
*Dinner Music performed by the MHS Chamber Orchestra*
*Guided tours for those interested*

7:15-8:00pm
Hall of Fame Inductions

8:00-8:30pm
Coffee, Tea, & Desserts
*Guided tours for those interested*

8:30 -9:00pm
Hall of Fame Inductions

9:00pm
Concluding Remarks

# Metuchen High School Hall of Fame Inaugural Members Class of 2016

### Accomplished Professionals
Dr. Patricia Boyd '83
Dr. Scott Cowen '64
Gail Fisher '54
Robert Hegyes '69

### Humanitarian and Service Contributor
Donald Wernick '43
Anthony Yelencsics '38

### Bulldog Spirit
Arthur Flaherty '85
Joseph Prehodka '59

### Distinguished Faculty
John R. Novak
Ina Schlein

### Lifetime Recognition
Martin D. Jessen '44

# Metuchen High School Hall of Fame Members Class of 2018

### Accomplished Professionals

Dr. Joy Bergelson '80
Thomas Ruegger '72
Rebecca Young '82

### Humanitarian and Service Contributor

Rev. Dr. George Hollingshead '54
Bernard Spigner '73

### Bulldog Spirit

Valerie Gazda '82
Eugene Haley '44

### Distinguished Faculty

John Cassell
Theresa Pollifrone-Sinatra

### Lifetime Recognition

Dr. Mildred B. Moss 1915

# Metuchen High School Hall of Fame Inaugural Members Class of 2022

### Accomplished Professionals

Harold W. Sonn '39
David E. Hamilton, Jr. '71
Dr. Kurt R. Mikeska '75
Robert Taub '73

### Humanitarian and Service Contributor

Katherine J. Liseno '63
Earl Goodwin Peck '45
Dr. Julian Zelizer '87

### Bulldog Spirit

George Reilly '83
Frank Bruno '79

### Distinguished Faculty

Therese M. Snyder '59

### Lifetime Recognition

Nick Alderiso

# Metuchen High School Hall of Fame Members Class of 2024

### Accomplished Professionals

John Bruce Dods '66
Colonel (Retired) Theodore "Ted" Lorenz '83
Dr. Joseph G. Ouslander '69
Jack Waldman '70

### Humanitarian and Service Contributor

Jill Darcy Moore '86
Robert Donnan '85
Robert Wetzel '78

### Bulldog Spirit

Kristen Edmonds '05
Melissa Maikos '94

### Distinguished Faculty

Kathryn A. Glutz
Kenneth Graf

### Lifetime Recognition

Henry William "Bill" Blindow

# Metuchen High School Hall of Fame

# CLASS OF 2026 INDUCTEES



## CDR Brittany R. Burns
## Battalion Surgeon
## Class of 2003
## Accomplished Professional

As an **Accomplished Professional**, MHS 2003 graduate Commander Brittany Burns was a distinguished leader from her earliest days at Metuchen High School. Brittany lettered in basketball and field hockey, serving as captain of the Field Hockey Team her senior year. She also served as yearbook editor and played in the All State orchestra, demonstrating excellence across academics, athletics, and the arts.

After graduating from Ithaca College with degrees in Biology and Exercise Science with a concentration in Exercise Physiology, she earned a Doctorate of Osteopathy (DO) at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine in 2014 as a Health Professions Scholarship Program scholarship recipient.Upon graduation from medical school, she completed her internship at Naval Hospital Pensacola followed by her residency in Family Medicine at Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune.

In 2017, she reported back to Pensacola as a Family Medicine staff physician. Shortly after her arrival, she was deployed on the USNS Comfort (T-AH-20) to Puerto Rico in support of the humanitarian response to Hurricane Maria. The following year, she began serving as the Senior Medical Officer at Naval Branch Health Clinic (NBHC) Corry Station. She then went on to become the Senior Medical Officer at both NBHC Corry Station and NBHC Naval Air Technical Training Center and the Department Head for the Connected Corpsmen (CC) clinics attached to Naval Hospital Pensacola. During her time in Pensacola, Burns also held the positions of Assistant Chair of the Medical Executive Committee, Chair of the Medical Records and Forms Committee, and Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination (SAMFE) Program Manager.

In 2021, she began her tour as a staff Family Medicine physician at the White House Medical Unit in Washington, DC. Shortly after she arrived, CDR Burns took over as the Basic Bag Program Manager. She then went on to serve as the Chief of Clinical Services and Senior Physician. She concluded her time at the Medical Unit as both the Director of the Presidential Support Duty Medical Screening Cell and Director of the Medical Evaluation & Treatment Team.

In 2025, Burns moved to Georgia where she is currently serving as the Battalion Surgeon for Marine Corps Security Force Battalion, Kings Bay.

Burns is a Board-Certified Family Physician. She has earned a Presidential Service Badge. Her personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and other campaign and unit awards.



## Dr. Debby Reid Cryer
## Class of 1965
## Accomplished Professional

Dr. Debby Reid Cryer, 1965 MHS graduate, is recognized as an **Accomplished Professional** for achieving international recognition as a transformative leader in early childhood education, dedicating her career to improving the lives of young children worldwide. A distinguished researcher at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Cryer is best known as co-author of the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS), a globally recognized assessment tool that has revolutionized how educators evaluate and enhance the quality of early learning programs.

Her groundbreaking work measures environmental provisions and teacher-child interactions that affect children's broad developmental needs during their most critical years. As principal investigator on major national and international research studies, Dr. Cryer has shaped child care quality standards and influenced policy and accreditation systems across the United States and beyond. Her numerous publications, books, and training materials translate complex research into practical tools that educators and administrators use daily.

Dr. Cryer's impact extends far beyond academia. As a consultant and trainer, she has provided professional development to early childhood programs nationally and internationally, directly improving the quality of care and education experienced by countless children. Her dedication earned her the 2014 Kaplan Early Learning Company and Leon & Renee Kaplan Foundation Innovator Award for the Health and Well-being of Children.

Dr. Cryer exemplifies how one individual's commitment to scholarship and service can create lasting global impact. Her work establishing higher standards in early learning environments demonstrates the excellence and dedication that define Metuchen High School's finest graduates, inspiring future generations to pursue meaningful careers that improve lives.



## Dr. Bruce Rosenfeld
## Class of 1976
## Accomplished Professional

Bruce Rosenfeld, MD, MHS 1976 graduate, is recognized as an **Accomplished Professional** who has performed at an extraordinary level in his profession. He has distinguished himself as a leader and role model, making a profound impact on his community and its citizens.

Rosenfeld traces the foundation of his journey to Franklin Middle School and Hall of Fame coach Bill Blindow. Basketball quickly became an important part of his life, teaching lessons that extended far beyond the court—resilience, discipline, respect, teamwork, and leadership. Elevated to varsity as a sophomore for postseason competition, he became the starting point guard during his junior and senior years. He was especially privileged to play for Coach Blindow during his final season at MHS.

While basketball shaped his character and ambitions, Rosenfeld ultimately pursued medicine, attending Northwestern University as a pre-medical student before earning his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia and completing his urology training at SUNY Buffalo. His distinguished career has been marked by excellence in patient care, teaching, and leadership, with academic appointments at UMass Medical School, Eastern Virginia Medical School, and currently Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Rosenfeld credits the lessons learned on the court for shaping his approach to medicine and to leadership. He has carried those lessons—and his Metuchen roots—throughout his life, capturing them in his book, *Make Every Shot Count: How Basketball Taught a Point Guard to Be a Surgeon*.

While practicing medicine full-time, Rosenfeld was also honored to return to his basketball roots as an assistant varsity coach, striving to instill in young athletes the same confidence and belief in themselves that his coaches gave him growing up in Metuchen.



## Richard Wenk
## Class of 1974
## Accomplished Professional

Class of 1974 MHS graduate, Richard Wenk, is recognized as an **Accomplished Professional** for his work as an American screenwriter and director whose career in Hollywood spans more than three decades. Mr. Wenk has collaborated with dozens of major film stars including Academy Award winners.

Doug McKeown, an English Literature and Theater Arts teacher at Metuchen in the 1970s, mentored Wenk. Shortly after graduating from Metuchen, Wenk directed a short film, "Dracula Bites the Big Apple," starring fellow Metuchen alumnus Peter Lowe and filmed across New Jersey and New York. The film was screened at festivals nationwide. Wenk attended New York University film school but left after securing an opportunity to write and direct "Vamp," which became a cult horror classic starring Grace Jones. He followed with "Just the Ticket," a romantic comedy starring Andy Garcia and Andie MacDowell.

Working alongside director Richard Donner, Richard achieved box office success with "16 Blocks," starring Bruce Willis and David Morse. He went on to write The Equalizer trilogy starring Denzel Washington, which grossed over $600 million and marked Washington's only film sequels. Over 30-plus years, Wenk has written hit films including "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back," "The Expendables 2," "The Mechanic," "The Magnificent Seven," "Southpaw," "The Protégé," and "Kraven the Hunter," working with stars such as Tom Cruise, Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jason Statham, Ethan Hawke, Chris Pratt, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Keaton, Samuel L. Jackson, and Russell Crowe.

Richard Wenk continues to be among the most sought-after screenwriters in Hollywood. He resides in Los Angeles, and has three children, Molly, Alice, and Thomas, and two grandchildren, Liam and Levi.



## Audrey Walters-Moore
## Class of 1997
### Humanitarian & Service Contributor

Audrey Walters-Moore, 1997 MHS graduate, is honored for her work as a **Humanitarian and Service Contributor** as she has dedicated her career to preventing human trafficking and advocating for vulnerable children around the world.

Audrey developed an early commitment to service that would shape her life's work. After graduating from MHS, she attended the University of Delaware, earning a Bachelor of Science in Education in 2001. Following college, Audrey moved to Belgium, where she joined the Young Adult Service Corps, working with international students and refugees throughout Western and Eastern Europe. During that time, she witnessed the realities of human trafficking firsthand when a children's home where she volunteered was exposed as a front for prostitution.

Determined to prevent children from experiencing the trauma of trafficking, Audrey moved to Birmingham, Alabama in 2005 to help expand the anti-trafficking nonprofit Lift Up the Vulnerable (LUV). For more than two decades, LUV has focused on reaching children and women most vulnerable to exploitation and oppression, particularly those living in some of the hardest-to-reach places, including war-torn nations where there is often nowhere to turn for safety and freedom. Through a holistic approach to prevention, LUV has built the only indigenously directed anti-trafficking network spanning Sudan and South Sudan, empowering local leaders to address the root causes of exploitation through protection, education, and economic development.

Since becoming CEO in 2018, Audrey has led LUV through significant transitions and growth while remaining committed to locally led solutions. Over the past two decades, the organization has supported more than 4,000 students through anti-trafficking prevention programs, helping vulnerable children access education, protection, and opportunities for a brighter future. Many who once faced exploitation and extreme hardship are now leaders, professionals, and changemakers in their own communities.

Although her work has taken her around the world, Audrey credits the people and experiences in Metuchen with teaching her to put faith into action, serve others with compassion, and persevere through life's challenges. Those early lessons continue to shape her belief that lasting change happens when people are empowered to transform their own lives and communities. Audrey lives in Alabama with her husband, Rex, and their dog, Rosco. She is a member of the international Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking and a co-founder of the Global Anti-Trafficking Alliance Birmingham.

Audrey is honored to be recognized by Metuchen High School and remains grateful to the educators, mentors, and community members who helped inspire her commitment to service.

Learn more at LiftUpTheVulnerable.org.



## James A. Wallace, Jr.
## Class of 1959
### Humanitarian & Service Contributor

Class of 1959 MHS graduate, James A. Wallace, Jr., is recognized as an **Humanitarian and Service Contributor** for his dedication and service to the Metuchen community.

James A. Wallace Jr., born and raised in Metuchen, began contributing and took great pride in his commitment to community service by joining the ranks of the Metuchen Fire Department shortly after graduating MHS (’59) and working for the United States Postal Service in Metuchen.

Appointed as a police officer for the Metuchen Police Department in 1965 he served for twenty-seven (27) years (1965-1992) before retiring as a Sergeant in 1992 to take a security position at the local Mobil Chemical refinery. During his career as a police officer, Mr. Wallace was the recipient of both the prestigious Valor and Community Service awards given by the Middlesex County Blue Badge Association (now the 200 Club of Middlesex County). Officer Wallace was recognized for the apprehension of an armed bank robber shortly after a hold-up at the Metuchen Savings & Loan. Mr. Wallace’s community service award was given to honor his commitment to the Metuchen Fire Department, where he served for fifty-five (55) years (1960 – 2016) while still employed as a police officer.

Mr. Wallace held basically every position in the Metuchen Fire Department, including Fire Chief (1976-1978). Mr. Wallace was honored and recognized for a plethora of awards and distinctions over his lifetime. He was a Life Member of the New Jersey State Fireman's Association, long time Treasurer to the Metuchen Firemen's Relief Association, and Past President of the Middlesex County Fireman's Association. Mr. Wallace was an instrumental part and a founding member in the creation of the Middlesex County Fire Academy in 1992.

Mr. Wallace lived his entire life in Metuchen and was a very avid true blue Bulldog fan. Community was at the heart of everything Mr. Wallace did and he continued his passion to serve and was elected to the Metuchen Borough Council in 2010 for two terms where he was a sitting member until his death in 2016.




## *Reginald Blackshear*
## *Class of 1973*
## *Bulldog Spirit*

As a 1973 MHS graduate, Reginald “Reggie” Blackshear is recognized by the MHS Hall of Fame for his **Bulldog Spirit.** A scholastic and collegiate track and field star, Blackshear was one of the nation’s premier high school hurdlers and sprinters in the early 1970s.

Competing for Metuchen from 1970-73, he was the nation’s top ranked indoor high school hurdler in 1972 and 1973, and was named the 1973 New Jersey Track Athlete of the Year. A three-time high school All-American (1971-73), Blackshear was a New Jersey All-State track selection for three consecutive seasons while capturing numerous conference, county, sectional, and state titles in indoor and outdoor competition.

Blackshear set national records in the 60-yard high hurdles in 1972 (7.0) and 1973 (6.9). He anchored six national record-setting hurdle relay teams from 1971-73. Blackshear set more than 20 school records at Metuchen across multiple events. He won the Eastern States hurdles titles in 1972 and 1973, captured the hurdles championship at the 1973 International Prep Games in Chicago, and placed at the 1973 Golden West Invitational in California.

As a senior, he competed at the U.S. Junior Nationals (U20), placing in the hurdles and 100-meter dash. At the 1973 New Jersey All-Groups championships, Blackshear won the 60-yard hurdles in a national-record 6.9 seconds and placed second in the 60-yard dash, equaling the state record at 6.2 seconds. A three-time Most Valuable Performer at Metuchen, Blackshear anchored teams that won 26 major championships.

Known for versatility across hurdles, sprints, and jumps, Blackshear remains among New Jersey’s most decorated prep athletes. He went on to enjoy a stellar career at Seton Hall University.



## *Marqus Blakely*
## *Class of 2006*
## *Bulldog Spirit*

Marqus Blakely, 2006 MHS graduate, is recognized by the MHS Hall of Fame for his **Bulldog Spirit.** A dynamic player with exceptional leaping ability, Blakely was a key contributor to Metuchen High School’s historic 2005-06 basketball team, which advanced to the Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament final as the No. 1 seed and posted a 22-3 record for a program-best .880 winning percentage. His emergence as a junior, when the Bulldogs finished 17-9, helped transform the program, which had previously endured 16 consecutive losing seasons.

Blakely continued his success at the University of Vermont, where he established himself as one of the most accomplished players in school history. A two-time America East Player of the Year and three-time America East Defensive Player of the Year, Blakely ranks among the top five all-time in seven major statistical categories, including second in steals (226), third in blocks (254), rebounds (1,044), and field-goal percentage (.571), fourth in field goals made (673) and free throws made (525), and fifth in points (1,875). During the 2009-10 season, Blakely earned national recognition, winning the State Farm College Slam Dunk Championship, being named Most Outstanding Player of the America East Championship, and leading Vermont to an NCAA Tournament appearance. As a senior, he concluded his collegiate career with 607 points, the sixth-highest single-season total in school history.

In April 2011, Blakely signed with the NBA’s Houston Rockets and dressed for the team's final regular-season game, highlighting a distinguished professional basketball journey that spanned a decade and multiple continents. Blakely enjoyed success competing in the NBA G League and internationally in Japan and South Korea.



## *Dejuan Miller*
## *Class of 2008*
## *Bulldog Spirit*

Class of 2008 graduate, Dejuan Miller, is recognized by the MHS Hall of Fame for his **Bulldog Spirit**. Excelling in football, basketball, and track and field, Miller is widely regarded as one of the greatest three-sport athletes in school history.

On the hardwood, Miller finished his career as Metuchen's third all-time leading scorer with 1,396 points. As a senior, he averaged 23.7 points and more than 12 rebounds per game. During the 2005-06 season, he led the Bulldogs to appearances in the Greater Middlesex Conference and Central Jersey Group I tournament finals. In track and field, Miller was a 200- and 400-meter state champion. He set school records in the 100 meters (10.81 seconds) and 200 meters (21.77 seconds). On the gridiron, Miller set career and single-season school marks for receptions and receiving yards. He had more than 100 career catches for over 1,600 yards and hauled in 18 touchdown passes. During his senior year, Miller amassed more than 1,000 all-purpose yards, scored 14 total touchdowns, and recorded 77 tackles from his safety position.

Miller was ranked among the nation's top 15 wide receivers and received scholarship offers from more than 20 major Division I programs. He continued his football career at the University of Oklahoma, where he was part of a highly successful program that compiled a 42-12 record over his four seasons. The Sooners were nationally ranked fifth in 2008, sixth in 2010, and 16th in 2011. During his collegiate career, Miller caught 75 passes for 892 yards and two touchdowns. Miller went on to play professionally in the Indoor Football League.



## *Sandra Tupurins*
## *Class of 1976*
## *Bulldog Spirit*

Sandra Tupurins, 1976 MHS graduate, is recognized by the MHS Hall of Fame for her **Bulldog Spirit.** Tupurins was a two-sport standout at Metuchen, excelling in basketball and softball. On the hardwood, she scored 979 career points over three seasons and was a team co-captain. As a senior, she earned first team All–Mid-State Conference honors and was recognized as a Middlesex County Scholar-Athlete.

A member of the National Honor Society, Tupurins ranked 27th in a graduating class of 249 students. She competed with a state championship AAU basketball team that advanced to the national finals. Tupurins continued her basketball career at Rutgers University, where she is a member of the school's Athletics Hall of Fame.

One of the most dominant rebounders in program history, Tupurins set the single-season school record with 13.7 boards per game. Over her collegiate career, she grabbed 944 rebounds. Tupurins set the single-game program record with 26 rebounds against William Paterson in 1977. She also recorded 107 career blocks, becoming the first player in program history to surpass 100 career rejections.

Tupurins served as team captain during the 1979-80 season, leading Rutgers to a 28-8 record and an appearance in the Final Eight of the AIAW National Women's Basketball Tournament. She also played softball at Rutgers, where she compiled a 9-0 pitching record over two seasons. As a senior in 1980, the lefthander went 4-0 with a 0.49 ERA and threw a no-hitter against Fairleigh Dickinson University. She helped the Lady Knights finish with a 22-3 record on the diamond that season. After college, Tupurins played professional basketball in Venezuela.



## Condit Sniffen Atkinson, Jr.
## Distinguished Faculty

A graduate of the prestigious Julliard School of Music in New York City, Atkinson was Metuchen's first music and band director, serving in those roles from 1945 until his retirement in 1965. He established the school's music program and founded its marching band, shaping the foundation of instrumental music education in the district.

Prior to his tenure in Metuchen, Atkinson gained national recognition during the 1920s and 1930s as the leader of "Connie's Orchestra," playing the saxophone and other instruments. His career included extended engagements at prominent venues such as the Berkeley Carteret Hotel in Asbury Park, where he performed for five consecutive years, as well as extensive national and international tours.

Beyond performance, Atkinson made significant contributions to music education. He founded the Middlesex County Band School to provide accessible, free, or low-cost musical instruction to young people across the county. He also served in leadership roles within the National Association for Music Education and the New Jersey Music Educators Association, helping advance music education standards statewide and beyond.

During his time in Metuchen, Atkinson demonstrated a strong commitment to preserving student resources, notably safeguarding the high school's instrument collection during a 1957 fire. As an educator and mentor, Atkinson influenced generations of students, including notable jazz pianist Bill Evans, who garnered international acclaim.

Atkinson's mentorship also had a lasting impact beyond music, with former students crediting him for inspiring their success in fields such as civil rights leadership. After his retirement, Atkinson continued volunteering in music education until his death in 1968.



## Dianne Hunter Kuenzel
## Class of 1963
## Distinguished Faculty

Dianne Kuenzel dedicated her life to educating, inspiring, and believing in her students at Metuchen High School. Her tenure in the English Department (1968-2014) left an indelible mark on generations of students and colleagues. A formidable presence, she embodied the rare balance of academic rigor and genuine compassion that defines exceptional educators.

From Shakespeare and Victorian novels to her beloved American Transcendentalism, Dianne's mastery of literature brought texts alive through rich cultural context and vivid storytelling. Her students didn't just read *The Great Gatsby* or *Walden*; they traveled to those worlds, understanding the authors and eras that shaped them. As a writing specialist, she transformed struggling writers into confident voices. She collaborated with students through countless drafts teaching students not just how to write, but to be writers. She extended this gift beyond the classroom through summer College Essay workshops.

Whether teaching freshmen who needed both high expectations and maternal comfort, or AP students reaching for excellence, Dianne set the standard. She created the AP Literature curriculum, expanded Writing Workshop, mentored new teachers and administrators, advised the *Bulldog's Bark*, and served on countless committees always avoiding attention while giving generously.

A Metuchen High School alumna herself, Dianne's spirit became woven into the very fabric of the building. Beyond the classroom, she was a loving wife and devoted mother whose warmth and compassion touched all who knew her. The knowledge she shared filled classrooms, but the lives she touched became her greatest legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.



## *William H. McDuffie, Jr.*
## *Class of 1966*
## *Lifetime Recognition*

William “Bill” McDuffie's Lifetime Recognition is a testament to his generous service to country, community, and youth exemplifies the highest ideals of Metuchen High School.

A 1966 graduate, Bill lettered in varsity basketball and football while contributing to the Footlighters, Varsity Club, and Industrial Arts Club.

Following graduation, Bill served four years in the United States Air Force (1966–1970), rising to E-4, Airman First Class. As a communications specialist, he installed critical radar and weather systems across the United States and overseas, including combat deployment to Vietnam (1968–1969). His exemplary service earned unit citations for Good Conduct and Airman of the Year, plus the Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In 1972, Bill began a distinguished 31-year career with the Metuchen Police Department, retiring as Sergeant in 2003. He became a pioneer in community policing, creating the Borough's first Crime Prevention Program and securing grants for senior citizen home security. He established the Neighborhood Watch Program, brought McGruff and D.A.R.E. to Metuchen schools, and created "safe houses" for children. His statewide leadership as Vice President of the New Jersey Crime Prevention Officers Association elevated Metuchen's national reputation.

Bill's commitment to Metuchen youth spans decades: three terms on the Board of Education, 12+ years coaching Pop Warner football, and countless hours supporting Metuchen High School athletics as its most devoted fan. He served on the Metuchen Lions Club, Metuchen/Edison YMCA Board (10+ years), and Hillside Cemetery Board. His extraordinary volunteerism earned regional YMCA Volunteer of the Year honors and recognition from President George H.W. Bush.

Bill McDuffie embodies a lifetime of service, making Metuchen prouder with every contribution.

# *The Metuchen High School Hall of Fame Committee Congratulates the Class of 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees*

### Metuchen High School Hall of Fame Committee

Arthur Flaherty, Kathryn A. Glutz, Kathleen Keers-Nolde, Lee LaPorta, Susan M. L. Paredes, Edward C. Porowski (chair), Terrie Snyder, Jonathan Stevens, Greg Tufaro, Dawn Valovcin

### Special Thanks

Vincent Caputo, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
Michael Harvier, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Tania Herzog, Psy. D., Assistant Superintendent
Deneane Bonassisa, Ed. D., Director of Special Services
Members of the Board of Education
Karen Longo, MHS Administrative Assistant to the Principal
Lisa Latham, MHS Administrative Assistant to the Asst. Principal
Donna Corrigan, Administrative Assistant
Bruce J. Peragallo, Retired Principal of Metuchen High School
Metuchen High School Chamber Orchestra
Metuchen High School Transition Program

### In Memoriam

The Hall of Fame Committee remembers with deep gratitude Dianne Kuenzel and Greg Tufaro, two cherished members whose contributions to the committee and to our Hall of Fame will not be forgotten.

They generously shared their time, their knowledge, and their talents to help celebrate the accomplishments of each Hall of Fame inductee. Through the biographies they so thoughtfully wrote, they gave life to the stories of our honorees and helped preserve the legacy of those who have made a lasting impact on our school and community.

We are especially grateful that their work will continue to live on through the words they left behind and the many lives and accomplishments they helped honor. Their presence, friendship, and dedication will be deeply missed, but their contributions will remain an important part of the Hall of Fame’s history.

With sincere appreciation, we remember and honor them.

**Congratulations to the 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees!**

METUCHEN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

MEA

**Your achievements, dedication, and contributions continue to inspire our school community.**

THE METUCHEN PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL

Congratulates

**2026 MHS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

Metuchen Parent Teacher Council

WWW.METUCHENPTC.COM

*Congratulations to the Metuchen High School Hall of Fame Class of 2026!*

mpsa

LEARN FROM OUR PAST.
LIVE IN OUR PRESENT.
BELIEVE IN OUR FUTURE.

Metuchen Principals & Supervisors Association
Jennifer Asprocolas
Suzy Azevedo
Vincent Costanza, Ed. D.
Neyda Evans
Brooke Kirschner
Edward C. Porowski
Brian Stike

Ashley Bosgra
John Cathcart
Ilana Kurtin
Kathryn Lemerich
Patricia Lewis, Ed. D.
Louis Manziano
Lindsey Omark




# ALMA MATER

Sing the praise of old Metuchen High
Alma Mater, tried and true;
Emblem of our hopes and fondest dreams
To thee we pledge our love anew.
Blue and White, where honor leads the way
The foe shall ne'er thy fame deny.
Loyal hearts forever to thy name shall sing -
Alma Mater, old Metuchen High.

Days of dreaming; days of work and play
Days of youth, of flowers, and May;
Cherished hopes may fade, nor dreams come true,
But memories of youth are gay.
Strive we shall to win where honor calls
Nor let vain hopes our faith impair.
Alma Mater, loyal hearts shall praise for you -
Old Metuchen, fairest of the fair.