

# 2018 Allegheny Valley School District Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

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## *Ronald A. Martin*



**Ronald A. Martin (attended 1952-1963)** - Ronald A. Martin graduated from Springdale High School in 1963. He went on to attend several colleges before enlisting in the United States Army in 1966. He became a student at Fort Benjamin Harrison in the U.S. Army School of Finance. Martin graduated at the top of his class in 1967 and was deployed to Vietnam the same year. He served as a Paymaster and began volunteering outside of his office job for helicopter missions to rescue the wounded. Martin advanced quickly in rank to a Specialist 4th Class soldier and was promoted to Records Keeper. He willingly accepted leadership roles and duties that went above and beyond what was required of him. While serving, Martin began a campaign for an off-shoot of the USO program, starting a club where soldiers could go and get a taste of home and comfort for a brief time. He sent letters to newspapers back home, soliciting items to develop this rest-and-recreation sanctuary for weary soldiers. Martin gave the ultimate sacrifice when the helicopter he and three others were traveling in crashed on the way to a rescue. Martin was awarded medals for heroism and bravery in the line of duty. In his short life, he touch many persons and is remembered for his kind and giving spirit.

## *David J. Meloni*



**David J. Meloni (attended 1940-1947)** – David J. Meloni attended the Allegheny Valley School District during his elementary years. Graduating from Oakmont High School in 1953, he went on to secure a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial and Rural Recreation from North Carolina State College. He was hired by the Allegheny Valley School District and began a 35-year teaching career. Meloni continued his education at several colleges, earning a number of certifications and completing his Master's Equivalency. Perhaps his greatest achievements were as coach of Springdale High School's boys soccer team, winning 149 games, five section championships, and nine WPIAL titles. As an educator, Meloni expanded the curriculum, introduced new activities, and built a Home-School Visitor program. As a coach, he became one of the most honored mentors in the state. He served his community as a volunteer fireman, a member of several service organizations, and a founding member of the Northern Area of Pittsburgh Chapter of PIAA Soccer Officials. He has been selected to several Halls of Fame, including the Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the WPIAL Hall of Fame. Meloni instilled the true value of athletics and success, inspiring through confidence and a generous spirit.

## *Jack R. Yanni*



**Jack R. Yanni (attended 1954-1966)** - Jack R. Yanni graduated from Springdale High School in 1966. He went on to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology. In 1974, Yanni began a career in law enforcement with the City of WilliamSPORT. He moved up through the ranks to Captain, earning promotions with hard work, dedication, and intelligent police work. A mentor and leader, he earned many departmental awards and citations along the way. Yanni also dedicated 26 years to the Army Reserves, being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After retirement from the police force, Yanni returned to the work world as a supervisor at the State Board of Parole. He continues his love of learning through local classes and has opened a woodworking shop for crafters. He served his community by helping veterans return to civilian life, coaching youth sports, and raising funds for his church. Yanni also serves in the Knights of Columbus, acting as their Grand Knight for a number of years. He continues to find new and innovative ways to help the people around him. Yanni's life has been marked by his commitment to others and seeking ways to improve the community for the betterment