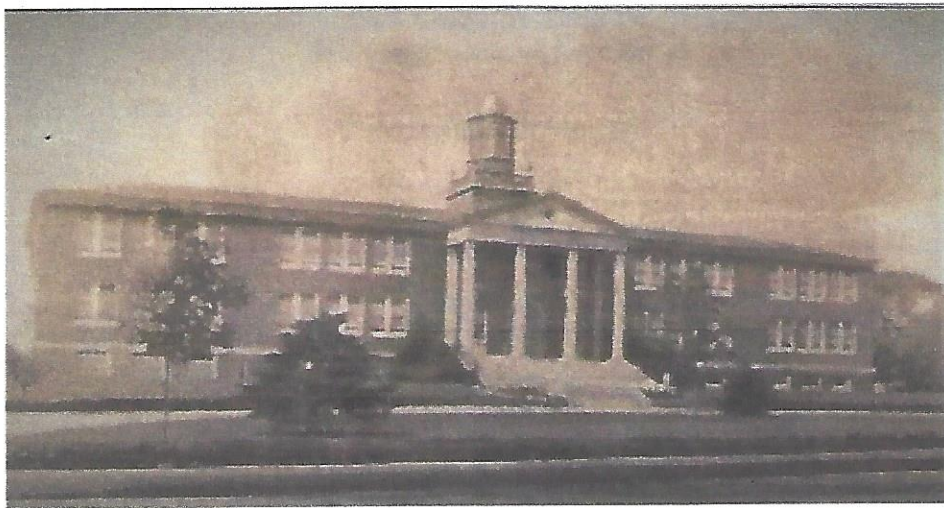


# West Babylon Alumni Foundation



Hall of Fame  
Induction Ceremony  
October 26, 2024

# ***Program***

## **Presentation of Colors**

Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634 of the American Legion

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Noreen Lico Wood '79

## **Welcome**

Ralph Rienzo '64, President  
West Babylon Alumni Foundation

## **Acknowledgment of Dignitaries**

Message from Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly  
Superintendent of West Babylon School

## **Board of Directors' Award**

Linda Caldwell Kronenbitter – Class of 1982

Presenter – Joan Weinschenk '64

The West Babylon Lion's Club

Presenter – Chris Connors '76

## **Buffet Lunch**

## **2024 Hall of Fame Inductees**

Lieutenant Colonel Steven Harrington – Class of 1965

Presenter – Jane DeMuis Harrington '65

Lieutenant Colonel Keith Ross – Class of 1982

Presenter- Kerri Tanenbaum & Scott Ross

Thomas Wesley – Class of 1973

Presenter- Rob Weaver '83

## **Closing Remarks**

Ralph Rienzo

## **Coffee and Cake**

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation was established in 1997 and then re-organized in 2008. The Foundation is comprised of graduates from over 60 years of students.

The purpose of the Foundation is to perpetuate the "*tradition of excellence*" in the West Babylon School District.

The Foundation has set goals of awarding scholarships, creating a "Hall of Fame" and establishing a website, as well as a grant program for student clubs and organizations.

## THE MISSION

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation, Inc. is a broadly based, non-profit organization whose purpose is educational and charitable to secure and distribute contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations for the benefit of the students in the West Babylon Public Schools and by doing so, perpetuate the unique experience and traditions.

### Officers and Board of Directors

Ralph Rienzo (Class of 1964) – President  
Chris Connors (Class of 1976) – Vice President  
Noreen Lico Wood (Class of 1979) – Treasurer  
Joanie Datena Weinschenk (Class of 1964) – Secretary

Elaine Billings Alexander (Class of 1973); Patricia Boyce (Class of 1970);  
Barbara Burrows (Class of 1973); Robert Congiusta (Class of 1967);  
Rosemary Rizzo Menendez (Class of 1973); Louise Pastore Scelza (Class of 1979);  
Shiela White (Class of 1963); and Anthony Cacciola (Class of 1979), Emeritus Trustee

Foundation email: [wbalumni@wbschools.org](mailto:wbalumni@wbschools.org)  
Foundation Website: [www.westbabylonalumni.org](http://www.westbabylonalumni.org)

**West Babylon Alumni Foundation  
Hall of Fame Board of Directors' Award**

**2010**

Dr. Robert J. Manley

**2017**

Jon Link

**2018**

Christopher Haug  
James Egbert

**2011**

Martin P. Kennedy  
Dr. Anthony Capone  
Mathew Wilensky

**2019**

Douglas G. Hassell Jr.  
Patricia Martin Farrell

**2012**

Frank Taplin

**2021**

Charles Volpe

**2013**

Margaret (Peggy) Ehrensperger

**2023**

West Babylon Fire Department

**2014**

Phillip Ames

**2024**

Linda Kronenbitter  
West Babylon Lion's Club

**2015**

Wally Alesse  
Barry Titone

**2016**

Melvin Noble  
Margaret Jon Haugen  
Emanuel Campisi



**Linda Kronenbitter**  
**Class of 1982**  
**West Babylon Alumni Foundation**  
**Directors' Award 2024**

Linda Kronenbitter was born and raised in West Babylon, the daughter of Harold and Lois Caldwell. After graduating from West Babylon High School in 1982, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Geology with a minor in Computer Science from Long Island University's Southampton College.

Linda spent over a decade in quality control and product management roles before transitioning into education. She developed essential leadership and technical skills during this time, which later informed her teaching. Driven by a passion for teaching, Linda earned a Master of Science in Education from Dowling College.

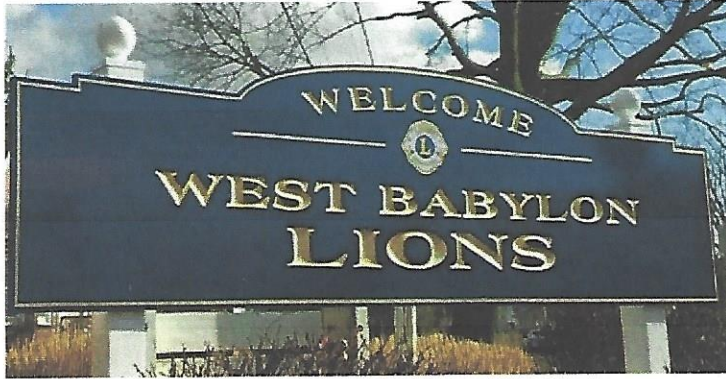
In 2003, Linda returned to West Babylon as a science teacher at the West Babylon Junior High School. Over the past two decades, she has taught Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students. Her dedication to education is reflected in her mentoring of new teachers, involvement in character education and social-emotional learning (SEL) programs and coaching the Science Olympiad Team. She also serves on district committees focused on technology, health, and wellness.

Since 2015, Linda has served as a Building Representative and then as the Secondary Vice President of the West Babylon Teachers' Association. In these roles, she has been instrumental in addressing contractual concerns, resolving grievances, and facilitating communication between staff and administration.

In addition to her professional work, Linda is an active member of a group of retired and current teachers from West Babylon known as the Stitching Witches. As a member of this group, Linda sews, knits, and crochets items for donation to various organizations, including the Babylon Breast Cancer Coalition, veterans' home, nursing homes throughout Long Island and members of the West Babylon community.

Linda established the first web page for the West Babylon Alumni Foundation enabling them to reach out to graduates near and far.

She resides in Sayville, New York, with her husband, Ray, and is the proud parent of two children, one stepchild, and three grandchildren.



**West Babylon Lions Club  
Community Organization  
West Babylon Alumni  
Foundation  
Directors' Award**

The history of the West Babylon Lions Club began on June 12, 1950, when Harry J. Diehl, a representative of Lions International, certified that he had received the names of 31 members to issue a charter.

The purpose of a Lions Club is to serve the community in meeting its needs and in solving its problems. OUR MOTO: WE SERVE.

Since formation the West Babylon Lions Club have been active in helping the handicapped, the less fortunate of the community and provide annual scholarships to West Babylon Students.

**Community Service Activities**

Food Baskets

Adopt a family at Christmas time

Provided and installed smoke detectors to senior citizens and handicapped individuals in West Babylon

Free glaucoma, hearing, and blood pressure testing.

Donations to the Guide Dog Foundation, Helen Keller Institute, Cleary School for the Deaf, Lions Clubs International Foundation, St Jude's Children's Hospital and Autism

Eye exams and glasses for individuals in West Babylon

Built and equipped the West Babylon Lions sight and hearing room, located in the West Babylon Library and provide free transportation for the sight and hearing-impaired residents of the community.

Christmas Tree Lighting

**Fund Raising Activities**

Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast which serves over 1,200 people

St. Anthony's Annual Feast

Bingo

Car Show

# West Babylon Alumni Foundation Hall of Fame Inductees

## 2009

Erica Crespi '88  
Jonathan Reese '86  
Mozelle Thompson '72  
Judy Skillen  
Senator Owen H. Johnson  
Helmer Petersen (posthumously)

## 2010

Thomas C. Teufel '88  
Dr. Charles Thompson '72  
Thomas McAteer '71  
Justice Ralph Costello '59  
H. Austin Sheldon, Jr. (posthumously)

## 2011

Dr. William G. Hawkins '87  
Lawrence Doyle '76  
Dr. Christopher Proto '72  
Dr. Daniel McCally '64  
Major Melvyn Kloor '59

## 2012

Dr. Debra Viti '77 (posthumously)  
Eric Kraft '61  
Silvio Impagliazzo

## 2013

Patrick M. Farrell '73  
Michael J. Rizzo '67  
Dominick Varrone '67  
Dr. John Bernardo '64

## 2014

Shannon Smith '08  
Harold Dieterie '95  
Patrick Halpin '71  
Vincent DiMartino '66  
Russell D. Van Brunt (posthumously)

## 2015

Dr. Mark Thompson '79  
Anthony Cacciola '79  
Constance Campanella '73  
Eileen Naughton Roberto '70  
John Zaruka '69

## 2016

Suffolk County Legislator Thomas Cilmi '82  
Benedict Reyes '64 (posthumously)  
Mary Myers Bruckenstein '63  
Leroy Douglas '60 (posthumously)

## 2017

Shannon Romanchuk Saturno '01  
(posthumously)  
Christine Mowbray Manzi '96  
Jeffrey Mintz '75 (posthumously)  
Glenn Drewes '67

## 2018

Robert Weaver '83  
Panela Vaughn Valdez '75  
Richard Scheinberg '71  
Joseph Germano '64

## 2019

Dr. Jennifer D'Amico '98  
Justin Davies '94  
Thomas H. Weidemeyer '65

## 2021

Dr. Mitchell Bellucci '73  
Commander Brian Kudrle '01  
William A. Miller '02  
Laurie O'Gara '71  
Jerry Owenburg '69  
Dr. Vito Rizzo '74  
Mark Scheinberg '74

## 2023

Regina M. Dooley '80  
Kimberly Skillen '90  
Dr. Scott L. Weiss '96

## 2024

Lieutenant Colonel Steven Harrington '65  
Lieutenant Colonel Keith Ross '82  
Thomas Wesley '73



**Lieutenant Colonel Steven Harrington**  
**Class of 1965**  
**West Babylon Alumni Foundation**  
**Hall of Fame 2024**

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Harrington was born in Brooklyn and moved to West Babylon in 1952. He left for Colorado Springs on June 27, 1965, and entered the United States Air Force Academy. He graduated from the Academy on June 4, 1969, with the rank of Second Lieutenant. He married Jane DeMuis (Class of '65) on June 15, 1969 and began Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, Texas.

After graduation he was assigned to Dyess AFB in Abilene, Texas to fly the C-130 military aircraft. He flew missions in the United States, Europe, The Middle East and Africa for the next six years. During one mission, as the aircraft commander, his plane lost power to all four engines. Captain Harrington was able to restart one, then two more engines. His actions saved a multi-million-dollar aircraft and the lives of the 13 crew members.

In 1976 he was assigned to the Berlin Air Safety Center in West Berlin representing United States interests with British, French and Russia Officers.

In 1980, he was assigned to Pope AFB in Fayetteville, North Carolina. After the failed rescue of the Iranian hostage in 1980, the Air Force began a C-130 Special Operations unit. Steve was an "initial cadre" of this unit and instrumental in setting up and training pilots. He was the highest-ranking Special Operation pilot at Poe AFB and, as such, was chosen to brief Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger on his visit to the base.

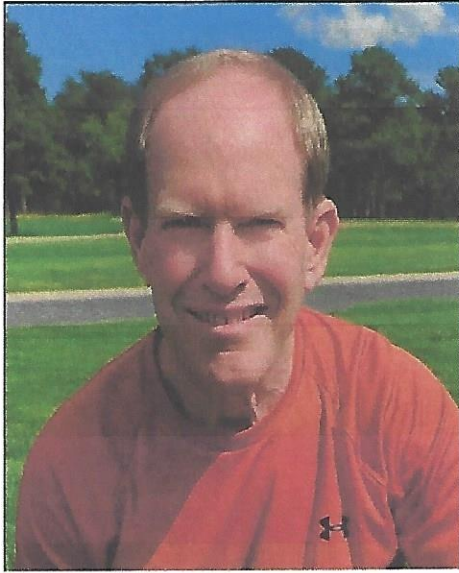
He was assigned to the 310<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron in Panama in 1988, at a time of great unrest in Latin America. His missions in Panama were highly classified and was directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and National Command Authority (Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and President George H.W. Bush).

He remained in Special Operations for the next eleven years until retirement, at which time he continued his flying career with Delta Air Lines.

Steve and Jane now live on the coast of North Carolina, where Steve plays several rounds of golf every week, enjoys reading, walks with his dog, and getting to spend time with his two daughters, Kathie and her partner Jennifer, and Joanna and her husband Shawn...and spoiling granddaughter Hunter and grandsons Dow and Ryan.

With all his accomplishments, one that is Steve's most memorable is the 1964 Eagles football first League championship which is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this fall.





**Lieutenant Colonel Keith Ross**  
**Class of 1982**  
**West Babylon Alumni Foundation's**  
**Hall of Fame 2024**

Lt. Col. Keith Ross is a 1982 graduate of West Babylon Senior High School.

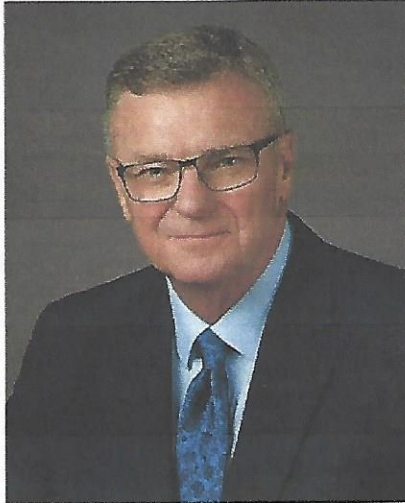
The day after graduation, he left for basic training in the US. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He earned a B.S. Science in Civil Engineering as the top-ranked student in his major at USAF Academy in 1986. Keith then trained as a pilot at Reese AFB, Texas and earned his wings in 1987 as a KC-135 Combat Crew pilot. He served at Loring AFB, Maine, and Altus AFB, Oklahoma in several roles, including aircraft commander, instructor pilot, flight commander, and evaluator pilot. Keith also earned two Masters' degrees – an M.S. in Administration from Central Michigan University in 1995 and M.S. in Civil Engineering from University of Maine in 1998. The latter degree focused on environmental engineering, which enabled him to serve as an instructor of seven courses at the Air Force Academy from 1998 to 2002.

Keith was called back to operational duty in 2002 and requalified to fly the K-135 at Fairchild AFB in Washington. In 2003, he deployed as Deputy Chief of the Air Mobility Division for the Iraq War where he coordinated airlift and tanker operations throughout U.S. Central Command's theatre of operation.

During his career, he has deployed in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD, SOUTHERN WATCH, IRAQI FREEDOM, and ENDURING FREEDOM.

Keith retired in 2006 after twenty years of service. He made his home in Colorado Springs with his wife Trisha (now deceased) and three sons. He worked in the private sector for several years, first as a high school math teacher and then as the head of civil engineering for a government contractor responsible for buildings on the Air Force Academy grounds.

Today, Keith enjoys staying fit, walking his dogs, and spending time with his two young granddaughters.



**Thomas Wesley**

**Class of 1973**

**West Babylon Alumni Foundation**

**Hall of Fame 2024**

Upon graduation, Tom was appointed to the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, developing a thirst for international commerce and travel. He earned his wings as a Naval Aviator, leading multiple aviation deployments to the Western Pacific and later served at the Pentagon with the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In business, he led global sales and operations organizations in the aerospace and life science industries.

Tom has a long record of service to non-profit boards, including the USMMA Alumni Association and Foundation (2022 Outstanding Professional Achievement Award), USMMA National Parents Association (as President), the Massachusetts Manufacturing Advancement Center Workforce Innovation Collaborative (2013 John Gould Workforce Innovation Award winner), Associated Industries of Massachusetts (Executive Board and COVID Return to Workplace Task Force), and the Claffin Hill Symphony Orchestra (President). He presently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Community Boating Center, Providence, RI, and as a Trustee of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City.

An active public servant, Tom first sought elective office in 2010. Winning a contested primary election, he was the Republican nominee for a US House of Representatives seat in Massachusetts. Twice elected as Selectman in the Town of Hopedale, he developed an Urban Renewal Plan targeting industrial blight through public-private partnership. Tom received citations from the Massachusetts State Senate and House of Representatives recognizing his “exemplary public service” and “honoring those who protect and serve this great nation.”

In his community, Tom served 6 years as the Grand Marshall of the Town of Hopedale Memorial Day Parade and has frequently been keynote speaker at annual 911 Commemorations and Flag Day Ceremonies. An Eagle Scout, Tom has consistently worked with youth and proudly served Scouting as Scoutmaster and Philmont expedition trek leader.

Tom is extremely honored to be an Eagle.

## Donors

Jon Link in honor of all 5 honorees  
Dr. Robert Manley in honor of all 5 honorees  
Thomas Wesley  
Robert & Donna Weaver  
West Babylon Athletic Association

## Sponsors

Angela Chiaramonte  
Richard Champa  
Joan Haugen  
Mike Honahan  
Thomas Ingald  
John Kramer – Owner Jessen’s Delicatessen  
Terri McKenna in honor of Linda Kronenbitter  
Rosemary Menendez in honor of Ralph Rienzo  
Pierce Murphy  
Janice Morano in honor of the Class of 1968  
Dr. Patti Neville in honor of Linda Kronenbitter & Keith Ross  
Fred Prezioso in honor of Steve Harrington  
Lyle Savinetti  
Walter Stroeber in honor of all the honorees  
Artie Vaughn  
West Babylon Fire Department, Chief Steve Kamalic

## A very special Thank You to the West Babylon School District

Superintendent of Schools, Yiendhy Farrelly, Ed. D.  
Mr. Shawn Hanley, Deputy Superintendent for Human Resources  
Mr. Scott Payne, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Mrs. Denise Gillis, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Mr. Steve O’Leary, Principal, Senior High School

## West Babylon Board of Education

Mr. Christopher Paolillo, President  
Mrs. Roseann Geiger, Vice President  
Mr. Raymond Downey, Trustee  
Mr. John Evola, Trustee  
Mrs. Cathy Gismervik, Trustee  
Mrs. Chirsten Johnson-Tymann, Trustee  
Dr. Patti Neville, Trustee  
Mr. Anthony Raccomandato, Trustee  
Ms. Jailin Parada, District Clerk,