

Foundation to honor Watson, MacIver for community service

The Point Pleasant Foundation for Excellence in Education will induct six new members into the Point Pleasant High School Hall of Fame at the ninth annual Hall of Fame Dinner at the Crystal Point Yacht Club, Point, Pleasant on Friday, March 10.

This year's hall of fame honorees for community service are the late Loren C. MacIver Sr. and John "Jack" Watson. Both Mr. Watson and Mr. MacIver were nominated for their leadership and lifetime commitment to education, children and volunteer services .

Mr. MacIver was born in Elizabeth in 1947. He spent most of his childhood in Sayreville before moving to Toms River where he graduated from Toms River High School in 1965. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and became a Vietnam veteran. He attended both Ocean County College and Stockton State College where he earned a bachelor's of science degree in accounting in 1977.

Mr. MacIver moved to Point Pleasant in 1973, where he resided for 32 years before his death in 2005. While he lived, he was completely dedicated to keeping the quality of life high for children in the Point Pleasant area. In response to his generosity, kindness and unyielding commitment to children, education, recreation, sports and volunteer service, scores of residents requested the foundation committee to accept Mr. MacIver's nomination into the Point Pleasant Borough High

School Hall of Fame. They simply viewed the gesture as a fitting and lasting tribute for a humble man who had accomplished so much.

To some, Mr. MacIver epitomized how parental involvement and putting children first can make a difference in any town. To all, his actions represented the highest of standards. No matter how diverse their skills and competencies,

Mr. MacIver worked tirelessly to build confidence in youngsters by convincing them, one child at a time, that they could find a place to contribute something meaningful to the goals of any team or effort. The consensus was clear: "Mac" always found creative ways to help kids transform lessons at McKennan Lake Field and in the classroom into positive moments that influenced their view of themselves and the world around them forever.

Mr. MacIver's service to the community was held in high esteem and included serving as president of both the Point Pleasant Recreation Commission and the Point Pleasant Soccer Club during the 1980s. He was an elected member of the Point Pleasant Board of Education from 1989 to 2004, where he also served as president. He founded the Challenger Basketball League for special education students in 1999. He was an active member of the Point Pleasant Little League and coached traveling soccer throughout his time in Point Pleasant.

Mr. MacIver's wife, Ann, currently

resides in Point Pleasant with the couple's sons, Kenneth, Thomas, Ryan and Kevin. Mr. MacIver daughter, Jennifer, lives in San Jose, Calif.; while son Loren Jr., currently resides in Toms River.

The foundation salutes Mr. MacIver and his entire family by celebrating the legacy of a man who managed to leave an indelible mark on the hearts of Point Pleasant residents while earning the respect of all who shared his vision.

Mr. Watson was born in Elizabeth and moved to Point Pleasant during high school. Upon graduation from Point Pleasant Beach High School, he entered Monmouth Junior College, where he earned his associate's degree in business. Drafted into the U.S. Army, he served for two years. Following this service, he returned to Monmouth College, which had become a four-year program by then, and received his bachelor of science degree in business. He also was a full-time police officer for the Point Pleasant Police Department.

After graduation, he took a job, as a claims adjuster, with New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company. Court clerk for Point Pleasant was a part-time position for him as well.

After leaving New Jersey Manufacturers, Mr. Watson pursued his career in education.

While taking teacher certification

courses, he was a permanent substitute teacher for Point Pleasant.

After receiving his certification, he became a teacher in the business department of the high school. His pursuit of further education did not stop until he earned his master's degree in guidance and administration at Seton Hall University. Shortly thereafter, he became a guidance counselor in the high school and ultimately the vice principal of Nellie Bennett Elementary School, until he retired in 1991.

One of the highlights of Mr. Watson's career in education was the 20 years that he served as the advisor to the Key Club. Some of the Key Club contributions to the community, during that time, were helping Jack Glass set up the recycling center, installing cardiac exercise stations in Campbell Park, helping with field day in the elementary schools and organizing several events for worthy causes, such as Multiple Sclerosis and cancer research.

During Mr. Watson's tenure as Key Club advisor, he was proud that local club members were regularly elected to statewide offices within the organization, including lieutenant governors and governor of the New Jersey district. Although the Point Pleasant club was one of the smaller clubs in the state, the students demonstrated they could compete with any club, for elected positions and win regular statewide awards. Past Key Club members have gone on to

serve in leadership positions in careers, as well as volunteer service, in government, education, banking business and elected office in the community, state and nation. Mr. Watson's lifetime impact on students in the community and his commitment to volunteer services inspired the establishment of a scholarship in his name, called the Jack Watson-Key Club Public Service Endowment.

In addition to his long-standing involvement with the Point Pleasant schools Mr. Watson has also participated in many community groups. Among some of his focuses were Point Pleasant Fire Company No. 2, as a charter member and secretary; Patrolman's Benevolent Association No. 106, as recording secretary and president; Squadron 142 of The Marine Police; Durand Lodge No. 179, F&AM; Wall Chapter No. 143; Point Pleasant Adult School as a trustee; Point Pleasant First Aid Squad; Point Pleasant Beach Music Parents' Association as president; Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church, as a member and trustee; the planning board of Point Pleasant Beach, as vice chairman; and a Point Pleasant Beach councilman.

Mr. Watson and his wife, Marjorie, a former teacher, have been married for 44 years . The couple has two daughters, Gail and Jill. Gail and her husband, Benj Fiorentino, are the parents of his four grandchildren, Christian, Kelsey, Robin and Riley. Since Mr. Watson's retirement,

his hobbies continue to be cars, going to the beach, history, doing outside chores, traveling and being with family.

The Point Pleasant Foundation for Excellence in Education is proud to honor this former teacher, community leader and mentor whose entire life represents volunteer services of the highest caliber. This weekend, the foundation welcomes home all the Key Club alumni who followed Mr. Watson's example for decades and who have returned to Point Pleasant to join the Foundation as it inducts their nominee, into the Hall of Fame.

This event dedicated to highlighting excellence in education in Point Pleasant will also honor the following alumni of Point Pleasant Borough High School for their extraordinary achievements: Jim Hibbs, class of 1966' Robert Wells, class of 1971' Frank Scarpone, class of 1972' and Paul Henkel, class of 1991. Tickets were sold in advance.