

## PRESS RELEASE

Mr. Richard J. Baccarella, Principal of Bayonne High School, and the Hall of Fame Committee under the direction of Eric N. Ryan, Vice Principal have announced the inductee for 2021. The induction ceremony will take place virtually and in conjunction with the National Honor Society induction ceremony to be aired in June.

This year's Hall of Fame inductee:





## Pete Contaldi Class of 1968- Athletics

Pete Contaldi was quite simply one of the best athletes in Bayonne High School history. Pete not only was the star and Captain of the football team, he was also chosen as captain of the Varsity Swim team. He was one of the first athletes to

Captain two Varsity Teams while at Bayonne High School. Pete played offensive line center and middle linebacker for the defensive unit. He was named MVP of the annual Thanksgiving day game in 1967 which drew a crowd of 8,500 fans. In 1967 Pete was 1<sup>st</sup> team All-county Linebacker and Hudson County Lineman of the Year. He was selected 1<sup>st</sup> team ALL-State and was a High School ALL-American. Pete swam the butterfly event and was a key member and Captain of the Varsity Swim Team.

Pete Contaldi went on to star at Montclair State College where he was a premier linebacker who captained the MSC football team for two years. Pete was one of the most decorated players in MSC history. As a senior he was the first Montclair State player to be named NCAA ALL-American. He was ALL-Conference, a member of the New York Times ALL-East Team, ECAC ALL-East team and was named to the "Outstanding College Athlete of America Hall of Fame". Pete was a key factor in the 1970 Knute Rockne Bowl Championship and in his three years of varsity play, the team posted a 24-5 record. He was inducted into the Montclair State College Hall of Fame in 1983.

Pete returned to Bayonne High School and gave back to the school by being a Physical Education teacher, football coach and Wrestling coach.