

Introducing Hall of Fame Inductee Carlo Giordano



Carlo Giordano
Class of 1977

South Huntington Hall of Fame

On September 24, 2016, our South Huntington School District will be honoring the outstanding achievements of distinguished alumni who will be inducted into our Hall of Fame. The occasion will begin with a Celebration Breakfast and Induction Ceremony at Walt Whitman High School. The Homecoming Parade, Float Competition, and Football Game will feature our 2016 Hall of Fame Inductees. Additional information is on this website.

Serving his Country was of such high priority, that Carlo Giordano enlisted in the Armed Services six months before he graduated from Walt Whitman High School. "It was called the 'delayed enlistment' program, and I was in active duty six weeks after I graduated in June of 1977," said Carlo.

In the Fall of 1974 a record number of students swelled the halls of Whitman, so much so that they had split sessions, busing half of the 800-student sophomore class to 'Central,' a school building at 33 New York Avenue that was eventually sold. "Whitman was so crowded that they encouraged students take classes at Wilson Tech," said Carlo. "Having worked in my father's construction business, I found the welding program at Wilson my favorite and steered myself in that direction as soon as I entered the Navy."

The Navy had other ideas and soon Carlo was being trained in the field of aircraft hydraulics and airframes and was assigned to attack squadron 176 onboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Independence. It was there that Carlo attained the rank of 3rd class petty officer and was responsible for 9 airmen and the flight readiness of 15

A-6 aircraft, the U.S. Navy's all weather, long-range attack aircraft built by the Grumman Corporation.

"After my service in the Navy, I worked for Grumman Aerospace full-time and part-time for South Huntington schools. When a full-time position opened at South Huntington, I jumped at it," said Carlo. "I started as a night custodian at Stimson Middle School, then was promoted to night supervisor at Memorial, from there I was promoted to Head custodian of Maplewood, and in 2001 became Chief custodian of Walt Whitman High School." Carlo has been with the district for over 30 years and credits one of his superior officers in the Navy with teaching him techniques of supervision and management skills.

"I always felt a deep responsibility toward my Country and the need to serve in the Military, so in 1996 I joined the 106th Combat Rescue Wing Air National Guard," said Carlo. While with the Guard, Carlo served in Operation Noble Eagle WTC at Ground Zero, Operation Southern Watch in Kuwait, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. In September of 2011 he retired from the military with 21 total years of service and the rank of Master Sergeant. Currently he is an active member of the American Legion post 1244.

"I didn't realize it while in high school, but once I went thru the service, it was then that I realized that Whitman had a lot of dedicated teachers who helped mold you into who you are," Carlo said. "Social Studies teacher Maureen Tomasulo and History teacher Clare Sharp are two who come to mind, and when I reflect back, they showed a lot of dedication and really cared about their students."

While in the Navy, Carlo married his high school sweetheart, Joyce Dowling, and together have three sons and two grandsons. "My wife and I were both born and raised and still reside in South Huntington," said Carlo. "Thank you to the Committee for selecting me to be a part of the South Huntington Hall of Fame. I am deeply honored."