



January 17, 2021

Dear Scarsdale Village Board of Trustees,

I am writing in support of the attached December 17, 2020 petition to dedicate the football field at the Crossways Athletic Complex in honor of Richard "Rippy" Philipps. Rippy is a founder of the Franklin & Marshall College Football Association and I have enjoyed working directly with him over the past 35 years. I can emphatically state that I have never met anyone more dedicated to his hometown and youth sports. I have repeatedly witnessed Rippy's dedication to youth football in Scarsdale. More importantly, I can attest to Rippy's core values which drive him as a coach and teacher to instill integrity, commitment, respect, honesty and inclusiveness in the young women and men who he has mentored and coached.

There are numerous young women and men from Scarsdale who Rippy has helped to guide through middle school, high school, college and beyond including members of the Des Champs family, Leone family, Fix family and Nicholas family, among others. These are just a few examples of the many individuals and families who Rippy has impacted over his decades of service to the Scarsdale community.

Most notably, 2020 brought many defining experiences, including: a global pandemic, changes to learning and working environments, and calls for social justice. Rippy and his team demonstrated incredible leadership and extraordinary commitment to the young women and men of Scarsdale during this time by adapting, organizing and executing an expansive flag football program which provided a much-needed outlet for these children during a most difficult time of isolation.

Rippy's efforts have helped to increase diversity and inclusivity in the Scarsdale community. Through youth sports, Rippy has helped to create a learning environment which helps to teach children the importance of equity and inclusion which help to shape these children over the course of their lifetime.

I firmly believe that dedicating the football field at the Crossways Athletic Complex in honor of Coach Rippy would be an appropriate way to recognize his long-standing support and commitment to Scarsdale and so many of its children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Sheridan', written in a cursive style.

Thomas Sheridan

Founder & President

Franklin & Marshall College Football Association

December 17, 2020

Dear Board of Trustees,

First, a sincere thanks for your dedicated service to our community. Your efforts help safeguard and enhance that which makes Scarsdale the unique and desirable place it is to raise families. To that end, we, the undersigned, would like the BOT to consider dedicating the football field at the Crossways Athletic Complex to an iconic Scarsdalian, Richard 'Rippy' Philipps. Rippy has spent the last 25+ years tirelessly serving the youth of Scarsdale and that patch of grass is quite literally the epicenter of his work.

For those of you who do not know Rippy, here is a little background. Rippy grew up in Scarsdale, right across from Crossways, happily playing Scarsdale rec sports throughout the year including Football and Lacrosse at SHS. He touts these experiences as instrumental to his success later in life. His journey to community treasure began in the early 1990's when he found out, much to his dismay, the SHS football program was disbanded due to lack of numbers. He knew that just shouldn't be, so he left NYC, moved to Scarsdale and got involved. He knew the key to having any high school sport was to have a vibrant youth program. The Rec program had also fallen on hard times and he began re-invigorating the youth football program with one team of 17 boys and 2 volunteer Dads. What started as a means to an end, quite quickly took Rippy in a different direction and emphasis. This past fall, in a Covid safe environment, the Scarsdale Youth Football program ("SYF") had over 250 kids of all ages and sizes playing flag football and 20+ Teen and Adult volunteers.

Due to Rippy, the SYF program has grown and continually changed with the times and in most instances, he was the driving force for those changes. Rippy not only makes sure new kids to town are welcomed on the field but ensures that there is a place at the lunch table for them in school. He is also inclusive of both boys and girls playing flag and/or contact football as well as children with special needs getting the opportunity to play with their fellow classmates. Lastly, he also makes sure that SYF is on the cutting edge of safety protocols well before it is newsworthy. He continually seeks guidance from any and all experts and meets regularly with whomever can make the experience "for the kids" the best possible. Who has he met with? The NFL, college coaches across the northeast, medical professionals, Section 1 officials and the staff at SHS to name just a few.

It is not only the youth of Scarsdale that benefits from his actions. He is on the board of The Scarsdale Football League ("SFL") which began with the towns of Scarsdale and Edgemont. Through his efforts, it now includes Tarrytown, Dobbs Ferry, Carmel, Hastings, Ossining, Yonkers Boys and Girls Club, Mahopac, Lakeland, St Bernards of White Plains and the White Plains Tigers Football Club. In a nutshell, Rippy's POV has always been more teams, more games, more opportunity for all kids to get in the game and play which equals more fun "for the kids". Rippy ensured that participating towns also conformed to the safety measures created by SYF thus benefiting countless children county-wide. It is not an understatement to say he has positively touched the lives of literally thousands of children across Westchester.

Rippy was also instrumental in organizing, planning and raising funds for both the original turf and track upgrade at Butler Field as well as the addition of LED lights this past year. Those two

projects have added countless hours of convenience and enjoyment for all members of the Scarsdale Community.

Furthermore, Rippy's guidance for the boys and girls of Scarsdale does not stop after 8th grade. He is a confidant to many throughout their high school years and is a relentless cheerleader and networker for those looking to extend their playing days past their time at SHS. He is not shy about using his college contacts for athletes and non-athletes alike to help "the kids" get into the college of their choice. His mentoring also continues for our young men and women throughout their college years, whether it's a 4 year journey or one that meanders. Lastly, when "his kids" need help landing their first job or well into their careers...He is there. Btw, how strong are these bonds? In the last few years, many of his former players have moved back to Scarsdale to raise their families and now volunteer to coach. As for Rippy, he is now teaching and mentoring the children of the players from his first teams.

Over the last few weeks we have taken an unofficial survey of structures, parks and fields throughout Scarsdale named after individuals: Hyatt Field, Winston Field, George Field Park, Boniface Circle, Dean Field, Butler Field, Davis Park, all 4 houses at SMS, John Coulter field at Edgewood School, Rutherford Hall, the S. Spencer Scott room at Scarsdale Library, de Lima Park and the list goes on.

We, the Undersigned, believe that the **Richard "Rippy" Philipps Field at Crossways** would be an appropriate addition to that list and the perfect place to acknowledge the decades of positive and tireless service Rippy has given to the Community

John and Erika McCann -- 8 Edgewood Road  
Lou Henry -- 18 Walworth Avenue  
Steve and Betsy Bush -- 980 Post Road  
Chris and Mei Morin -- 32 Brite Avenue  
Bill and Elizabeth Mcinerney -- 7 Edgewood Road  
Mark and Lisa Bezos -- 4 Heathcote Road  
Steve Nicholas -- 14 Heathcote Road  
Chris and Meg Simon -- 35 Cambridge Road  
Greg and Stacey Cahaly -- 153 Brite Avenue  
Michael and Shari Philipps -- 12 Windward Lane  
Todd and Gail Leone -- 39 Barry Road  
Jennifer Meyers Deschamps and Tom Deschamps -- 18  
Greenacres Avenue  
Shawn and Melissa Singer -- 70 Penn Boulevard  
Jennifer and Josh Glantz -- 1 Claremont Road  
Peter Adams and Jody Pontone -- 5 Harcourt Road  
Kathy and Ed Coleman -- 132 Madison Road  
Anne and Kevin Lyons -- 82 Greenacres Avenue  
Wendy and Jeff Gendel -- 100 Brookby Road  
Dan Moretti and Mary Beth Evans -- 16 Edgewood Road  
Janice and Ira Starr -- 65 Church Lane  
Kevin and Angela Waterhouse -- 31 Taunton Road  
Paul Fix -- 3 Coventry Court  
Lew Leone Sr. -- 2 Eastwoods Lane  
  
Jim Detmer -- 33 Edgewood Road  
Mike Detmer -- 2 Woods Lane

Jim Detmer Sr. -- 29 Woods Lane  
Doug Leone -- 137 Johnson Road  
Rich Jamesly -- 50 Tunstall Road  
Matt Miller -- 19 Drake Road  
Steve Schulman -- 7 Canterbury  
Anthony Cugini -- 14 Tunstall Road  
Frank Gobes -- 35 Jefferson Road  
Adrienne Regan -- Saxon Woods Road  
Jim and Jane Felix-- 21 Hamilton Road  
Evan Grossman -- 7 Coralyn Rd,  
Linda and Alfred DiFalco -- 276 Madison Road  
Kate and Matt Conlan -- 212 Madison Road,  
Judy Eforo -- 53 Sprague Rd  
Doug Knopp -- 22 Madison Rd  
Linda Peretz -- 18 Rectory Lane,  
Larry Smith -- 12 Oak Ln  
Bill Squadron -- 25 Fox Meadow Rd  
Carol Wolfe -- 13 Olmsted Rd  
Scott Zemachson -- 7 Harvest Dr

For COVID social distance safety reasons, we did not use an actual petition but hope our names and addresses suffice. If you have further questions, please contact John McCann at 917-371-9374 or [johnmccan914@gmail.com](mailto:johnmccan914@gmail.com), Thank you again for your consideration.