

①

## 2014 HALL of FAME NOMINATION FORM

I nominate **Edward C. Gelia** for induction into the Bishop Fallon High School/ Holy Angels Collegiate Institute Hall of Fame (Please print Full Name)

The nominee fits into one or more of the following categories.

Please check the categories that apply(s) to the candidate.

☒ Distinguished Alumni    ☐ Distinguished Athlete    ☐ Faculty Member  
☐ Staff Member    ☐ Sports team (Attach year and members if possible)

### CANDIDATES INFORMATION: (Please print)

Name **Edward C. Gelia**

Address **90 Brayant woods S. Amherst 14228**

Phone **632-6118** Email **egelia@ui.ai.com**

School (Check one)    ☐ BFHS    ☒ HACI    Class Year **1949**

**A WRITTEN BIOGRAPHY OF THE CANDIDATE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM AND PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION.**

The bio should include, but not be limited to the following: Accomplishments while attending HACI or BFHS; College(s) attended, if applicable, as well as degrees attained; accomplishments and /or positions held in the candidate's career; Organizations and awards achieved in school/career etc.

Nominator's Name **Don Alessi**

Address **6215 Transit Rd. East Amherst NY 14051**

Phone # **432-7246**    Email **don@alessilawfirm.com**

**NOMINATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2014 HALL of FAME must be submitted with an updated biography of the candidate no later than April 30, 2014.**

Nominations are to be mailed to: **BFHS/HACI Hall of Fame Nominating Comm**  
**C/O 20 Janine Court**  
**Cheektowaga, NY 14227**

For more information contact Bill @ 716 668 6814; [William.Schworm@verizon.net](mailto:William.Schworm@verizon.net)

### ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014

President: **Richard Hall '70**

1<sup>st</sup> VP: **Manny Aja '75**

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: **Joseph Tomasulo '50**

Co-Secretary: **Frank Longo '58**

Co-Secretary: **Rick Germain '75**

Treasurer: **Eric Torsell '58**

**Don Alessi '62**

**Bill Schworm '57**

**John Messina '58**

**Michael Hall '72**

**Russ Gervasi '60**

**Peter Durham '61**

**Nick LoCicero '63**

**John Leising '75**

**Tony Maggiotto '64**

2

Born and raised on the West Side of Buffalo, Edward C. Gelia attended Holy Angels Elementary School. When he graduated in 1945, he decided to attend the recently established Holy Angels Collegiate Institute on an academic scholarship even though he had been accepted to Canisius High School. To this day, Ed continues to practice the values instilled in him by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate priests.

At Holy Angels Collegiate Institute, Ed's athletic ability surfaced in his sophomore year when he became the first string second basemen on the varsity baseball team. For three years his dependable fielding and a near .300 batting average greatly contributed to the team's winning seasons.

After graduating from Holy Angels Collegiate Institute, Ed was determined to get a college degree even though it meant working after class and weekends to pay for his tuition. He graduated from Canisius College in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics.

Ed was accepted at the University of Buffalo Law School. After successfully completing one year in law school, Ed made a difficult decision to delay his education. He now had a wife and child to support

During most of Ed's college days he was also enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, serving from 1951-1957. In addition to participating in local training, he was required to spend several summers on active duty with assignments on Ellis Island, NY.

Ed played one year of MUNY League baseball in the Buffalo area, but since he spent much time at the family cottage in North Collins, NY, it was convenient for him to play softball with the town team. For some five years in the highly competitive Southtowns Suburban Softball League, Ed was an outstanding left fielder with a batting average between .350 and .400. During two seasons, he was elected on the league's All-Star team.

With law school on hold, Ed needed to focus on a career that would support his family and took a position with the Insurance Company of North America. In 1963 he accepted a position managing a small struggling insurance agency in the Village of Williamsville. Its owner was close to retiring and Ed anticipated an opportunity to purchase his business. Four years later, Ed purchased the agency

Under Ed's leadership, business savvy and dynamic personality, the agency flourished. Over the years Premium Dollar Volume increased from a beginning of \$171,000 to almost \$30,000,000. The agency currently sells insurance in 48 states in the country. It has been rated by Business First in the top five independently owned agencies in Western New York.

The increased business necessitated office space expansion. It grew from a cluttered storefront with three workers to spacious offices in a building Ed constructed in the Audubon section of Amherst. The agency now employs a staff of 30 people. Ed is the President of the corporation and two of his sons, Edward C. Gelia, Jr. and David M. Gelia are working Vice Presidents. The business now bears the name United Insurance Agency, Inc.

Ed had volunteered his services as a Manager in youth baseball for 18 years. He started in Little League and spent five years managing the Jurek Post team at the American Legion level. Ed's most memorable

season came in 1979 when he Managed that team to the American Legion Erie County baseball championship.

Edward has also volunteered his time, energy and financial contributions to philanthropic and other worthy organizations. Some of Ed's contributions of time and finances include past Director and President of the 100 Club of Buffalo; Past Director and President of the Romulus Club; member of Canisius College President's Council; member of canisius College DiGamma Society; Chairman of Canisius College SO" Reunion Committee, Class of 1954; member of Canisius College Cage Club and Inner Coaches Circle; Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Villa Maria College; past Director of Capital Mutual Insurance Company; past member of CIGNA National Advisory Council; past member of several state and national insurance councils; past Director of the Williamsville Businessmen's Association; member of Brookfield Country dub; and Misty Creek Country dub of Sarasota, Florida.

Edward and his wife, Eleanore are parishioners of St. Pius X catholic Church where he has served on the Parish Council and is a member of the Holy Name Society. He has also been honored as a Lifetime Member of the Knights of Columbus affiliated with his church.

On June 19th of this year Ed and his beautiful Wife, the former Eleanore Kudiba, whom he has known since high school days, will be Married 60 years. They have three children, Edward and David, mentioned above and Dr. Maurice M. Gelia, a podiatrist. All three sons are graduates of Canisius College. Ed and Eleanore have four grandchildren.

It is noteworthy that Ed's sons chose to attend the former Bishop Neumann High School at a time when it was staffed by some of the very same Oblate priests who taught Ed at HACI a generation ago. This was gratifying to Ed, knowing his boys would be influenced academically and spiritually by the high standards imparted by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate priests.