

BISHOP FALLON HIGH SCHOOL / HOLY ANGELS COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
HALL of FAME NOMINATION FORM

I nominate Manuel Aja for induction into the Bishop Fallon High School/Holy Angels Collegiate Institute Hall of Fame

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

☒ Distinguished Alumni ☐ Faculty Member ☐ Staff Member
☐ Sports Team ☐ Activity Group (Attach year and members if possible)

CANDIDATES INFORMATION: (Please print)

Name Manuel Aja

Address 124 Gina Meadows

City, State Zip Code East Amherst, NY 14051

Phone 716-689-2668 Cell 716-812-8677

Email ajafam@verizon.net

School (Check one) ☒ BFHS ☐ HACI Class Year 1975

A **WRITTEN BIOGRAPHY** OF THE CANDIDATE **MUST** ACCOMPANY THIS FORM.
Information should include Education, Career, Outstanding Accomplishments, Awards, and HACI or BFHS information such as awards, sports etc.
Nominations **WILL NOT** be considered without a complete Biography of the Candidate.

NOMINATOR's INFORMATION

Date Submitted: 4/23/25

Name Bernie Aja

Address 124 Gina Meadows

City, State Zip Code East Amherst, NY 14051

Phone 716-689-2668 Cell 716-553-0749

Email Bernie.aja28@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE HALL of FAME must be submitted with a complete, updated biography of the candidate no later than June 1st of each year. Nominations are to be emailed to BishopFallon.org@gmail.com or mailed to:

BFHS/HACI Alumni Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 25
Williamsville, NY 14231

For more information email BishopFallon.org@gmail.com

I am nominating my husband, Manny Aja to be inducted into the 2025 Hall of Fame. Manny has served on the board for over 20 years representing the last Bishop Fallon graduating class and held the position of President of the Alumnae Association since **2015**. During this time, he supported the long-standing tradition of raising money to support Catholic education while continuing to keep alumnae engagement alive. Over the years, Manny has been part of the committees to raise funds through the 3 annual events: the golf outing, All-Years reunion and the Hall of Fame Dinner.

Over 10 years ago, through his community connections, Manny established a relationship with the Bison Children's Scholarship Fund that provides matched funding for qualifying donations. By leveraging this relationship, BFHS/HACI has been credited with contributing over \$175,000 for Catholic education.

In addition to 35 years as a dedicated bi-lingual public servant with Erie County Social Services, Manny has supported and volunteered his time with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of WNY and United Way of Buffalo & Erie County. In the 40+ years of marriage, I've known Manny to always work diligently, never with a lot of fan-fare...just working hard to get the job done, support my career aspirations and take care of his family and friends.

A major Buffalo Booster in his support of our City and local professional sports teams, the Bills and the Sabres. As he approaches 40 years as a Bills season ticket holder, he is proud of his record of missing only 1 home game from 1986-2025. Manny is now enjoying his retirement as a grandpa of twin girls with a grandson on the way.

Manuel Aja

124 Gina Meadows, East Amherst NY 14051

Home: 716-812-8677

ajam@erie.gov

Summary

Self-motivated and dependable while achieving high performance with minimal supervision. Ability to complete tasks accurately despite interruptions and competing demands. Management/supervisory experience in both the private and public sector along with excellent people skills allows me to be an effective manager and get the best results from those I manage.

Skills

- Client-focused
- Excellent communication
- Bilingual in Spanish
- Manager of Amherst Soccer Association Boys' Team, 2006-2014
- President of Bishop Fallon High School Alumni Association; 2015-18
- Fundraising for Cystic Fibrosis Association of Western NY

Experience

Erie County

Employment Counselor, Spanish Speaking

May 2015 to Current

Buffalo, NY

Counsel applicants/clients concerning educational background, skills, physical capacities and attitudes to determine employment possibilities; determine employability by assessing medical evaluations and updating physical and mental information in computer; conduct applicant/client interviews in Spanish, as needed; translate for other Social Services units.

Erie County

Senior Employment Counselor

July 2013 to May 2015

Buffalo, NY

Supervise employment counselors in assigning duties; reviewing work; advising on difficult cases; interview clients to determine employment qualifications; prepare reports and correspondence relating to employment; conduct performance evaluations.

Erie County

Employment Counselor, Spanish Speaking

November 2000 to June 2013

Buffalo, NY

Counsel applicants/clients concerning educational background, skills, physical capacities and attitudes to determine employment possibilities; determine employability by assessing medical evaluations and updating physical and mental information in computer; conduct applicant/client interviews in Spanish, as needed; translate for other Social services units.

Erie County

Senior Welfare Examiner

March 1998 to November 2000

Buffalo, NY

Review, investigate, evaluate client documents to determine eligibility for Social Services benefits; interview clients to determine eligibility; prepare budget sheets for clients; assist in supervision of unit when supervisor is absent.

Erie County

Social Welfare Examiner, Spanish Speaking

June 1988 to March 1998

Buffalo, NY

Review, investigate, evaluate client documents to determine eligibility for Social Services benefits; interview clients to determine eligibility; prepare budget sheets for clients.

Marine Midland Mortgage Corp.

Mortgage Loan Counselor

January 1986 to June 1988

Buffalo, NY

Managed collection of delinquent mortgage accounts; counseled customers by determining account delinquencies and referring them to government agencies, as required; assured proper collection regulations were maintained and the company's assets were protected.

Empire of America Realty Credit Corp.

January 1983 to August 1985

Tax Escrow Supervisor

Buffalo, NY

Coordinated tax escrow department functions that included the timely payment of real estate taxes for escrowed mortgages; interviewed and trained new and existing personnel, which included updating information regarding the CPI computer system; conducted employee performance appraisals.

Education and Training

Canisius College

1979

Bachelor of Arts: International Relations

Buffalo, NY

- Minor in Political Science, History, Spanish
- Member of International Relations and Spanish Clubs
- Completed professional development in Foundations of Banking, Mortgage Law, Management Development, Effective Business Writing
- Dean's List Honoree; Fall 78, Spring 1979
- Administrative Assistant under Canisius College Work Study Program at Buffalo and Erie County Historical Museum; organized and updated museum's historical archives (1976-1978).
- Summer internship in Spain sponsored by the Foreign Language International Training Experience (FLITE) Program at Canisius College; performed several administrative/public relations duties for the Spanish National Railroad Company (Summer, 1978)