

# ACC

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The Demon Deacons were a 1-10 team the prior year, but as a junior, Venuto led Wake Forest to a dream season as the Demon Deacons defeated No. 12 Georgia, No. 14 North Carolina and No. 13 Auburn en route to an 8-4 season and a berth in the Tangerine Bowl for Coach John Mackovic.

That year, Venuto led the ACC in total offense, broke six conference records including total offense, pass attempts, pass completions, passing yards and total plays, and also set the single game record with 28 completions against East Carolina. He was subsequently named the ACC Player of the Year. A first team All-ACC selection in 1979 and 1980, he led the league in total offense and passing efficiency as a senior.

Upon graduation, Venuto had stints with the Baltimore Colts, New York Jets and Birmingham Stallions before moving into the coaching ranks. He said he has coached at Georgia Southern University, the University of Pittsburgh, Appalachian State and his alma mater, Wake Forest. His most recent coaching position was at Cornell University, near the town where he currently



Photo courtesy of Jay Venuto

Above, Laurie and Jay Venuto with their sons Garrett and Chase. The Venuto family has a big football tradition. Both his sons are playing college football. Right, a photo from a Wake Forest game against North Carolina.

resides, Newfield, N.Y.

Venuto said the honor of being named an ACC Football Legend was very humbling and he was thrilled to have the opportunity to attend the Championship Game and be recognized in front of a packed stadium. He said the honor was not only for him, but the entire 1979-80 Wake Forest squad.

"As I get older and smarter, I know enough to realize it's not just about me, it's about the team as a whole," he said. "Me being the quarterback, a lot of other guys had input on my success. They all did their job."

Venuto was also a part of the pregame ceremony, Nov.

23, between Wake Forest and the Duke Blue Devils. Venuto led the Demon Deacons out onto the field riding on the back of a motorcycle driven by the mascot.

"Arnold Palmer did it too and he's in his 80s, so if he could stay on the motorcycle, I could too," Venuto said.

The game of football is a longstanding tradition in the Venuto family, whether it be playing or coaching. Venuto's father, Sam, played at Guilford College before playing a season with the Washington Redskins in 1952 as both a running back and a linebacker. He later became a high school football coach in Salem from 1953 to



1986. Venuto's brother, also Sam, is currently the offensive coordinator at Villanova University and in the past has recruited players from Lower Cape May Regional.

Venuto's sons, Garrett and Chase, both play college ball now as well. Garrett is a quarterback at Penn State and Chase is also a quarterback at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Brockport.

While Venuto is not originally from Cape May, he said his family has a well-known historical link to the town through his mother's side, the Schellenger's. His mother,

Alice Rodney Schellenger is a direct descendent of Cornelius Schellenger, the whaler who migrated from Long Island to Cape May during the late 1600s. Most know the family name through Schellenger's Landing, where boats come into Cape May Harbor and the Lobster House restaurant is located.

Venuto's grandparents, Stanley and Margaret were also full-time residents of Cape May. Stanley served as the city clerk and Margaret was a teacher at Cape May High School. He said his brother Sam constructed

a new vacation house on Michigan Avenue at the site of their grandparents' old home.

Venuto said he and his brother continued the tradition with their children, playing football together by the water tower in Cape May and at the Cape May Elementary School grounds.

"People say they remember when Sam and I were kids playing by the water tower and now they see it us playing ball with our kids," he said. "We love coming to Cape May every summer. We've made a lot of great friends there."

# NASW

Continued from page A1

age and develop the airport and assumed responsibility of the business/industrial sections associated with the property. DRBA Executive Director Scott Green said it's been a great journey ensuring the establishment of the historic district and it couldn't have been done without the Salvatores and the cooperation of so many other people and organizations involved.

"We are in Cape May County, in general, in a time of unprecedented cooperation, both at the ferry terminal and here at the airport," he said. "Whether it's with the folks here at the airport, whether it's with the folks in Lower Township or the people in Cape May County, it's just a time of incredible cooperation and that makes for great opportunities."

Lower Township Deputy Mayor Norris Clark referred

to the Salvatores as the "treasure hunters of Lower Township." He said while Joseph focuses on treasures that flew the skies, Anne, director of Cold Spring Village, focused on treasures settled on land.

"This airport is one of those treasures because it causes us to remember the great heroes who were here at one time and bravely took to the skies to protect the home of the free - many of which lost their lives in the process," Clark said.

"The man's passion is unbelievable," DRBA Chairman James Hogan said of Dr. Salvatore.

He acknowledged the immeasurable time and effort that the Salvatores have put into the museum and obtain-

ing the historic district designation.

Anne Salvatore recollected seeing the hangar for the first time on the inside, seeing flocks of pigeons roosting in the upper rafters and a giant hole in the top "you could drive trucks through." Despite the hangar being in shambles and the inevitability of so much work being involved, she knew her husband would follow through with his desire to resurrect the facility.

Dan Saunders, deputy state historic preservation officer, handed the official certificate to the Salvatore's in a climactic moment that defined years of hard work and labor. A modest Dr. Salvatore thanked everyone for their support in the project and said the cere-

mony was certainly not about him or his efforts, but everyone else's. He said it was also about the brave pilots who served at the hangar as part of America's "Greatest Generation."

"This story is not about Annie and Joe. It's about the preservation of these buildings, it's about the 42 men who died training here who here through 29 crashes, multiple injuries - we should never forget that," he said.

Dr. Salvatore believes historic designation is but the first step toward getting a nationally recognized Coast Guard museum at the airport, as Cape May County is the only home to Coast Guard enlisted recruit training. He said while NASW is already on the New Jersey Register of

Historic Places, he also looks forward to it being on the National Register of Historic Places, which is expected to occur in January 2014.

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