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NFF Announces 2006 Chapter Leader Award Winners

***Five distinguished individuals selected for outstanding
leadership and dedication to amateur football
at the local level***

MORRISTOWN, NJ, Oct. 24, 2006 – From its nationwide network of 120 chapters and 12,000 members, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) announced today the selection of five exceptional individuals as the recipients of its 2006 Chapter Leadership Awards.

2006 Chapter Leadership Award Recipients

- **Michael Fraser** – West Region – (Utah Chapter)
- **Kenneth F. Mills, Jr.** – East Region - (Baltimore Chapter)
- **Paul Moran** – Midwest Region - (West Virginia Chapter)
- **Richard Ranucci** – Northeast - (Central New York Chapter)
- **Robert M. Sullins** – South Region - (Middle Tennessee Chapter)

The Chapter Leadership Awards annually recognize five individuals, one from each region, for their commitment, generosity and leadership at the local level. The NFF Chapter Leadership Award winners have dedicated themselves to fulfilling the NFF's mission of promoting the game of amateur football and its benefits to America's youth. From scholar- athlete banquets to youth clinics to coaching academies, each of these honorees leads a devoted effort that touches the lives of countless youth, high school and collegiate football players each year.

“These five honorees represent the best of our efforts by all our chapter presidents to maintain a strong presence at the grassroots level,” said NFF President Steven J. Hatchell. “The success of our chapter network could not survive without the commitment and leadership of these individuals. It's our honor and responsibility to properly thank and honor them.”

The NFF chapters annually recognize close to 2,500 student-athletes with more than \$800,000 in annual scholarships. These honorees have spearhead their chapter's efforts in this important NFF initiative, selecting the recipients, securing funds for future scholarships, and staging events to promote the best at the high school level. Their efforts ensure that future generations of players are inspired to achieve on and off the field.

Each of the five leadership award winners will be honored during the NFF's Chapter Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City. Later that evening, they will be recognized in front of a sold-out crowd as part of the NFF's 49th Annual Awards Dinner, including the induction of the 2006 College Football Hall of Fame class and the presentation of the National Scholar-Athlete Awards. For more information, please call 800.486.1865 or visit www.footballfoundation.org.

RICHARD T. RANUCCI
Northeast Region
Central New York Chapter

Seen as an inspiration to all whom cross his path, Rick Ranucci offers an undeniable enthusiasm for the game of football. He has been described as the driving force behind the Central New York Chapter.

As the chapter's secretary/treasurer and a founding member, Ranucci has dedicated himself to one of the most successful chapters in the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame. Since its inception in 2001, the Central New York Chapter has achieved extraordinary success in fund-raising and membership.

The chapter holds its scholar-athlete dinner, awarding over \$20,000 in scholarships to 50 high school scholar-athletes. In its short history of five years, the chapter has honored 308 scholar-athletes and granted 107 scholarships totaling over \$58,500. Other chapter events include an NFL/NFF Coaching Academy, supporting the Play It Smart program George Fowler High School, a college night and a Kickoff Classic.

"Rick is the driving force behind many of the chapter's initiatives," said NFF Northeast Regional Coordinator Howie Vandersea. "He has taken his business and accounting skills, and applied them to the organization of the chapter."

As a high school player, Ranucci earned nine varsity letters in football and wrestling, along with all-state honors and all-city honors as an offensive guard and linebacker. Upon graduation, he attended Lemoyne College, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting.

In 1979, Ranucci started as a junior accountant with Port and Company and worked his way up to partner in 1990. As a CPA and successful business leader, Ranucci leveraged his skills and work ethic to nurture the NFF's Central New York Chapter's meteoric development.

Ranucci also gives back to the game as a high school and college game official. During 31 years as an official, he has worked with the Ivy and Patriot Leagues, including NCAA and ECAC playoff games and the 138th meeting of Lafayette College and Lehigh University. He currently serves as a director of the Eastern Association Independent Football Officials (EAIFO).

In all aspects of life, Ranucci exhibits a passion for excellence and success, quickly building the Central New York Chapter into the second-largest chapter in the Northeast Region. Rick and his wife Becky reside in Fayetteville, N.Y., and have one daughter, Hilary.

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