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### UNION CATHOLIC ANNOUNCES THE 2010 HALL OF FAME HONOREES

Scotch Plains, NJ, February 17, 2010 – Union Catholic High School is pleased to announce the 2010 Hall of Fame Honorees. An induction dinner and ceremony will take place on Saturday April 24, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Gymnasium at Union Catholic. All are welcome to attend. For additional information and reservations please call 908-889-1600, ext. 309, or visit the school's website: [www.unioncatholic.org](http://www.unioncatholic.org).

The 2010 Hall of Fame Honorees are:

**John Del Giorno, 1988** (Alumni) – John Del Giorno is an Emmy award winning airborne reporter for Metro Networks and WABC-TV in New York City who specializes in live coverage of breaking events. He has covered countless news events in the New York tri-state area including TWA Flight 800, the search for JFK Jr., and was one of the first on the scene reporting as the second plane hit the World Trade Center on September 11th. Part of his work is featured within the September 11th gallery at the Newseum in Washington, DC.

**Jessica Ballweg Perkin, 2001** (Athletics) – Jessica Ballweg Perkin is considered by many as the best soccer player in Union Catholic history. A two time All-American, Jessica was named the 2000 Star- Ledger and Gatorade Player of the Year, and the 2001 Parade Magazine High School Player of the Year. Jessica helped to lead Union Catholic to two conference and three Union County Championships. After Union Catholic Jessica attended Santa Clara University in California where she was a four-year starter and assisted the team in capturing the NCAA National Championship in 2001. Jess is currently serving as the assistant coach at the University of Nevada. Prior to this assignment, she assisted at the University of Virginia and was the director of soccer operations for Rutgers University.

**Bill Sieben, 1970 posthumously** (Athletics) – One of the premier distance runners in New Jersey, Bill Sieben was the first from Union Catholic to receive all-county and all-state recognition. He established a state record for the mile run posting a time of 4:17 during his senior year. He went on to star for Rutgers University where he became an All-East runner in cross country and gained All-American honors in the six mile event. Bill ran a 2:16:44 in the 1979 Boston Marathon and still holds the record for the LBI 18 mile Island Run. Bill Sieben passed away in May 2008 after a lengthy illness.

**Carol Ann Riester Giardelli, 1972** (Community Leader) – Carol Ann Riester Giardelli is the coordinator of Safe Kids New Jersey whose prevention and safety awareness campaigns have significantly decreased the incidence of the preventable childhood injuries in NJ. As coordinator, Carol oversees three local coalitions and maintains the relationship with their key supporter, Johnson & Johnson. In 2008 Carol received the Spirit of the Arc Award given by The Arc of NJ, the largest non-profit advocacy organization for people with disabilities in New Jersey.

**Bruce Zehnle** (Educator) – Bruce Zehnle began his career at Union Catholic in 1968 as a teacher of Spanish in the Boys School. Over his 34 year career at Union Catholic his unforgettable teaching style left a lasting impression on all those who entered his classroom. He was awarded many accolades during his tenure as a teacher including being named Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Archdiocese of Newark. In addition to teaching, Bruce served as chair of the Foreign Language Department from and served as moderator for many clubs and activities including the Spanish National Honor Society, Spanish Club, and AIDS Awareness Club.

**Mildred and Stephen Ritter posthumously** (Parents) – Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ritter were instrumental in the establishment of Union Catholic High School serving on the founding committee that built the school. Mr. and Mrs. Ritter were also members of the first Parent Guild established in the Union Catholic Boys School. Eight of their ten children attended Union Catholic – Stephen '66, Thomas '69, Alan '70, Douglas '72, David '73, Gregory '75, Edward '79 and Joan '80. Four of their grandchildren also attended Union Catholic. They were wholeheartedly dedicated to the Catholic education experience at Union Catholic as well as at their parish St. Bartholomew Church in Scotch Plains.

**Sister M. Eloise Claire Kays, RSM posthumously** (UC Hero) – Sister Eloise's lifelong commitment to education and the well-being of young adults is inspiring. Union Catholic was blessed to have Sister Eloise as a member of the Guidance Department from 2000 to May 2009 upon her death. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949 and began her teaching career at Holy Cross School. She was chairperson of the business department at Red Bank Catholic and then transferred to be a part of the founding faculty at Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville, NJ where she began the business department and was named associate principal. In 1969 she co-founded St. Pius X High School in Piscataway, NJ. In 1984 she became Directress of Mt. St. Mary's Academy in Watchung, NJ, a position she held until coming to Union Catholic in 2000 to serve as a freshman guidance counselor.



