



William R. Knapp '46
(1929-1980)



Though Bill Knapp died just several weeks shy of his fifty-first birthday, he still managed to leave behind a legacy that has had a lasting effect on the Bay Shore-Brightwaters community. A 1946 graduate of Bay Shore High School, Bill was especially active in athletics. An outstanding end on one of Bay Shore's undefeated football teams, he was selected to the All-County team; he also captained the wrestling team and placed second in the Long Island championships.

Bill attended Saint Michael's College and Maryknoll Seminary, and he obtained his degree from Saint Joseph's College. At the time of his death, he was working toward his Masters in Religious Education at Immaculate Conception Seminary.

Bill brought to the community unflagging energy and commitment attested to by his in depth involvement in a wide variety of activities. Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church was the beneficiary of much of his devotion as he served there as a lector and a teacher of Christian doctrine, and was a member of the Lay Council and a host of other activities. He managed to find time for numerous other civic and fraternal organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Society, the Penataquit Social Athletic Club, the Bay Shore Quarterback Club (now the Bay Shore Athletic Sponsors), and the Metropolitan A.A.U. Association.

Perhaps what Bill will be remembered for most is his work with the youth of the community, especially those involved with Little League baseball and Kid Wrestling. Bill held many positions in the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Little League, including president, and he was instrumental in the coordination, organization, and supervision of the funding and construction of the Little League Complex behind Gardiner Manor School. He was also the co-founder and organizer of Kid Wrestling in the eastern United States, the parent of New York State Kid Wrestling, chairman of the United States Region I Kid Wrestling, and national vice-president of Kid Wrestling. Bill has been honored by many for his self-less dedication to the community and the Billy Knapp Award exists as a testimony to his contributions.

For Bill, growing up in Bay Shore and graduating from Bay Shore Schools was the foundation for his willingness to give back to the community that gave him so much. He and Mary, his wife, were the proud parents of sixteen children, many of whom still work in the Bay Shore area. He would be pleased that the tradition that was instrumental in his formation still continues through the efforts of so many alumni and he would be proud of his Alma Mater today.