



William B. Thieben

William B. Thieben attended Sayville High School in the early 1950's and excelled in basketball. He pursued his education and basketball careers at Hofstra University. He was selected to the All Metropolitan Basketball Team three years in a row, was chosen *Look Magazine* All American in 1955 and 1956, and won the coveted Haggerty Award for basketball in 1956.

Mr. Thieben received his B.A. degree in history and political science from Hofstra in 1956, and he was the first round draft choice of the Fort Wayne Pistons that same year. He became a member of the professional team, the Detroit Pistons, from 1956 to 1958.

In 1958, Mr. Thieben switched careers and Bay Shore High School was fortunate to have him join its teaching staff as a history teacher. His imposing stature, his hearty voice, and his unique ability to “connect” with students made him the ideal choice to fill the administrative position of Assistant Principal in 1961. He served in this capacity until 1971 when he was offered the principalship of Rocky Point High School. He retired from the public school system in 1994.

Mr. Thieben's love of education continued. He has been an Adjunct Professor of History and Sociology for Suffolk Community College, C.W. Post College, and Long Island University since 1981, and he is currently a full time professor of Secondary Education at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue. He was inducted into the Suffolk Sports Hall of Fame in 1990.

Mr. Thieben's positive influence on the students of Bay Shore was recognized in July of 2000. Almost three decades after leaving Bay Shore, students of the sixties honored Mr. Thieben by establishing a permanent memorial plaque at the High School in his name. It states: William B. Thieben - “The voice that launched a thousand school days remains forever in our hearts.” A William B. Thieben Scholarship Fund was also created. An annual award is given to a senior graduate who needs a helping hand. Mr. Thieben was always there to lend a helping hand.