

ARLINGTON SPORTS HALL OF FAME

2018 INDUCTEE – JOE D’EMIDIO

Joe D’Emidio has been a force in Arlington gymnastics for over 46 years, as a dedicated, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable coach, leader, educator, and mentor. A 1973 alumnus of Yorktown HS, he made an early mark in his junior year, winning first place in the state championships in the still rings event. He has been working with youth and sports-focused programs since 1976, developing boys and girls gymnastics programs at Washington-Lee, Yorktown and Wakefield. His gymnastics teams have won numerous district championships, three regionals, and had two state runner-ups. He was head coach of the Virginia High School Mens Gymnastics Team from 1992 to 2002, winning the National Championship in 2002. In 1984, Joe was an international official as a Training Officer for gymnastics at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Founder and Director of the YMCA Arlington Woodmont Gymnastics Center, which includes both recreational classes and competitive teams, he has nurtured many gymnasts and coaches, providing a safe environment for kids and professional growth opportunities for young coaches. Joe also dedicates his time toward youth development, particularly with the YMCA Teen Club, meeting twice a week, as well as providing international traveling and educational exchange experiences with other YMCA branches around the world. He encourages participation by all young athletes, regardless of skill level or experience. He motivates and helps Arlington’s youth work towards achieving their goals in both sports and life.

2018 INDUCTEE – MARY O’CONNOR SCHADE

A Californian by birth, but an Arlingtonian since 1981, Mary O’Connor Schade has become an Arlington women’s sports legend over the past 37 years, cutting a wide swath in swimming, soccer, Senior Olympics, triathlon, and coaching in Arlington schools and sports leagues. A competitive swimmer in freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke, she is a 25-time gold medalist at the Virginia Senior Games, a five-time qualifier for the National Senior Games, and has recently become an outstanding open-water swimmer, conquering the Potomac River and becoming the second-oldest finisher in the Alcatraz Escape From the Rock Swim across San Francisco Bay last year. In soccer, she is a nationally recognized goalkeeper with a 36-year career in Arlington and Northern Virginia leagues and national tournaments for many local and state teams, and recognized as the best goalkeeper in her age group in the nation. And as a triathlete beginning at 50, she has completed 16 triathlons and qualified for the National Triathlon in Cleveland this year.

Her accomplishments as a 36-year Arlington soccer coach are impressive, helping raise a generation of student-athletes by emphasizing focus, fair play and fun. She coached Potomac Kiwanis for over 20 years; and, starting in 1987, she also coached boys and girls soccer at Williamsburg Middle School. As Williamsburg’s girls coach from 1987 through 1999, she amassed a 92-4 record. Into her 70s, Mary Schade continues to inspire Arlington with her athletic achievements and service to Arlington.