

Press Release

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Richard P. Garmany Awards Presented At 2011 Connecticut Senior Games

The 32nd annual Connecticut Senior Games was hosted by the City of New Britain last weekend, from Friday, May 21st to Sunday, May 23rd. The 2011 Connecticut Senior Games was comprised of 14 sporting events and attracted over 800 athletes from all over the Northeast.

This year the first Richard P. Garmany Tennis and Leadership Awards were presented to the male and female tennis player who demonstrated exceptional skill and love for the game. Additionally the winners embody the attributes Richard P. Garmany felt so strongly about: good sportsmanship, respect for opponents and officials, playing by the rules and more importantly have, through their combined efforts, promoted the game Mr. Garmany loved.

The 2011 recipients are Carolyn Vanacore of North Haven and Phil Rockwell of Canton.

The Richard P. Garmany Award is funded by the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. *Before his death in 2008, Mr. Garmany, a former executive at Aetna, created a donor-advised fund at the Hartford Foundation through his will. Since then, more than 40 grants totaling more than \$800,000 have been awarded to support more than two dozen nonprofits, including Hartford Hospital, the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and the Connecticut River Watershed Council.*

Carolyn Vanacore has always been committed to a healthy lifestyle and has promoted that with her students at Southern Connecticut State University. As a young woman she did not have the athletic opportunities that women and girls enjoy today. Her mentoring of young women in both athletics and life has been her goal. Carolyn started to play recreational tennis in New Haven in the late 1980's and participated locally with a traveling women's tennis team. In 1991, Carolyn participated in her first National Senior Games in Syracuse, N.Y. and made it all the way to the quarter finals. Carolyn has attended 10 National Senior Games competitions all over the country. This year she will compete in Houston in her eleventh National Senior Games competition and hopes to medal in the 80+ singles division.

Phil Rockwell, a Massachusetts native who now resides in Canton, has had a tremendous athletic career. Phil played football and baseball at Wesleyan where he was voted team most valuable player of both sports and co-captain of the baseball team. After college he pitched in the Cape Cod League for Wareham, Mass. Phil has been very active in senior tennis, platform tennis and various community affairs. He has won numerous club championships in singles and doubles at Hop Meadow Country Club in Simsbury. Phil represented Connecticut in tennis

singles at the National Senior Games in Pittsburgh, Louisville, San Francisco and Houston and won the bronze medal in 2007.

The Connecticut Sports Management Group Board of Directors strongly believes that the Connecticut Senior Games is an integral and important part of the daily lives of Connecticut athletes over the age of fifty. As a result, the Connecticut Senior Games are a permanent division of the Connecticut Sports Management Group. This division is dedicated solely to ensuring a quality sports competition for Connecticut senior athletes. Connecticut seniors can rely on an event that utilizes the best facilities available and provides a quality competition commensurate with senior athlete dedication to training and preparation for participation.

As a member of the National Senior Games Association since 1980, the Connecticut Senior Games are also recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the Official State Senior Games in Connecticut. The Connecticut Senior Games is a 501© (3) non-profit corporation with a twenty-five member board of directors.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region, dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents for the past 85 years. The Hartford Foundation receives gifts from thousands of generous individuals and families, and in 2010, awarded grants of more than \$29 million to a broad range of area nonprofit organizations. For more information about the Hartford Foundation, visit www.hfpg.org or call 860-548-1888.