

## **SHAMOKIN AREA NAMES BRIDY-RUANE FIELD**

KEMP MEMORIAL STADIUM, COAL TOWNSHIP-- The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP) and the Shamokin Area School District are pleased to announce the naming of the field at Kemp Memorial Stadium. As part of a \$250,000 donation received by the School, naming rights were reserved. The new field will be named "Bridy-Ruane Field" in conjunction with the turf replacement project.

"We are honored to engage in this project through the Bridy-Ruane Donor Advised Fund at FCFP," said Jennifer Wilson, president and CEO of the Foundation. "It provides a tremendous opportunity to support the school district beyond its budget while honoring more than a century's worth of significant community contributions from multiple generations of the Bridy and Ruane families.

Brian Persing, Shamokin Area School Board President, said, "On behalf of the School, we are honored to name the field "Bridy-Ruane Field" in recognition of the decades of contributions these families have made to Shamokin, Coal Township, and the surrounding communities. We also thank the anonymous donor whose \$250,000 donation could not have come at a better time for our budget."

Fortunately, the District was able to secure this \$250,000 anonymous donation to fund a majority of the project. The remaining monies to fund the installation will be taken from the Capital Reserve Fund for construction projects. This means, that no monies will be taken from the District's General Fund.

The Foundation and the District would like to briefly recognize some of the contributions by the following family members:

### Flory Bridy (1903-1951)

Flory was a 1922 graduate of Mt. Carmel Area High School. He was the starting quarterback for 3 years on the legendary 1920, 1921 and 1922 teams. During his senior year, Bridy was captain of the team which won the 1922 state championship. He was part of a powerhouse backfield that included All-American and All- Pro running back Wally Diehl. Flory attended the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy where he earned a Bachelor of Chemical Science degree in 1926. Bridy earned admission into the Alpha Sigma Honor Society recognizing his academic achievements. He went on to serve the people of the lower anthracite region as a practicing pharmacist in Centralia, Ranshaw, and Shamokin until his untimely death in 1951.

### Lucy Gergen Bridy (1904-2011)

Lucy was a 1921 graduate of Coal Township High School where she earned salutatorian honors. She graduated from Bloomsburg State Teachers College in 1925 where she earned her degree in elementary education. She served students in the region having taught at both the Washington School and the Ranshaw School in Coal Township.

### Dr. Daniel J. Bridy (1935-2018)

Dr. Bridy was a 1953 graduate of St Edward High School where he earned valedictorian honors. He went on to study at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, MD and then the Pennsylvania College of Optometry where he earned numerous academic honors and his Doctor of Optometry degree in 1958. He went on to serve his country as a second and then first lieutenant in the U.S Army's Medical Service Corps. His service included time in Korea as part of the 7th Medical Battalion. Dr. Bridy spent the next 40 years serving the people of the lower anthracite region as a private practice optometrist in Shamokin.

### Joseph R. Ruane (1905-1994)

Joe Ruane was an assistant mine foreman at the Racket Brook Coal Company and later served as safety director for the DeAngelis & Northwest Coal Company. He went on to be an instructor in mine safety for the Works Projects Administration in Carbondale, PA. Joe was later selected to be a federal mine inspector in the Pittsburgh region. In 1943 he was selected to become a state mine inspector in Pennsylvania and relocated his family to Shamokin. He

worked for the Department of Environmental Resources as a mine inspector until he was 78. He was an innovator who carefully balanced the safety of workers with the industry's need to increase efficiency and production. He contributed to a number of local charitable and commerce initiatives during his 50 years in Shamokin.  
Mary Burke Ruane (1906- 2004)

Mary graduated from Carbondale High School in 1923. She went on to St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Jersey City, NJ where she graduated in June of 1927. She was employed as a private duty nurse at St. Francis Hospital. After moving to Shamokin and starting a family, she served the people of the region as a volunteer at the American Red Cross in Shamokin and frequently helped many friends and neighbors with a myriad of health issues.

Mary Lou Ruane Bridy (1937-)

Mary Lou graduated with honors from St. Edward High School in Shamokin in 1955. She then attended Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing in Allentown, PA where she earned the highest score in medical-surgical nursing. She then earned her Bachelor of Science degree cum laude in nursing education from College Misericordia in Dallas, PA in 1961. She went on to teach medical-surgical nursing at Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing. She then served the students of the Shamokin Area School District from 1978 until 2000 as a school nurse serving as supervisor of school nurses from 1988 to 2000. Mary Lou served the elderly of the region as Director of Nursing at Mountain View Manor from 2000 until 2002. She went on to serve as the Director of Nursing at Pleasantview Retirement Community in Manheim, PA and then concluded her career as the Clinical Nurse Manager at Willow Valley Retirement Community from 2007 until 2012.

Anita Barni Ruane (1942-)

Anita was a 1960 graduate of Shamokin High School. She worked at the Pennsylvania Power and Light Corporation from 1960 to 1963. She went on to serve the people of the region at the Northumberland County Office of Aging and later worked at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Welfare where she helped many of the area's neediest residents secure essential services and resources.

Paul G. Ruane (1933- 2000)

Paul was a graduate of Shamokin High School. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from East Stroudsburg University and his Master's degree in Education from Bucknell University. Paul taught for 33 years at the Shamokin Area School District and served as President of the Shamokin Area Alumni Association. Paul also served the people of the lower anthracite region during his 10 years in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1964 to 1974 chairing the mines and minerals committee and serving on the education committee.

Chris Venna, Shamokin Area's Superintendent added, "We have been extremely fortunate to receive such a generous donation. The new field will enable our students and athletes to safely play on a state-of-the-art synthetic turf material. The field will also be used by the band and is a multiple purpose field that can also be used for others sports and a variety of student activities. The District very much appreciates the generous donation and is happy to name the Bridy-Ruane Field to memorialize these families and their service to the community."

Venna commented, "One thing most people are not aware of is that school district budgets have a Capital Reserve Fund that is set aside for construction projects only. For our new turf field, we do not need to use money from the General Fund to pay for it. All the monies will be from the anonymous donation and the Capital Reserve Fund, which can only be used for projects such as this."

The naming rights agreement with the Foundation and the donor provides that the naming rights will continue for the life of the turf which is expected to be approximately 15 years. The synthetic turf replacement project is expected to be completed in June.