



NEWS RELEASE

TO: News Media

FR: Vincent Cimini

401-824-4645

RELEASE: Upon Receipt

creative@cimini.com

RE: RI Hockey Hall of Fame is Established to Celebrate 120 Years of RI Hockey History

Providence, RI (January 23, 2018): Two well-established hockey-related organizations have joined forces to create the Rhode Island Hockey Hall of Fame to celebrate and preserve the state's illustrious history in that sport.

The two collaborating organizations are RI Hockey, Inc. and the RI Reds Heritage Society. Chairing the nine-member founders' committee is Vincent Cimini, who made today's announcement.

Fittingly, the announcement was made on the 120th anniversary of the first recorded organized hockey game in Rhode Island history, played on January 19, 1898 when Brown University defeated Harvard 6-0 in the first intercollegiate hockey game contested in the United States.

The idea of establishing a hockey hall of fame for the state was conceived in late 2016. Since then, the founding committee, comprised primarily of representatives of the two hockey organizations, has been diligently planning for the hockey shrine. Inaugural ceremonies for the induction of the charter class will be held this coming September 20th at the Twin River Event Center in Lincoln, RI.

In his announcement, Cimini explained the background and the rationale for the venture:

“Of all the major sports, our state produces and contributes more players, coaches and executives to the highest levels of the game of hockey than to any other. Our belief is that hockey is not simply a sport in R.I. It is an integral part of our state's culture.

“We believe that the best of those who have played it, served it and distinguished themselves in doing so should be honored so that their achievements may continue to both inspire and pave the way for present and future generations of young men and women who dream of reaching the highest heights of our great game.”

The RIHHOF operates as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and is currently funded by its two founding organizations. Most work at this time is being donated, including the building of a “virtual Hall of Fame” which is now live at www.rihhof.com, as are the organization’s new Facebook and Instagram sites. Tax-deductible donations are being sought to help sponsor and support the first formal induction ceremonies in September and to create a “Wall of Fame” at a venue of prominence in Rhode Island.

The Hall’s Board of Directors comprises nine volunteer individuals with direct and longtime connections to hockey. The organization’s Selection Committee is made up of nine highly qualified and highly respected individuals – sports and hockey historians, hockey writers, broadcast journalists, and sports executives – each carefully chosen for their expertise, local hockey knowledge, integrity, and impartiality.

RI Hockey (www.ri-hockey.org) represents all of the youth leagues in Rhode Island. It is the local chapter of USA Hockey, recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the governing body for organized amateur hockey in the United States and a member of the International Hockey Federation.

RI Hockey presently represents 4,055 registered youth hockey players throughout the state, as well as hundreds of coaches and officials engaged in community youth leagues. It is responsible for governance, compliance and eligibility rules, as well as hosting tournaments and evaluating players to determine which individuals and teams will represent the state at regional and national tournaments and development camps.

The RI Reds Heritage Society (www.rireds.org) was founded 18 years ago with a mission to preserve the 51-year history of the R.I. Reds hockey team, which introduced the professional game to the state and served as the genesis for the sport's immense popularity and growth in Rhode Island.

With a membership approaching 700, the Society hosts an annual player reunion, publishes a quarterly newsletter, and maintains an exhibit of the team’s colorful history at the Providence Civic Center. Its expanded mission over the years has been to recognize

achievement, assist in developing player skills, advance player and fan safety, and promote the practice of fair play and good sportsmanship at all levels of the sport.

Members of the volunteer Board are:

Vincent Cimini, Chairman

Director, RI Reds Heritage Society
Former Publicity Director for the RI Reds
Former RI Correspondent to The Hockey News
Longtime Local Marketing and Advertising Executive

Sylvester “Buster” Clegg, Vice Chairman

Former General Manager and Publicity Director for the RI Reds
Founder and President of the RI Reds Heritage Society
Retired Local Marketing and Advertising Executive

Robert Larence, Treasurer

President, RI Hockey
Former RI Ice Rink Owner and Operator
Private Small Business Owner

William O’Connor, Secretary

Secretary and Reunion Chairman of the RI Reds Heritage Society
Retired Rhode Island Educator

Arnold Bailey, Director

Vice President, RI Reds Heritage Society
Retired College Administrator and Newspaper Editor

Mal Goldenberg, Director

Director, RI Reds Heritage Society
Private Small Business Owner

Jeffrey Hebert, Director

President, URI Hockey Alumni Association
Founder/Editor of RIHockeyLegacy.com

Ray Morgan, Director

Longtime Director of USA Hockey’s Men’s & Women’s “Select” Camps at Lake Placid
Tournaments Director, RI Hockey & NE Yankee Conference Festivals

Richard Oliver, Director

Former Longtime President, RI Hockey
Private Small Business Owner