

2024 William F. Powley
Memorial Service to Wrestling Award
Recipients

It is with distinction that we honor Robert Meli and Joseph Ryan as the 83rd and 84th recipients of the prestigious award in honor of William F. Powley.

Bob Meli

Bob was a 1973 graduate of Hackensack High School and a four year wrestler under the tutelage of legendary coach Joe DeFalco. Bob was a two time NJSIAA District silver medalist and silver medalist in the BCCA Christmas Tournament. After graduation he attended Union College in Cranford NJ where he was the Northeastern Regional Junior College Champion in 1974. For his high school accomplishments in wrestling and baseball, he was inducted into the Hackensack Hall of Fame.

Bob's involvement continued in wrestling as a member of the NJWOA for over 30 years as an official and a NJSIAA Evaluator. In addition, he served as the Region 2 Hall of Fame President for 3 years and a member of the committee for 9 years. Unselfishly, he volunteered his time for many years as a wrestling assignor for recreation programs in Bergen County.

After Bob moved to New Milford, he became deeply involved in serving in the town's youth wrestling program in the capacity of the Middle School Director/Coach for 8 years and Recreation Wrestling Director for 4 years. Bob also volunteered at the high school for 8 years under the direction of Head Coach Ray Cottiers who is grateful in keeping Bob connected to the high school program and his friendship.

Bob retired as Plant Supervisor, Foreman, Journeyman, and Welder in Carpenters Union Local 15. He has been married for 47 years to his supportive wife Gail. They have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

