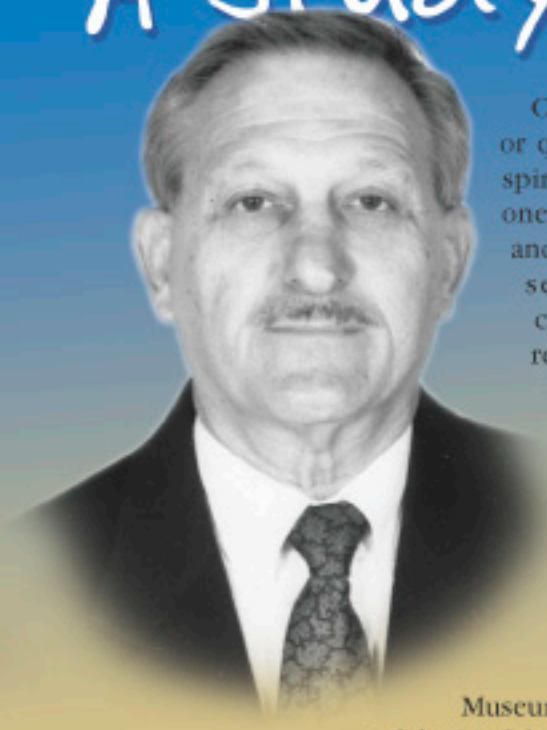


PAT AUGUSTINE

A Study In Courage

By Pascal Perri



Courage: the state or quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face danger and adversity with self-possession, confidence, and resolution-bravery, heart.

It is an honor to nominate Patrick Augustine into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum as a recipient of the Medal of Courage.

Pat started his life long participation in wrestling at Geneva High School (NY) where he was team captain for two years. After joining the Marine Corps, he continued to compete against some of the country's best. Returning to school, he enjoyed an outstanding college career at SUNY Genesee where he was team captain as well as part-time wrestling coach. After graduation he taught and coached at Canandaigua (NY) High School for several years, enjoying an undefeated season as well as a number of sectional, league, and county championships.

In 1959 Pat moved to Long Island where he turned to officiating. Over a 30-year period, and as a member of the prestigious EIWOA, he referred many high school, college, and open meets as well as championships. During this period, he was recognized as an outstanding mat official.

Then came the biggest challenge of Pat Augustine's life!

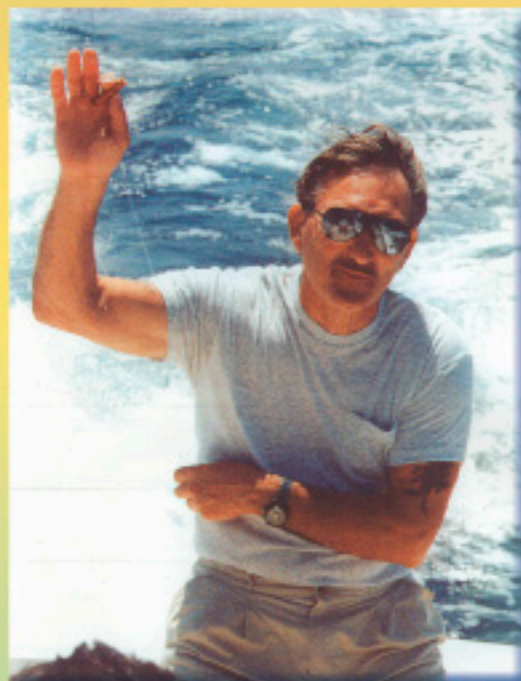
Disaster struck in 2001 when his world fell apart. Pat was diagnosed with aggressive bladder cancer that had penetrated the muscular wall of his bladder. At Sloan Kettering, the doctors decided to remove his bladder. On September 13, just two days after the Twin Towers tragedy, Pat lay on the operating table for more than eight hours. Shortly after returning home to recuperate, he was diagnosed with a major pancreas problem. Back in the hospital for another 12 days of intensive care, he dropped from 178 pounds to 132 pounds of skin and bones. Another setback developed when a large blood clot was discovered in his left leg, which contributed to kidney failure. That meant back to the hospital for major kidney surgery and month of treatment with tubes drains, medications, and chemo.

And through this terrifying ordeal, Pat never gave up. He held on and fought with all the courage and determination he had developed on the mats as a boy and as a man. While other around him were throwing in the towel, Pat became an inspiration to all who came into contact with him. Doctors, nurses, and other cancer patients marveled at his attitude and spirit.

Today Pat is a cancer survivor. He lives life to its fullest. Presently he serves as Governor George Pataki's appointee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission as well as New York State's representative to the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council. In his spare time he serves as Executive Director of New York Sportfishing Federation.

In addition Pat is still actively supporting wrestling. He is a member of the Friends of Long Island Wrestling and participates in every event and activity that promotes our great sport.

We are proud to induct Patrick Augustine into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.



Pat is an avid fishing enthusiast. He serves as the New York representative to the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission as well as serving as Executive Director of the New York Sportfishing Federation