

# GUYLEGGIO

For the past 28 years, as a union bricklayer, Guy Leggio has been a builder, a builder of stores, schools, and office buildings. The more important things he has built that are difficult to see are the intangibles, the building of character in hundreds of boys. For the past 24 years, Guy has been the head varsity wrestling coach at East Islip High School. Like the foundation of any solid structure, it takes time and patience to be successful.

Guy Leggio was a 1981 graduate of Bay Shore High School where he captained one of the greatest wrestling teams in Suffolk County history. He was coached by his father, "Jumper" Joe Ingarozza, Dick Rosener, and Mike Joyce. Guy was a league champion and placed 4th in the Suffolk County Championships.

In 1986, his career as a wrestling coach began at his old high school, where he served one year as an assistant wrestling coach. Leggio then went on to East Islip High School, where he was the assistant wrestling coach for two years. In 1989, this young man became the head wrestling coach at East Islip. In the beginning, his teams were not world beaters but the seeds for success were being sown. In the first nine years of his coaching career, Guy Leggio's teams won only one league title. Over the next 15 years, his teams captured 11 league championships. In 2006, his team won the Suffolk County Championship. In 2013, his team placed 2nd in the Suffolk County Championship. In 1990, Guy started the East Islip Kid Wrestling Club.

Leggio, along with his assistant coach Dan Hamer and a group of volunteers, built a wrestling room at the high school.



The room opened in the 2000 season. The room today has a current value of over one million dollars. According to Guy it was tough work, "I would come home from work and run over to add the cinder blocks every night." He felt that it was important that the kids of the East Islip community had a wrestling room of their own. The 85' by 60' room has two full-size mats and 24 practice circles.

Prior to the start of his coaching career, for four years, this young man served his country in the United States Navy. While in the service, he wrestled and was twice an all-Navy tournament wrestler.

For a coach who has won 76% of his league dual matches, Guy Leggio has never worried about winning. He believes that if you work hard and do the right things, winning takes care of itself. It's important to get an education and be a good member of society. Wrestling helps to teach you much of that. Leggio credits other Hall of Fame members for much of his success. Growing up and being influenced by his father, mentored by Coach Lou Giani of Huntington High School, Coach Walter Stewart from Riverhead High School, Bill Knapp, and Walter Gatz have really helped him learn how to coach and how to give back to the community. After a quarter of a century of dedicating his life to wrestling, Guy has been nominated for induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, for his "Outstanding Service to Wrestling." He cannot believe that he will be honored with all of the great past inductees including his father, "Jumper". They will be the only father/son combination in the National Hall of Fame from Suffolk County.

Guy and his wife of 23 years, Marianne, have three children. They are lifelong residents of Bay Shore.