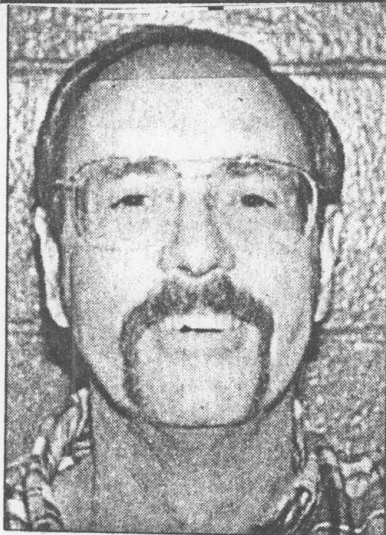




Elizabeth Connelly



Frank Tellefsen



Robert Witkowsky

# Special Olympics plans honors

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

In celebration of providing sports training and competition for the developmentally disabled for more than 20 years, the Staten Island Special Olympics is launching its first Gold Medal dinner-dance Saturday.

The event will be in Colony Hall on the grounds of Sea View Hospital Rehabilitation Center and Home. Dinner at 8 p.m. will follow a cocktail hour at 7.

The organization has grown from 12 athletes in its first year to more than 600 athletes who participate in special-olympics sports year-round.

The dinner-dance will also honor Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly, Frank (Skip) Tellefsen, chairman of the Bob Lowney Memorial Pro-Am golf tournament, and Robert Witkowsky, director of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office, Willowbrook.

According to Richard Salinardi, area coordinator for the Staten Island Special Olympics, all three have made significant contributions to the growth and success of Staten Island Special Olympics.

An advocate and supporter of Staten Island Special Olympics for more than two decades, Mrs. Connelly, a 1985 Staten Island Advance Woman of Achievement, has used her political voice to

influence and support Special Olympics, positively stressing the importance of integrating the developmentally disabled into the community.

Mr. Tellefsen has, over the past two decades, been a supporter of Staten Island Special Olympics as a volunteer and coach, training and preparing the athletes for sports competition, and as a physical-education teacher at the Hungerford School in Stapleton.

In addition, he has chaired the Bob Lowney Memorial Foundation, which provides funds for the Bob Lowney Memorial Sports Complex on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Service office. The newly-created complex includes a softball field, golf training facility and volleyball and soccer area.

Over a 20-year span, Mr. Witkowsky has contributed his services as a coach, volunteer and adviser to Staten Island Special Olympics. As director of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Service Office, he has provided Staten Island Special Olympics with physical resources to develop and maintain year-round sports and recreational programs.

In addition, he has provided resources and support for the majority of Staten Island's private agencies who work with the developmentally disabled.

Tickets for the Gold Medal ball are \$50 per person. Reservations and additional information may be obtained by calling the Special Olympics office at 983-5351.cq

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