

Pettinato Selected Man Of The Year

Frank S. Pettinato, the personable and dedicated individual who has done it all in swimming, will be named Man of the Year at the eighth annual Columbus Day Dinner Dance Oct. 11 at Rainbow Gardens. The program commences at 6 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Giuseppe Mazzini Civic Association which is presided by Larry Fatica. Pat and Italo Cappabianca are program co-chairmen.

Born and raised in the Italian neighborhood of 16th and Walnut and a lifelong member of the Erie community, Pettinato has had a distinguished teaching career of 37 years in the public school system.

He earned his bachelors degree in education at Edinboro State, received his Masters at Allegheny College, enrolled in driver education

safety and administration programs at Penn State and Pitt, and has been in his swimming glory since.

Pettinato served as varsity swimming and water polo coach for 21 years at Academy High, four years at East. He was inducted into the Pennsylvania State Swimming Hall Of Fame at Penn State in 1976, received a 25-year service award from the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association, is past president of the Erie Swim Coaches Association and Pennsylvania High School Swimming Coaches Association, current president of the Ainsworth Lifeguard Association, and is in his 45th year of service with the Department of Environmental Resources as chief lifeguard at Presque Isle State Park.

On the Peninsula, he supervises, trains and schedules lifeguards over a seven-mile waterfront. He also has charge of ambulance rescue units.

One of his many career highlights was the selection by the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association for the Outstanding Service Award, the second highest award presented by the association.

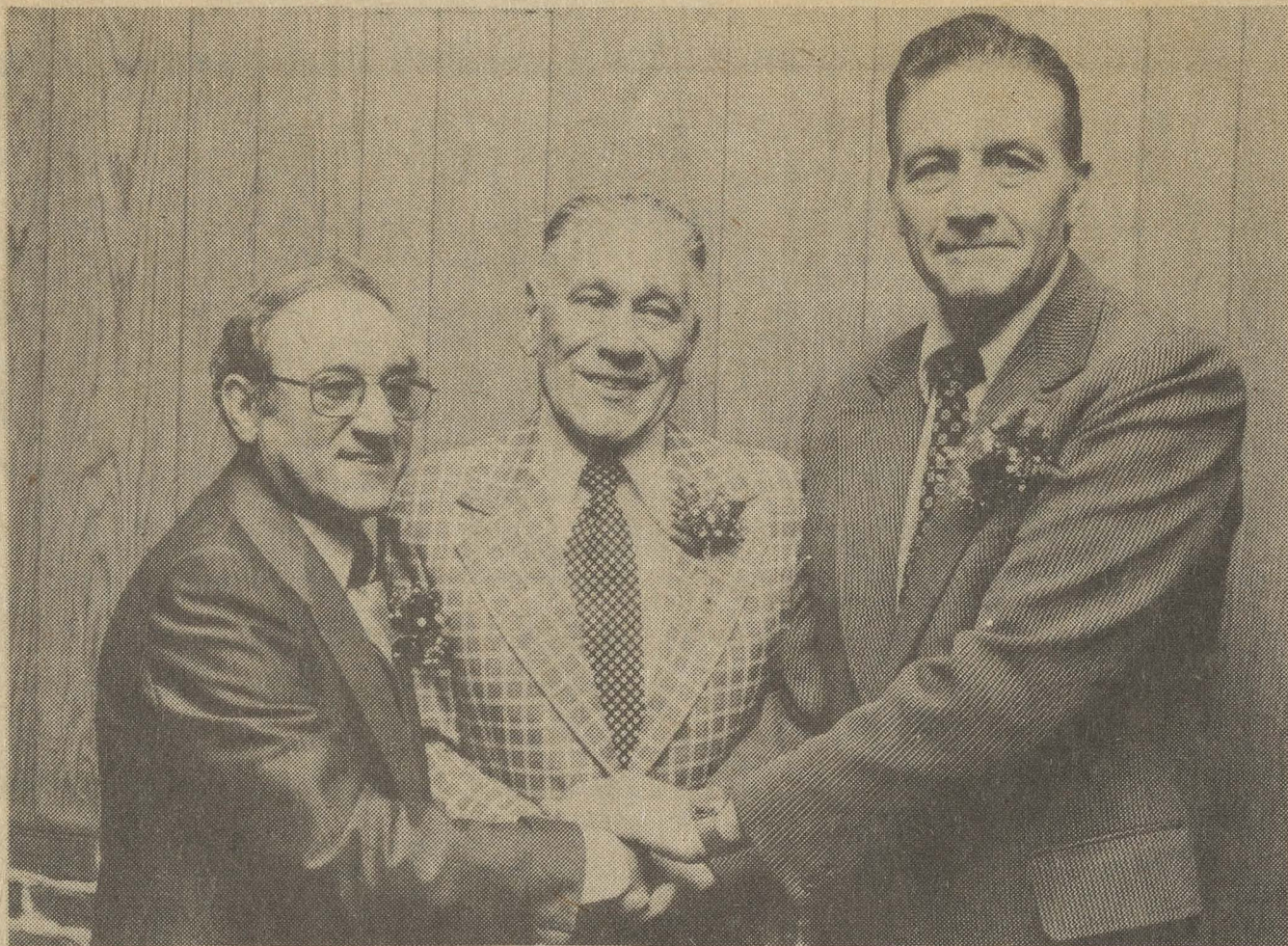
As Outstanding recipient, the former Lion and Warrior tank and waterpolo legend became eligible for the NISCA Hall of Fame. He was lauded by the association for achieving greatness through outstanding efforts and contributions to aquatic sport in the United States. He was the fifth Pennsylvanian so honored.

Pettinato over the years produced numerous city, state and All-America swimmers. One of his products was Jon Buzzard, former Syracuse University swimming coach.

In 1980, Beach 8 at Presque Isle was named Pettinato Beach. He was presented a proclamation renaming the beach and terming Pettinato Pennsylvania's premier lifeguard.



FRANK PETTINATO



Pettinato honored

Frank Pettinato, center, was selected the 1981 "Man of the Year" by the Giuseppe Mazzini Civic Association Sunday night at Rainbow Gardens. The dinner dance culminated the organization's 8th annual Columbus Day celebration. Larry Fatica, left, presented Pettinato with the honor while Ret. Col. John R. Boyd, right, an Erie native, served as guest speaker. Pettinato has served as chief lifeguard at Presque Isle State Park for 41 years and has 45 years of service to the park.