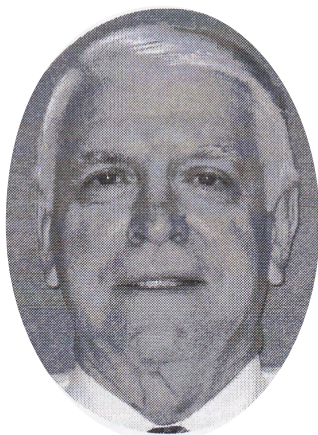


## Steve Gulyas



Steve Gulyas was born to play sports. At least his father thought so back on Oct. 6, 1943 when he wanted to name his newborn son Melvin Ott Gulyas after the Hall of Fame New York Giants outfielder from that era.

His wife intervened and would not have any part of this plan, but she did agree to meet the proud father partway and allow Melvin to become Steve's middle name.

Turns out Dad was right about one thing, though. Stephen M. Gulyas was destined to be a baseball player, and a pretty good one at that.

The Norwalk native participated in a variety of sports growing up, playing Biddy Basketball and later soccer and basketball at West Rocks Junior High School, while his first exposure to organized baseball was the Norwalk Pony League. It marked the start of a long and successful career.

Gulyas attended 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Center School due to overcrowding at Norwalk High School, but that didn't prevent him from making the varsity baseball team as a pitcher. His class entered the high school on East Avenue the following year and Gulyas went on to letter in football, basketball and baseball during his three years of high school. He was a center on the football team and a forward in basketball, and as a senior was selected captain of the NHS varsity basketball team in the 1960-61 season.

But Gulyas made his biggest mark in the spring with the Green and White baseball team, which he helped pitch to the County Conference championship in 1961, the last season before the FCIAAC was formed that fall. One of his

teammates that year was fellow 2007 Norwalk Old Timers honoree Harvey Melzer.

Following his graduation from Norwalk, Gulyas attended the University of Connecticut where as a senior in 1965 he compiled a 5-2 pitching record with an impressive 1.62 ERA as he helped lead the baseball team to the Yankee Conference championship. UConn went on to defeat Holy Cross at Fenway Park to win the District I title and advance to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

Gulyas capped off his memorable season, and collegiate career, by being selected first-team All-Yankee Conference as well as first-team All-District I.

His baseball days were hardly over, however. Gulyas also played summers with the Norwalk American Legion Post 12 team and in twilight leagues in Norwalk, Stamford and Bridgeport.

Following his career at UConn, Gulyas was signed to a professional contract by the Kansas City Athletics organization, but before he could even get started in their farm system he was called to duty to serve in the military. And in 1966, Gulyas was sworn into the U.S. Army as a Private with a guarantee he would attend Officer Candidate School.

What was supposed to be a two-year commitment turned out to be a 31-year stint with assignments in Vietnam for 26 months, West Germany for 11 years, and a short tour in northern Iraq in 1991. While there he was on Operation Provide Comfort, the largest humanitarian operation in U.S. military history, which assisted the Kurdish people of Iraq who had fled to the mountains of eastern Turkey to avoid Saddam Hussein and his military.

But Gulyas' involvement with sports was far from over. One of his most memorable special assignments was during his duty at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., where he was a full-time athletic coach. He coached Plebe football for one year and was an assistant coach on the varsity baseball team for two years. In fact, he was selected to become the head baseball coach in 1977, but declined in order to resume his duties in the U.S. Armed Forces in West Germany.

His passion for sports continued overseas, however, as he played softball and basketball in military programs, and also served as an assistant coach with the Heidelberg American High School girls varsity basketball team in Germany.

Gulyas culminated a rewarding military career by serving on the staff at the Department of the Army Headquarters in Washington, D.C., retiring as a Colonel. Since his retirement, Gulyas has remained active with the military, serving on two separate occasions in the Middle East in 2003 and '04.

Gulyas, who turned 64 last month, is currently the Executive Vice President, Chief of Staff and Ethics Officer for L-3 Communications Government Services, Inc., located in Chantilly, Virginia. He and his wife, Catherine, reside in Virginia Beach, and they have two daughters, whose husbands are serving in the U.S. Army and Coast Guard. Gulyas and his wife also have six grandchildren.

Besides the three ACC tourneys, Carpenter also played in the last Dixie Classic Tournament at North Carolina State in the 1960-61 season, and in the Sugar Bowl Tournament in New Orleans in 1961-62. Among some of the great players Carpenter played against during his career at Maryland were Art Heyman and Jeff Mullin of Duke, Billy Packard and Lenny Chappell of Wake Forest, and Billy Cunningham, Doug Moe and Larry Brown of North Carolina.

And while completing his fifth year at Maryland in 1963-64, Carpenter was an assistant coach on the freshmen basketball team, where one of his players was current Maryland basketball coach Garry Williams.

Carpenter, who has lived in Maryland for more than 40 years, is still very involved with his alma mater. He is a past president of the Maryland M-Club, an organization of former lettermen that raises funds for the school's athletic department. He has also been an active member on the M-Club Board of Governors for 27 years.

The sharp-shooting Carpenter never lost his touch from the outside and continued to play basketball in various adult leagues in Maryland until he was 45 years-old. For many years he also played slow-pitch softball, and bowled in duckpin pro leagues for 10 years.

His 40-year professional career in business development included working for Federal Government and Department of Defense contractors, such as the Vitro Corporation where he spent 29 years. He retired five years ago and now plays "a great deal of golf and loving every minute of it."

Carpenter and his wife Judi, who is originally from West Virginia, reside in Silver Spring, MD.