

# George Tirado, Sr.

1953-

*"I woke up every day thinking how can I make a positive difference in the lives of the students and athletes whom I had the pleasure of interacting with."*

- George Tirado, Sr.

George Tirado, Sr., son of Samuel and Julia Tirado of Puerto Rico, was born on July 7, 1953 in Jersey City, New Jersey. He came to Waterbury, CT as a young adolescent and graduated from Kennedy High School in 1971. He received a bachelor's degree in Spanish Education from the University of Hartford in 1975, becoming one of the few Latinos of his generation to attain a degree in higher education. With determination and a commitment to succeed and strive for a better future, he pursued further education and was awarded a master's degree in Secondary Administration and Supervision from Central Connecticut State University in 1981.

His love for education and teaching led him to become a teacher of bilingual education at Wilby High School for more than thirty-five years. He also coached many of the school's sports teams including volleyball, baseball, and the girl's basketball team, which he led to winning the Naugatuck Valley League (NVL) championship in the 1990-91 season.

He served as the school's Athletic Director for the last nineteen years of his career. As both an educator and an avid sports fan, he understood the importance of teaching young athletes respect, teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship, which he demonstrated and promoted throughout his career. His role as Athletic Director included coordinating the post season NVL tournaments. In conjunction with the City of Waterbury Parks Department, he brought the Connecticut State Interstate Athletic Conference (CIAC) high school football and both boys and girls soccer finals to the Municipal Stadium.

For many years Tirado ran the Waterbury Astros Baseball Club, which was an organization that provided many youngsters with the opportunity to play organized baseball in the local Willie Mays, Pee Wee Reese, Sandy Koufax and Mickey Mantle leagues. The senior Waterbury Astros won several Hispanic baseball Congress titles and represented the Northeast in the Goodwill Games in the Dominican Republic. In addition, he managed the St. Cecilia's C.Y.O. basketball teams as well as Sullivan Liquors softball team.

Tirado was a member of the Puerto Rican Youth Organization, which provided social, educational, recreational and cultural activities for the Hispanic youth of Waterbury. He was also a member of the Spanish Action Council, which provided many social programs for the Hispanic Community of Waterbury for both adults and children.

He also served two years (1990 - 1991) as secretary of the Park's Board in Waterbury.

Tirado truly enjoys public service and giving back to the community. He is currently a member The Westbrook Elks, the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association.



His contributions to the community have not gone unnoticed as he has been the recipient of numerous certificates of appreciation, awards and recognition including the Knights of Columbus Youth Dedication Award, the Shakers Baseball Club Sportsman Award, the Olympian Club Award and the New Haven County Pinstripe Club Association award for his tireless commitment and dedication to children and youth.

In honor of his dedication as an educator, coach and athletic director, Wilby High School dedicated and named the gymnasium floor after George Tirado. On May 30, 1990, he was proclaimed the city's Puerto Rican Mayor of the Day. He is also the recipient of the Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury 2012 Educator Award for his 30 plus years as an educator and athletic director.

Tirado has been married to Aurwilda Tirado for over 35 years. They have two sons and four grandchildren.