



Reprinted from the Roslindale Transcript

The Jim Roche Community Ice Arena buzzed with life Saturday as family, friends, hockey parents and hockey children gathered to celebrate the dedication of a room honoring the late Paul McLaughlin.

The Parkway legend, known for his tireless efforts in both youth hockey and youth baseball, was honored as the arena christened the meeting room off the lobby as the Paul McLaughlin Room.

McLaughlin, a volunteer in both youth hockey and youth baseball programs, earned the trust, respect and admiration of Parkway residents with more than 35 years of service to the sports of the community. He was president of both the Parkway Youth Hockey and the Parkway Little League.

McLaughlin, a Roslindale resident, died of a heart attack on April 15, 2006, just before the start of the Parkway Little League season. He was 62 years old.

McLaughlin was the heart and soul of the Little League in the Parkway. His tireless work was a major factor in keeping the league functioning.

Among those to address the crowd Saturday was Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

“The real heroes of our city are the Paul McLaughlins,” said Menino.

Menino pointed to McLaughlin as a true hero to the families of the Parkway, a hard-working volunteer who never once asked for recognition.

“There isn’t a person in West Roxbury who doesn’t have a story about Paul McLaughlin,” Menino said.

A plaque outside the room will remain to honor McLaughlin.

“This room has been dedicated with the gratitude and appreciation of the children and families of the Parkway community,” the plaque reads. “In loving memory of Paul C. McLaughlin. May he be remembered by all who enter.”

On this day, a collection of McLaughlin’s trophies, awards and accomplishments — a literal roadmap of the legacy he left behind — adorned a table outside the window of his newly christened room. Above the table, a jersey bearing McLaughlin’s name presided over the room.

Such accolades include 1997 Massachusetts Hockey Presidents Award; the 2001 Massachusetts Hockey Registrar of the Year; the 2000 USA Hockey William Thayer Tutt award; and an induction into the Mass. Hockey Hall of Fame in 2000.

Bob McLaughlin, Paul’s older brother, watched as onlookers approached his brother’s trophies: “I didn’t realize Paul had these many trophies. Paul would never talk about them.”

While his achievements could fill an entire article alone, perhaps his highest praise comes not in plaque form.

“You can’t put into words what kind of a guy Paul was,” a friend said. “He has left a legacy in West Roxbury, and we should all be thankful for it.”

In addition to his hard work and dedication in youth sports, McLaughlin was also known as a whiz at math. He was an honors student at Boston Latin, scoring a perfect 800 on the math portion of the SATs. He went on to MIT and then Northeastern, where he majored in math-science.

McLaughlin also served in Thailand during the Vietnam War. It was there where he began umpiring baseball games.

He worked for Automatic Data Processing.

Although he never played hockey, McLaughlin was general manager for the Mini Bruins All Star Team and was inducted into the Massachusetts Hockey Hall of Fame in 2000.

Some pictures from the event are displayed below:

