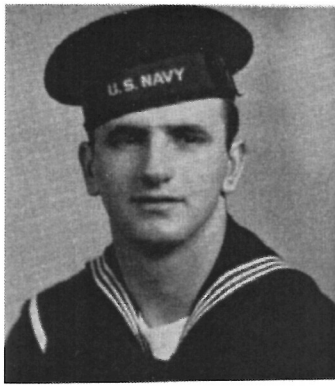




Anthony W. Pilla
Class of 1945

Anthony "Scrap" Pilla never got to realize his ambition to become a "professional athlete", although those that saw him play knew he had the talent to possibly achieve that goal. Like many of the proud young men of his time, World War II loomed large in his life. At the conclusion of his senior season in football, Tony entered the Navy to serve his country.

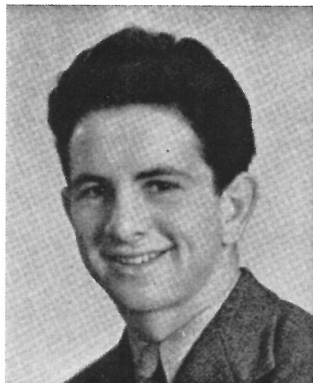
Prior to entering the service, Pilla was a stellar three-sport athlete, competing on the football, basketball and baseball teams. He had "all the tools", as they say- good speed, agility, and those special instincts that identified him as "a player". The 1945 edition of the *Oak, Lily and Ivy* described him as follows: "Dynamic....athletic....good-natured....everyone's friend.... "right on the ball" in and out of school....our football hero.."

The War had a huge effect on high school athletic teams of the 1940's. As soon as young men became eligible to serve, many of them left school to fight for our freedom. Such was the case in 1944, when the football team found itself playing with a roster of 15 players after four of the top players from the previous season joined the military. Playing for the memory of a teammate off in some remote part of the world, the undermanned team finished the season 0-8. Tony Pilla, the quarterback of that team, scored both touchdowns in a losing effort on the last Saturday of the season and then enlisted in the Navy the following Monday.

Pilla proudly served two years in the Navy and later became a 20-year career man in the Air Force. "Winning football games and playing sports was not important," he said. "The main idea was to serve your country and win the war. Nothing else counted and little else mattered to most people in 1944."

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the many men like Tony Pilla who gave so much to our country.

The Milford High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is proud to induct two men who made the supreme sacrifice during World War II. Both young men were killed in action while serving our country.



Joseph Tusoni
Class of 1941

Joseph "Bucky" Tusoni played football and basketball at Milford High School in the years immediately prior to World War II. Bucky played for two Hall of Fame coaches at MHS. He was a two-way star for Coach Charlie Brucato on the football field. During the 1940-41 season, under Coach "Fitter" Cahill, Tusoni led the basketball team to its most successful season since the sport made its debut at Milford High.

As the leading scorer on the team, Bucky led the way to a record of 18-6, the Bay State League Championship, and an invitation to play in the Annual Tech Tournament in Boston Garden. Along with fellow Hall of Famer, Leo "Red" Oates, Tusoni was named to the All Tourney Team.

Bennie J. Porzio
Class of 1943

Bennie Porzio was another one of Milford High's young athletes who had aspirations to become a coach, but who's life was cut short way before his time. Porzio excelled in baseball and basketball.

He was portrayed in his high school yearbook as "*Quiet....unobtrusive in class....flashing and spirited on the basketball court....one of our star guards....also enjoys a fast game of hockey....*"

