

GRYMES HILL



Former NFL player Rich Negrin



Wagner College Board Chairman Warren Procci

Former NFL player to speak at Wagner College graduation

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Former NFL player Rich Negrin, who served as a deputy mayor of Philadelphia, will be the keynote speaker at Wagner College's 2017 commencement.

Also being honored during the May 19 commencement will be Dr. Warren R. Procci, chairman of Wagner's board of trustees and former president of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

Negrin grew up "in a tough North Jersey neighborhood sandwiched between the Port Newark-Elizabeth marine terminals, an oil refinery and a junkyard," wrote Dan Geringer in a Philadelphia Daily News profile.

A boyhood tragedy shaped Negrin's life in public service.

In 1979, he was a 13-year-old getting ready to play in his very first Pop Warner football league game. He was excited, not only for the game, but because joining him was his number one fan, his dad, a Cuban exile and pro-democracy activist. As Negrin and his dad were getting in the car, his father was gunned down by assassins.

That experience would make him a relentless advocate for families and a crusader against violent crime.

Negrin studied political science at Wagner College and played on the Seahawk football team. As co-captain, he led the team to the 1987 Division III

national college football championship. Following graduation, Negrin briefly played NFL football for the Cleveland Browns (1988) and the New York Jets (1989).

Negrin earned his law degree from Rutgers University. His legal career has included service as a Philadelphia city prosecutor, a litigator with the firm of Morgan Lewis, and a vice president and associate general counsel for the Aramark Corporation.

He served as deputy mayor for administration and coordination and managing director of the city of Philadelphia, where he became known for his high ethical standards and his insistence on personal, hands-on community engagement.

In 2015 he resigned from public service to become a partner at the Philadelphia law firm of Obermayer, Rebmann, Maxwell & Hippel.

Negrin will be awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by his alma mater at this year's commencement exercise.

Wagner Board chairman Procci will also be awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at the 2017 commencement program.

Procci, a 1968 Wagner graduate and native Staten Islander, is himself the son of a Wagner alumnus and native Islander, Waddie Procci '36, whose par-

ents immigrated from Italy.

After graduating summa cum laude with a chemistry degree, Procci earned his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin, where he completed his residency in psychiatry. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

In addition to his private practice in Los Angeles, Procci's career includes a 42-year history of scholarship and service at both L.A. County/USC Medical Center and Harbor/UCLA Medical Center. He continues to teach and supervise psychiatric interns and residents at both of these major university teaching hospitals.

He is a clinical professor of psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, where he has also done research and been a division director in residency education. Procci has also been president and dean of training at the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute, and from 2002 to 2012 served in many leadership roles with the American Psychoanalytic Association, ultimately serving as its president.

Procci has served on the Wagner College Board of Trustees since 1999, where he has chaired the executive committee since 2012. He was honored last year by the Wagner College DaVinci Society with its Lifetime Achievement Award.