

# INTERNATIONAL BOXING

## HALL OF FAME



**GUIDE TO INDUCTION WEEKEND**  
*the* **Oneida Daily Dispatch**  
**• JUNE 2017 •**



# Congratulations

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**Thursday, June 8**

Opening Bell rings at Museum Grounds 1:00  
 Ringside Lectures at Museum Grounds 1:30-5:30

**Friday, June 9**

Ringside Lectures at Museum Grounds 10:00-2:00  
 Celebrity Fist Casting at Museum Grounds 3:00  
 Friday Night Fiesta at Rusty Rail Pary House 7:30

**Saturday, June 10**

Golf Tournament of Champions at Casolwood Golf Course 7:00-3:00  
 5K Race, Fun Run at Canastota High School 8:30  
 Ringside Lectures at Museum Grounds 9:30-3:00  
 Boxing Autograph Card Show 10:00-4:00  
 VIP Gala Cocktail Reception at Greystone Castle 5:30-6:30  
 Banquet of Champions at Syracuse OnCenter 8:00

**Sunday, June 11**

U.S. Postal Service Tribute at Museum Grounds 10:00  
 Parade of Champions through Downtown District 1:00  
 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony 2:30



**PARADE OF CHAMPIONS**  
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Sunday 6/11 1:00 PM

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KYLE MENNIG - ONEIDA DAILY DISPATCH

The Canastota marching band marches in last year's International Boxing Hall of Fame Induction Weekend Parade of Champions. This year's parade features over 40 floats, 20 bands and 50 celebrities as well as grand marshal Eric Braeden.

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SUNDAY 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP AND THE WORD.  
WITH CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING SERMON  
THURSDAY 6:30 P.M. BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

*Abound in Hope*  
(ROMANS 15:13)



KYLE MENNIG - ONEIDA DAILY DISPATCH

Roberto Duran, right, and Juan Kassab, left, help Class of 2016 inductee Hilario Zapata put on a robe before his induction speech at the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Kassab has served as the interpreter for Induction Weekend for the past 15 years.

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# KASSAB EMBRACES ROLE AS INDUCTION WEEKEND INTERPRETER

By Kyle Mennig [kmennig@oneidadispatch.com](mailto:kmennig@oneidadispatch.com)  
@DispatchKyle on Twitter

**CANASTOTA, N.Y.** >> Dr. Juan Kassab grew up in Miami, Florida watching boxers like Sugar Ray Leonard compete in the ring. Resettling over 1,000 miles north has given him the chance to count many of those fighters as his friends.

Kassab, who runs Smile Solutions – a dental practice in Canastota – with his wife Dorothy, has also served as the Spanish interpreter during the International Boxing Hall of Fame’s Induction Weekend for the past 15 years.

Born to Cuban parents, Kassab spoke only Spanish until he was five years old. He moved to Central New York after obtaining his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Tufts University in Boston in 1992 and started acting as the IBHOF interpreter after one of his patients recommended him.

“I was the only guy in town who spoke Spanish, I guess,” he said with a laugh. “So I did it and I had a blast.”

Kassab didn’t have any previous experience as an interpreter but said it wasn’t hard to do. One challenge he faced early on was learning different sayings that


are popular in different countries, but he said that has gotten easier throughout the years. Throughout the weekend, Kassab goes around with the Spanish-speaking boxers and interprets for them during interviews and also during Sunday’s induction speeches. He also volunteers for the IBHOF in other ways. Kassab has previously gone to the airport to pick up boxers and also helps out each year with the fist casting, which is done using dental materials. It’s through interpreting, however, that Kassab has developed relationships with many of the boxers who return to Canastota year after year.

“In general, the best part is just having met all these boxers through interpreting, even the non-Spanish speaking ones,” he said. “Having other Spanish-speaking boxers speaking with them through me, that’s allowed me to get to know all the boxers on a personal level.”

“I remember watching Sugar Ray Leonard and all these guys I’ve now met. It’s been quite a ride.”

A ride he now gets to share. Kassab’s 13-year-old son Lorenzo, who trains to box and has sparred a few times, has had the chance to tag along to Induction Weekend. Lorenzo’s favorite boxer is Micky Ward, a fan favorite who returns to Canastota each June. Kassab said he’s known Ward for years, making it easy to introduce his son to his idol. It’s an experience he enjoys seeing fans have year in and year out.

“The best part of the weekend is seeing all the fans trying to get these boxers’ autographs and get their pictures and so on and so forth,” said Kassab. “It’s still so awesome to see all these people come from different parts of the country to meet these guys. I’m fortunate to know them and know them well.”



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# IBHOF

## Class of 2017 Inductees

### MODERN

#### Marco Antonio Barrera "The Baby Faced Assassin"



**JON SUPER - THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera, left, and Britain's Amir Khan fight during a 2009 WBA International Lightweight Championship boxing fight in Manchester, England. Barrera will be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame on Sunday.

Born January 17, 1974 in Mexico City, Mexico. A five-time Mexican national champion, Barrera posted a 56-4 amateur record before turning pro in 1989 at age 15 and won his first 43 bouts.

He won the NABF super flyweight title before capturing world championships in three weight divisions. In 1995 Barrera won the WBO super bantamweight title with a 12-round win over Daniel Jimenez and successfully defended it eight times. He lost the crown to Junior Jones in 1996 (DQ 5) but rebounded to capture the vacant WBO belt from Richie Wenton in 1998 (TKO 3). Barrera lost the crown to Erik Morales (L 12) in 2000 but remained champion as Morales refused the belt. He defended three times before vacating to go up to featherweight to defeat Naseem Hamed (W 12) in 2001. He defeated Morales (W 12) in a 2002 rematch for the WBC featherweight title, but refused the title. Three wins preceded the 2004 rubber match with Morales (W 12) for the

WBC super featherweight belt. He added the IBF title in a unification bout with Robbie Peden (W 12) in 2005. Barrera lost the WBC title to Juan Manuel Marquez (L12) in 2007.

The versatile boxer/puncher boxed sporadically before retiring in 2011 with a record of 67-7 (44 KOs). Barrera is now an analyst for TV Azteca.

#### Evander Holyfield "The Real Deal"

Born Oct. 19, 1962 in Atmore, Georgia. Holyfield capped his 160-14 (75 KOs) amateur career with a bronze medal at the 1984 Olympic Games and turned pro that year at Madison Square Garden.

In only his 12th fight, he defeated Dwight Qawi (W 15) for the WBA cruiserweight title and became unified champion with wins over

IBF champion Rickey Parkey (TKO 3) and WBC champion Carlos DeLeon (TKO 8). Holyfield set his sights on the heavyweight title and got his chance in a 1990 WBC / WBA/ IBF championship fight with "Buster" Douglas, which he won via 3rd round knockout. He lost the titles to Riddick Bowe in 1992 but regained the WBA/ IBF belts in the infamous "Fan Man" 1993 rematch. He dropped the titles to Michael Moorer (L 12) in 1994 and met Bowe in a 1995 rubber match (TKO 8). In 1996 he upset Mike Tyson (TKO 11) for the WBA title and won the rematch (DQ 3) the next year. He added the IBF strap with a rematch win over Moorer (TKO 8) in 1997. After unification bouts (D 12, L 12) with Lennox Lewis in 1999, he boxed a trilogy with John Ruiz that saw him win, lose and draw in 12-round WBA title bouts in 2000 and 2001.

"The Real Deal" continued to box until 2011, compiling a record of 44-10-2 (29 KOs).

#### Johnny Tapia "Mi Vida Loca"

Born Feb. 13, 1967 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Tapia, who learned to box from his grandfather, compiled an impressive 101-21 (65 KOs) amateur record. He turned pro in 1988 and captured the USBA and NABF super flyweight titles before stopping Henry Martinez via 11th

round TKO in 1994 for the vacant WBO super flyweight crown in front of a raucous hometown crowd. He successfully defended the belt 13 times and added the IBF belt with a 12-round win over hometown rival Danny Romero in 1997. After two successful unified title defenses, Tapia vacated the belts to campaign as a bantamweight and captured the WBA strap with a 12-round win over Nana Konadu (W 12) in 1998. He lost for the first time when he dropped the belt to Paulie Ayala (L 12) in 1999's "Fight of the Year." Tapia won the WBO bantamweight title in 2000 by defeating Jorge Julio (W 12) and became a three-division world champion with a 12-round decision over Manuel Medina for the IBF featherweight championship in 2002. Known for his passionate fighting style and celebratory post-win back flip, the fan-friendly Tapia retired in 2011 following a win over Mauricio Pastrana (W 8) with a pro record of 59-5-2 (30 KOs). On May 27, 2012, Tapia died from heart problems in Albuquerque at age 45.

old and won numerous local, state and national amateur titles there.

He turned pro in 1935 soon after relocating to San Francisco and remained there throughout his career. He would go on to meet the best at welterweight, middleweight and light heavyweight and won both the California welterweight and middleweight championships, retiring in 1944 due to a detached retina in 1944. One of the most talented and popular fighters of his era, Booker was never stopped in his career despite the high caliber of opposition he met.

His pro record stands at 66-5-8 (32 KOs). Booker died in San Francisco on January 26, 1975 at age 57.

### NON-PARTICIPANT

**Jimmy Lennon Sr.**  
- Ring Announcer

**Johnny Lewis**  
- Trainer

**Jerry Roth**  
- Judge

### OLD-TIMER

**Eddie Booker**

Born Hilton Edward Booker on Nov. 5, 1917 in Alto, Texas. Booker moved to San Jose, California at 10 years

### OBSERVER

**Steve Farhood**  
- Journalist/Broadcaster

**Barry Tompkins**  
- Broadcaster

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# Autographs



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## Is it a stroke?

Check these signs **FAST**:

- Face:** Does the face look uneven?  
Ask the person to smile.
- Arm:** Does one arm drift down?  
Ask the person to raise both arms.
- Speech:** Does the person’s speech sound strange?  
Ask the person to repeat a phrase.
- Time:** Every second, brain cells die.

**CALL 911 at any sign of a stroke.**