



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2017

Contact: Marina Caitlin Watts, [marina@nicholaslence.com](mailto:marina@nicholaslence.com), 212.205.6634  
Skye Ostreicher, [skye@nicholaslence.com](mailto:skye@nicholaslence.com), 212.205.6635

Event Photos: <http://bit.ly/LPTA2017> Photo Credit: Jelena Gerga

## Local High School Student Receives \$1,000 Timothy J. Rooney Distinguished Graduate Award

(Yonkers, NY)-- **Shane Rafferty**, Yonkers resident and recent graduate of Archbishop Stepinac High School, was selected as the 2017 recipient of the **Timothy J. Rooney Distinguished Graduate Award**. He was presented with the \$1,000 scholarship on June 29 at the **Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association (LPTA)** meeting in Yonkers. LPTA worked closely with the Archbishop Stepinac High School administration to identify a deserving student who might otherwise not receive scholarship funding. Among notable attendees at the presentation was **Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino**, who addressed the Association.

In the fall, Rafferty will attend CUNY Baruch College. He is the second in his family to graduate from Stepinac and has two younger brothers who will follow his legacy. Rafferty excelled in community involvement at a young age, and was an avid athlete, having played Irish football as a youth and as a member of Stepinac's varsity soccer team during all four years of high school.

"The goal of Archbishop Stepinac High School is to graduate men worthy of the respect of others," said **Principal of Archbishop Stepinac High School, Paul Carty**. "Shane Rafferty certainly earned that distinction. I believe he is a most worthy candidate for your scholarship."

The **Timothy J. Rooney Distinguished Graduate Award**, named on behalf of **Timothy J. Rooney**, president and CEO of Empire City Casino, derives from a fund created by the Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association utilizing contributions made nearly 30 years ago by Rooney. When Rooney learned that the funds had been depleted in 2011, he made a second contribution to ensure that the scholarship will continue to assist local college-bound students like Shane.

"Education is an essential branch of the mission of Empire City Casino," said **Timothy J. Rooney, president & CEO of Empire City Casino**. "We're honored that the funding we've provided to Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association has allowed nearly 30 years of scholarships for distinguished community students to pursue higher education. Congratulations to Mr. Rafferty and good luck next year at Baruch College."

**President of the Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association, Liam McLaughlin** added, "Shane was chosen from all of the applicants to the LPTA because of his academic excellence and participation in extracurricular activities both at Stepinac and around the community. We are very proud to award the scholarship to Shane and very thankful to Empire City and the Rooney family in particular for their sponsorship of this scholarship and for being such an integral part of our community."

Event Photos: <http://bit.ly/LPTA2017> Photo Credit: Jelena Gerga

###

### **About Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway:**

Empire City Casino, one of the largest entertainment and gaming destinations in the northeast, features 5,300 of the hottest slots, electronic blackjack, three card poker, craps, roulette, baccarat and sic bo; year-round harness racing & International simulcasting; live entertainment including the best party, tribute and Latin bands, comedy, & more. Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway is located at 810 Yonkers Avenue (off I-87 at Central Avenue) Yonkers, NY, Westchester County, open seven days a week from 10:00am to 6:00am. Visit [www.empirecitycasino.com](http://www.empirecitycasino.com) or call 914.968.4200 for information.

### **About Lincoln Taxpayers Association:**

Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association is a legal 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization created in 1952 that represents the interests of residents and taxpayers in the section of Yonkers bound by Yonkers Avenue, Van Cortlandt Park, the New York State Thruway (Interstate 87) and the Saw Mill River Parkway.