

Township of Union Schools
Kawameeh Middle School

Nancy Minneci, President
Township of Union Board of Education
2369 Morris Avenue
Union, New Jersey 07083

Dear Mrs. Minneci,

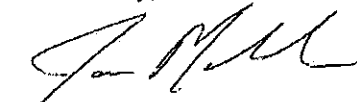
Recently one of our teachers passed away after a yearlong battle against cancer. During that struggle, Jack DeBarbieri became a symbol of perseverance and courage. His personal strength and determination was witnessed by all of our students as he courageously fought for over a year while still coming to work and completing his duties as a Health and Physical Education instructor.

Jack began his career at Kawameeh Junior High School in 1974 after graduating from Montclair State College with a degree in Health and Physical Education. For 44 years he fulfilled his duties under five principals and several supervisors and superintendents. For many years he coached wrestling at Kawameeh and Union High School. He was also an assistant football coach at Union High School during the Lou Rettino Era. He was one of the first coaches who volunteered time in the Recreational Wrestling Program begun in the 1980's. He truly has had a positive impact on thousands of Union students.

For those reasons, I would like the memory of Jack DeBarbieri to remain alive here at Kawameeh for many years by placing a plaque at the entrance to the gym memorializing his service to our school, our community, and our children. Forever more, the gymnasium at Kawameeh Middle School shall be known as the Jack DeBarbieri Gymnasium.

The name of Jack DeBarbieri fulfills all of the criteria as indicated in Policy 7550 of the Policies of the Township of Union Board of Education. We at Kawameeh thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jason Malanda, Principal