

The Newyorker Times

The newsletter of the Poughkeepsie, New York, Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society



New Series, Volume 9
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 1-2
January-February 2008

From the President's Desk

By Steve Miller

So now it's 2008. And I'm the new president of the Poughkeepsie Newyorkers. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Steve Miller. Stephen, for my mother's benefit. You know, Duffy's kid. I've been a member of the chapter since 1983, although I took a ten-year sabbatical from the chorus during the '90s. I came back to the active chorus in 2003 after realizing how much I missed singing. I've sung with the chorus, been to a bunch of contests, and even sung in a few quartets.

Through the years I think I've come to know the chapter pretty well. We want to sing well and we want to have fun doing it. The more singing, the more fun, right? So what's the president's responsibility in all this? For a president just wanting to get through the year, his responsibility is likely to see that the chapter is in no worse shape at the end of 2008 than it was at the beginning. Probably not too hard a task given the people in the chapter willing to offer a helping hand when needed. But as in anything worth doing, there should be motivation for something better.

2008 looks to be a busy year for the chapter. As in past years, we will be participating in the Singing Valentines program and producing the annual show, each providing much needed funds for the chapter. Additionally, the chapter will be the hosting the 2008 Yankee Division Contest at Roy C. Ketcham High School on March 15. Then there's always the district contest in the fall and the sundry other chorus and quartet performances. Sounds like a lot of work, not to mention a lot of singing.

So what's my motivation? I want 2008 to be a successful year both musically and financially for the chapter. I had mentioned at the Installation Dinner that my hope was for more chorus members to be exposed to quartetting this year. I don't say this because I think quartetting is what our society is all about and that's what we should concentrate on. Rather, I believe quartetting is a strong vehicle for individuals to learn to work together and to be better singers within the chorus, the chorus being the real financial engine of the chapter. The stronger the chorus, the more successful, both musically and (See "President" on Page 3)

Quartet Corner

FOOTLIGHTERS

On October 8, 2007, the Footlighters made the following announcement to the Chapter members:

The Footlighters barbershop quartet announces an end of an era. Dave Reynolds is stepping down as the bass of the quartet. Dave has been our bass since 1994, an amazing and enjoyable 13-year run. Dave was an experienced quartetter when he joined us and enthusiastically became a valued member of the quartet. Always the guy first "off the spots" and learning his lines for our show bits, the rest of us "kids" had to hustle to catch up.

Dave has been and will continue to be a good friend to all of us. It has been a pleasure sharing these years with him. And . . . once a Footlighter, always a Footlighter!

So who's "tall" enough to fill that space between Jack and Chief? How about the Footlighters' original bass, Bud Fair? Yes (after much cajoling and a BIG sign-up bonus), Bud has agreed to rejoin the Feet. Bud was also the bass of the 1991 NED Quartet Champion *Rave Revue*. So besides his usual zaniness, he brings a new level of singing experience to the Footlighters.

As we approach our 33rd year, The Footlighters will continue our unique entertainment style, but now be energized by this new configuration.

In harmony,
Ron, Jack, Dave and Chief"

* * * January 2008 UPDATE * * *

The new Footlighters configuration got the opportunity to sing for Adams Fairacre Farms in Newburgh on 5 December. So it was scramble time for Bud and all of us: choose songs, start rehearsing together, learn a couple of new ones. We pulled it off, having a good time to boot. It's always nice to be the Top Bananas at Adams!

A few days later we got the word from Bud he was very sick and couldn't sing. We had to cancel our next rehearsal. Long story short, this went on (See "Footlighters" on Page 3)

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 Editor: George L. Trigg,
 18 Duzine Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1304
 845-255-9488; e-mail GeorgeL.Trigg@alum.wustl.edu

Chapter Officials
 President Stephen Miller
 845-462-4324; e-mail srmcmi@optonline.net
 VP, Chapter Development William Florie
 845-473-7027; e-mail wflorie@aol.com
 VP, Music & Performance John Hadigan, Jr.
 VP, PR & Marketing Dan Landa
 Secretary Scott Salladin
 Treasurer Mike Murphy
 BOD Members at Large ... Eric Dickstein, Dick Schaffer,
 Chris Schulze
 Immediate Past President John Hadigan, Jr.
 Youth Outreach Bill Standish
 Chorus Director Renée Silverstein
 Assistant Directors John Hadigan, Steve Hagerdon
 Chorus Manager Scott Salladin

Meetings
Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie
70 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York
ALL SINGING MEN WELCOME
 Website address www.newyorkerschorus.org

Poughkeepsie Chapter
Mission Statement
 The mission of the Poughkeepsie Chapter shall be:
 To perpetuate the art of Barbershop Harmony, and
 To promote and provide opportunities for vocal harmony
 activities for its members and potential members such
 as, but not limited to,
 Quartetting,
 Vocal crafts and techniques,
 Coaching,
 Chorus singing, and
 Competitive preparation and participation,
 and
 To provide public appreciation of barbershop harmony
 through public and charitable performances, and
 To promote good fellowship and camaraderie among its
 Membership, and
 To foster and enhance the ideals and principles of the
 Barbershop Harmony Society



9 Feb Singing Valentines for Armed Forces families
 14 Feb Singing Valentines, 9 a.m –9 p.m.
15 Mar Newyorkers host Yankee Division Contest at Roy C. Ketcham High School, Wappingers Falls—details TBA
 17 May **Annual Show, F. D. Roosevelt High School, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.**
29 Jun–5 Jul International Convention and Contests, Nashville, TN
24–26 Oct NED Convention and Contests, Lowell, MA

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
27 FEBRUARY

Happy Birthdays in February:

Greg Howard	12
Ralph Harlow	22
Steve Plumb	26
Eric Dickstein	28

No Anniversaries in February

Directions
 by Renée Silverstein

SO WHAT'S THE STORY?????

Remember that old TV commercial where the pitchman answers the question "So What's the Story, Jerry?" When it comes to telling the story we all have to be Jerry; he's got the answer.

Our story is the lyrics of the music we sing, and it first has to mean something to the storyteller before it can mean anything to the audience. We cannot go through the motions just because the director asks for movement or expression on your face. Everyone can be taught what to do, but there is a big difference between a technical delivery and believability. The lyrics have to mean something to you; in other words, you must own them or, at the very least, buy into the meaning if you want to be believable. It can be guaranteed that appropriate, natural gestures AND facial expressions will be unavoidable.

Sub-story: I'd like to touch on your lips (pun intended) for a moment. Tension is a singer's worst enemy, especially in the mouth area. Trying too hard to shape vowels when I ask that you look like an O can create (Continued on Page 3)

Directions (From Page 2)

tension; so the trick is to start shaping inside the mouth as well as using the lips. Keeping them off the teeth allows the teeth to be resonators. More resonance is what we're aiming for, and more space inside the mouth is a good start. Shaping the O vowel without being rigid avoids mismatching in the extreme. Audiences can hear a wide A or E vowel as opposed to a vertically shaped vowel. Over-exaggerating is to be avoided.

That's my story.

President (From Page 1)

financially, the chapter will be. That's my goal for 2008. Hope to see you on the risers.

Footlighters (From Page 1)

through the holidays. When he was getting better, the weather kept us from getting together. We really wanted to sing at the January 12 Newyorkers Installation Dinner, but that didn't happen; Jack was sick for a while, then Ron.

We're looking forward to getting new music under our belts. We're working on several. But Bud is not up to "voice par" yet, so we're going easy. Plans are for Singing Valentines and the Chapter Annual Show. But no Yankee Division Contest for the Footlighters this year.

Bob Chieffo

Contact and baritone, Footlighters Quartet

Oldyorker Ev Burke Taken by Death

From the Poughkeepsie Journal,
3 and 4 January

HYDE PARK—Everett J. Burke, 85, a Hyde Park resident since 1981, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 1, 2008 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center after a brief illness. Everett was an Allstate Insurance agent for 30 years, retiring in 1995. He was one of the first commercial lines agents in New York State and became an Allstate Neighborhood Office Agency owner in Arlington in 1985. During his career with Allstate he was a multiple Honor Ring award winner.

Prior to his tenure with Allstate, he worked for many years with Allied Health Services in Westchester. Everett was a long time member of the Poughkeepsie Newyorkers Barbershop Chapter of SPEBSQSA. He served as Chapter President and was awarded "Newyorker of the Year" in 1981. He also enjoyed spending time with his family who will miss him dearly.

Born September 7, 1922 in Brooklyn, his parents were George and Mabel Adams. He graduated from Erasmus High School in Brooklyn and attended Columbia University. Mr. Burke served with the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II.

On May 12, 1973, he married Dorothy Burns at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie. Mrs.

Burke survives at home.

In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by daughters, Nancy Collins of Wappingers Falls, Kathleen Courtney and her husband, Mark, of Poughkeepsie, and Janet Langstaff and her husband, Rick, of Spring Lake, NJ; grandchildren, Anthony Almeida and his wife, Amanda, of Monroe, North Carolina, and Justin and Nicole Collins of Wappingers Falls; and great granddaughter, Alysia Almeida of Monroe, NC.

He was predeceased by a son, Stephen G. Burke.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 301 Manchester Rd., Suite 105, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, or the Foundation at Vassar Brothers Medical Center (directed to the Heart Center), 45 Reade Place, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.



Ev Burke and Women in Barbershopping

By Renée Silverstein

There are many women in the barbershop world that owe a big thanks to Ev Burke, myself being first on the list. Ev Burke came to me in the summer of 1992 with a proposal that I consider being the front-line director of the Newyorkers. There were women directors directing men's choruses but unable to participate in contests because of the ruling that all personnel on stage be members of the Society—a difficult criterion to meet on account of gender. So it wasn't unusual to direct a Society chorus, but Ev had an agenda. The members were willing to take their female director on a contest stage, fully aware that their performance would be disqualified. Poughkeepsie was notorious for being daring and different; so I accepted that position, and we went to the contest and were subsequently disqualified. Our placement was not posted on the official listing, but we did very well, placing tenth, which was a considerable improvement from the chorus's previous outing. That started the ball rolling for discussions at the International level. The following year the assistant director, Breck Martyn, qualified the chorus for the District contest, and 28 members traveled to Montreal for the contest knowing in advance that they would again be disqualified for my presence on the stage. That made the powers that be sit up. By March of 1994 the ruling changed, and soon after that there were dozens of chorus nationwide with women helping men keep the whole (See "Renée on Ev Burke" on Page 4)

Renée on Ev Burke (From Page 3)

world singing.

So Ev, thank you for that bold move. Thank you for opening the door. Thank you for 16 years of rewarding and happy Wednesday nights.

“Four of Hearts” Makes International Debut and Performs for Millions Worldwide!

By Bill Florie and Bob Chieffo

Okay, maybe it was only in Poughkeepsie for a couple of hundred, but boy did we WOW them! Following is a recap of our experience at the January 2008 Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce breakfast. We had a lot of fun, and were very well received. If there are any Chapter members who could make themselves available for a 7:00 a.m. gig on the third Wednesday of the month, please let me know. This is a great venue for promoting what we do, and every business there is a potential customer for a quartet or the chorus!

On 16 January, the “Four of Hearts” quartet—Jack Tacinelli (L), Eric Dickstein (T), Bill Florie (Bs), and Bob Chieffo (Br)—sang at the DC Regional CC breakfast. We were there with Scott Salladin promoting the military Singing Valentines program. We sang continuously in the hallway leading to the dining room. As people passed by, we handed each one a Singing Valentines business card. Most attendees seemed to enjoy the live entertainment. The women especially loved the Singing Valentines song lyrics!

Chamber President, Charlie North, opened his comments from the dais by mentioning our singing promotion and pointing out Scott Salladin as the contact person for more info. Interestingly, later the keynote speaker just happened to include singing a “Yesterday” parody about Alan Greenspan, in his economics presentation. At the conclusion of his song, the four of us jumped up and cheered him loudly. This gave him a big smile and brought more recognition to us. When folks started exiting after the meeting, we gathered at the table with our SV materials display and continued to entertain as they passed. Once again we got many nice comments. Scott handed out materials and talked to interested folks.

We did get special thanks and individual handshakes from Poughkeepsie’s new mayor, John Tkazyik. He mentioned he knew John Hadigan. John had tried to get the mayor to install our 2008 officers this past Saturday, but he couldn’t make it. **However he did say he’d be willing to participate in any way he could at a future event. Perhaps Mayor Tkazyik can be a keynote speaker to open the Yankee Division Contest?** Even if the venue is out of the city, we still are the Poughkeepsie, NY, Chapter of the BHS!

There were some additional benefits gained from this morning’s activities as well. The Chamber will include a write-up on the SV for military families program, in the February

edition of “The Bottom Line,” which is the Chamber’s newsletter, and we have also donated a couple of Singing Valentines for prizes.

As of this writing, we have already gotten three sponsorships for the military SV’s, which means that all of our expenses will be covered for them.

Good job and thanks to Scott and the “Four of Hearts”!

2008 Chapter Installation Dinner

By Bob Chieffo

Our annual Chapter Installation Dinner was held on 12 January 2007 at Umberto’s of Mamma Marisa’s in Poughkeepsie. This is when we install our 2008 Chapter Officers and Directors and present the 2007 awards.

The large private banquet room was very nice. Food and service were good. Our emcee for the evening was 2008 President, Steve Miller. After eating, Steve introduced our guests and new 2007 members; then we went right to the installation. Our “Magistratus of the Nightus” (installer) was past Chapter Development VP, John “Duke” Chisholm. The theme of his installation text was “SINGING IS LIFE . . . the rest is just details”. Each officer’s responsibilities were woven into a variation of those words.

The following officers were installed: Steve Miller, President; John Hadigan, VP Music and Performance; Dan Landa, VP Marketing and Public Relations; Bill Florie, VP Chapter Development; Scott Salladin, Secretary; Mike Murphy, Treasurer; Board Members at Large Eric Dickstein, Dick Schaffer and Chris Schulze. Also installed were Renee Silverstein, Music Director, and George Trigg, Bulletin Editor.

The Awards ceremony was presented by Bob Chieffo. Awards of Merit recipients and Joe Alber Memorial Newyorker of the Year (NYOY) were selected by the Awards Committee, comprised of former Newyorkers of the Year. Bob typically creates the Awards of Merit titles and graphics and the Newyorker of the Year award and “skit”.

The 2007 Awards of Merit recipients were George Trigg, Antony Takahashi, Bill Florie, John Hadigan, and Joe O’Neill. Award titles and reasons are listed as part of the NYOY award. See those pages.

Since 1972, there have been thirty-five Newyorkers of the Year. Those present participated in the ceremony: 1975 Bob Chieffo, 1981 Myron “Bud” Fair, 1987 Scott Salladin, 1993 John Hadigan, 1994 Renée Silverstein, 1997 Garry “Butch” Ashdown, 1998 Greg Howard, 2000 Dick Schaffer, 2003 Bob Hitchcock, 2004 Mike Murphy, 2005 Eric Dickstein, and 2006 Steve Miller.

The 2007 Joe Alber Memorial Newyorker of the Year was awarded to Ron Pierson. Since Ron was raised on a farm, that theme was chosen (of course, unbeknownst to him). Elsewhere in this issue, you can read the text of the “Farmhand of the Year” Award which, of course, is fraught with “corny” clichés. (See “Installation Dinner” on Page 5)

Installation Dinner *(From Page 4)*

Ron was totally surprised, actually taking photos right up to his name being announced. Needless to say his address to the group was quite “moo-ving.”

This special evening was capped by the Newyorkers singing under the direction of Renee Silverstein and John Hadigan and quartet performances from Paradox, Paradox (minus Hitchcock plus Schaffer), and Swing Shift.

Ed. Note: Pictures from the dinner and the text of the BYOY ceremony are on Pages 6–9.

Laying the Groundwork For Growth

By Bill Florie

At the last Board of Directors meeting I was charged with spearheading the process of developing a new chapter logo, and updating the Chapter Mission Statement. While we could certainly exist without doing either one, I think we will be better for having done them.

CHAPTER LOGO

I believe that it is important to have a professional, unified image to present to the public. A logo that tells what we do and is a part of all Newyorker-related material shows that we are truly an organized, professional group. Any time people see that logo; they will associate it with excellence!

The board has asked that the following procedure be used to select the new logo. There have already been a number of designs submitted. Bob Chieffo did some of the designs, and I did the others. These designs will be circulated through the end of February, via e-mail, chapter meetings, The Newyorker Times, and online (there will be a separate URL that you can type into your browsers address bar to get to the web page). Please take the time to review them, and offer feedback. Any member is free to submit his own designs during this time period as well. At the end of February, the members will be asked to vote for their top three favorites, in order of preference. First place votes will receive three points, second place votes two, and third place votes will receive one point. The points will be added, and the logo with the most points wins!

It is important to keep in mind that these designs are **concept only** at this point. Please don't get bogged down in details! Graphic artists did not develop these designs; barbershoppers did. Things like font style, colors, proper orientation of note tails, clean images, etc., are all things that a graphic artist will be able to take care of quite handily. Once we have decided on a concept, we can start working with the graphic artists (we have some connections within the chapter for this).

I hope that every member becomes part of this process. Remember all of the uproar when the society decided to change its logo? That happened because **barbershoppers have very strong feelings about their society, and the logo was the symbol of that society.** We are going to

adopt a logo that will be the symbol of **our chapter.** Which logo is worthy of being associated with The Newyorkers?

2008 Annual Show: “The Many Faces of Barbershop”

By Bill Florie

Following are the highlights of the Show Team meeting that was held on Sunday, 27 January 2008. We will try to keep you all informed about what is going on in this process as we continue to develop our plans. This is OUR show, so please feel free to share any and all thoughts/comments/suggestions. Let's make this the show that sets the standard for every show we do from now on!

Important!

Show date: 17 May 2008

Show Time: 7:00 pm

Show place: FDR High School, Hyde Park

Featured Quartet: Quadraphonic, 2007 NED Champion

SHOW/MUSIC TEAM MEETING

Attendees; Bob Chieffo, Jim Cramer, Eric Dickstein, Bill Florie, Steve Miller, Ron Pierson, Renée Silverstein

- The name of the show will be “The Many Faces of Barbershop.” It will play off the theater mask concept.
- The general concept being explored at this point is chorus risers in the center of the stage and two vignette locations down stage left and down stage right.
- We are planning complete show run-throughs the two Wednesdays leading up to the show, as well as a complete run-through on Thursday night at the school.
- Technical set-up will be done Saturday morning.
- There will be a “break-down” assignment list, so that the usual members aren't left to handle the break-down and clean up alone. There will be reserved seating at the Afterglow for the tech/show crew.
- The plan is to have limited “acting,” but to have most of the program scripted somehow. I will be looking for help with this from Renée, Jim M, Rich M, and Bob C. Basically anyone that wants to help is welcome.
- **Ad sales will begin on or before March 5th.**
- Second-half quartets:
 - Footlighters
 - Swing Shift
 - Quadrophonic
- Other quartets that may be part of the first half
 - Hudson Valley Edition
 - Paradox
 - 4 to the Power of 1
 - Nuthin' Serious
 - Acclamation
 - Bar-Belles
 - Pickup quartet/VLQ? *(See “Show” on Page 6)*

Show (From Page 5)

- Quartets must decide whether or not they will perform, and must submit songs by 13 February.
- The music committee must approve all performing quartets, pick-up or registered.
- Show will finish with contest package instead of a reprise.
- Ticket Sales
 - It was decided that we would offer a discount for "advanced sales", and that the **cut-off for advanced sales would be 1 May.**
 - Pricing structure agreed upon

	Advance	At the door
• Adults	\$15.00	\$18.00
• Seniors/Students	\$12.00	\$15.00
- Children under 12 free
- Seniors would be considered anyone 60 or older.
- Tickets will be offered to any and all FDR groups/clubs/organizations for advance sales. Groups will be required to give us \$5.00 for each ticket sold regardless of whether it was a student/senior or adult ticket. The balance of the money would be refunded to the group to be used as a fund-raiser.
- The FDR Presidents Baseball Booster Club has been offered the intermission concession. They will be responsible for set-up, execution, and clean-up, and will keep all proceeds.
- Assuming that the evening is available and the rate per person has not increased significantly, the After-glow will be held at Coppola's.

Pictures from the Installation Dinner

Photographs by Ron and June Pierson and Bob and Diane Chieffo



Installation of officers for 2008. L to R: Duke Chisholm, Dick Schaffer, Bill Florie, Eric Dickstein, Scott Salladin, Mike Murphy, John Hadigan, Steve Miller, Renée Silverstein, Dan Landa, and George Trigg

More on Page 7



2008 President Steve Miller



2007 NYOY Ron Pierson holds the certificate of his award, while Emcee Bob Chieffo holds plaque listing former winners

Joe Alber Memorial
Newyorker of the Year



The Newyorker of the Year is a member of the Poughkeepsie, NY Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society who has exhibited sustained, unselfish service to the chapter, usually but not necessarily peaking in the award year. He or she epitomizes the spirit of the Newyorkers by cheerfully assuming and discharging many chapter responsibilities resulting in the short and long term health and success of the chapter. The award was founded by 1972 Chapter President Joe Alber who, at his passing, was memorialized in it.



You're familiar with the Wizard of Oz and those loveable farmhands, Hunk, Hickory and Zeke, (aka Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion). You remember Auntie Em and Uncle Henry, before the storm hits, too busy counting chicks to talk to Dorothy.

Yep, farms **are** busy places. They don't run themselves. Just ask Uncle Henry or the farmer-in-the dell (whatever his name is). They need many hands doing many chores to succeed. And so does a barbershop Chapter.

Each year at this Officer Installation Picnic we recognize our Chapter "farmhands" for "pitching in" and "making hay while the sun shines."

Yes siree, Bob. This is when we announce our **Awards of Merit** and **Farmhand Of The Year**.



AWARDS OF MERIT

The "**Applause To You**" Award goes to **George Trigg**
 ...for sustained service editing/publishing *The Newyorker Times*, and supporting the Chapter musically, administratively and financially.

The "**Getting Big Green From Big Blue**" Award goes to **Antony Takahashi**
 ...for again obtaining a \$1,000 IBM grant for the Chapter.

The "**Off and Running**" Award goes to **Bill Florie**
 ...for sponsoring two members in 2007 and being the 2008 Chapter Development VP, all within his first 3 years.

The "**Great Juggling Job**" Award goes to **John Hadigan**
 ...for being the President, Show Chair, Ass't Director, Coach, and Barbershop Pick Chair **and** getting married!

The "**So Long and Thanks!**" Award goes to **Joe O'Neill**
 ...for service to the Chapter as our Marketing and Public Relations VP, Show ad seller, and all-around Good Guy.

We said, the barbershop Chapter is like a farm. So let's get back to our "farm" and those chores to be done. Once a year there is Annual Confab of Farmhand Elders. The Elders meet to choose someone for a special **Farmhand Of The Year** recognition.

So what kind of a person is our **Farmhand Of The Year** ?

He is certainly one who...

- loves to sing and will do it " 'til the cows come home."



- especially loves animals, perhaps with a bent toward birds.

- like the barnyard rooster, is punctual; is early for appointments and always on the job... ready to go.

- is organized; knows how to schedule and direct activities around the barn.



- likes the view from the hayloft door or even higher when he can get there.

- likes "manly" tools like chainsaws; has a special love for tractors and big trucks.



- is "manly", yes, but is compassionate and generous with his time, talent, equipment and money.

- has been working this Poughkeepsie "farm" for more than 25 years.

- may have an aided ear it's certainly not "tin"; our **Farmhand Of The Year** has an musician's ear for barbershop harmony and accuracy.



- can play a piano and a computer, but not at the same time... yet

- can sight-read music and has tried his hand at "arrangement farming" (i.e. he's a budding arranger).

- is harmonious with nature and other guys too... having sung in two registered quartets.

- and last but not least, whenever we have a Harmony Hootenanny, he is on the job early and stays late, handling all the technical arrangements to make the performers sound and appear their best. He writes the Tech Plan integrating the script with stage and lighting cues, then manages the Staging at rehearsal and performance.

Our **2007 Farmhand Of The Year**... I mean our...

**2007 JOE ALBER MEMORIAL
NEWYORKER OF THE YEAR**

Ron Pierson



Awarded January 12, 2008 by the Poughkeepsie, NY, Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society

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