



## Ring 44 Inductee



# GENE TORTORICE

## Welterweight



Born Eugene Tortorice in Pittsburgh, Pa. Gene served as a paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division stationed at Fort Benning, Ga after WWII where he was an All Services Champion boxer. After the Armed Forces Gene was a construction worker for Local 91 in Niagara Falls and enjoyed hunting and fishing. In addition to this, Gene was a professional boxer, compiling an 18-7 record first as a lightweight then moving up to welterweight. As a lightweight he lost his professional debut to Native American Buddy Jackson of Springville at the Elks Lodge in Buffalo NY. Gene avenged his defeat five years later as a welterweight in Memorial Auditorium.

Gene moved west to get some fights and fought some top notch boxers in California. From there he fought in Utah, Canada and finally back to Buffalo. Gene's last fight was a ten round decision loss to Joe Miceli, a formidable veteran of over 100 bouts.

Tortorice's love of the sport cumulated in training and mentoring many of Niagara Fall's youth. Among his many students was Ring 44 Hall of Famer Ray Casal. Many former Niagara Falls boxers including Steve Corio and Ring 44 Hall of Fame member Mark Cheers count Gene as a big influence in their lives.

Gene's diverse resume, not only highlighted his passion for life, it is a testimony of inspiring his students to pass along their learning experience from Gene to other youths. He trained fighters at the Niagara Falls PAL as well as the YMCA.

Tonight Ring 44 recognizes his influence by inducting him into the Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.