

## Ring 44 Inductee



# CHARLIE "Cigar" FERRARO



Charlie Ferraro moved to Buffalo from his hometown of Pittston, Pa. where he was an outstanding football player in High School.

Charlie's association with boxing began by coincidence during a visit to Mickey McNierny's gym in 1946. On that fateful day there was a need for a sparring partner so Charlie volunteered and performed so well that he was invited back many times after that. During those days Ferraro sparred with many local boxers including Johnny Green and Phil Muscato even though an old eye injury precluded him from competition in regulation bouts.

In ensuing years, Charlie assisted in training young boxers when Johnny Sudac re-opened Singers Gym on the second floor of a building at 629 Main St. He worked with many local boxers including Rocky Cudney, Alan Kemp, Ron East, Eddy Neimann and Ralph Racine. Furthermore he was involved in the promotion of boxing cards at the Knights of Columbus on Delaware Avenue in the 1970's.

Charlie was a very important key in the resurgence of Ring 44 and was a loyal member of the organization. Ferraro held Ring 44 meetings at his Hi-Tone Lounge in Riverside for many years before retiring in 1999.

Charlie was most proud in his later life spending time and assisting Jimmy Ralston in training his son Les and other young boxers who used Ralston's gym as a salvation from the streets.

In 2004 Ring 44 recognized Charlie as it's "Person of the Year" for his longtime and continuous liaison in the boxing community.

Tonight Ring 44 is proud to induct Charlie "Cigar" Ferraro into the Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.