**I was indicted into a local  Athletic Hall of Fame and was asked to speak for about 3-5 minutes representing all of the inductees.   There will be an audience of about 750 people.    I do have a humorous story about LOYALTY that I would love to incorporate into the speech.**

**Well....thank you !   What a fantastic night and thank you for being here !**

**I'm honored to have this opportunity to speak on behalf of my newest teammates representing the Class of 2012 and share our thoughts on this incredible honor of being selected to the Mercer County Hall of Fame.**

**As I have had the opportunity to meet the inductees and speak with them, there was an overwhelming degree of humility and gratitude and it became evident that my talk would be one of gratitude, appreciation and thanks.**

**I believe one of the greatest gifts we can give anyone is to show our appreciation and simply say “thank you” .**

**First, we would like thank the HOF  Board of Directors for all their great work behind the scenes to continue this incredible tradition....,the HOF has established itself as a staple in the community and has created a venue that is second to none in honoring its past and present inductees.    The culmination of their efforts is this "night" although there are hundreds of hours behind the scenes that make this night so special.   We thank you for your commitment to make this event the best it can be !!**

**Thank you to our families both immediate and extended….**

**Thanks to our parents for instilling a great work ethic and a value system that plays anywhere in the world….. for helping us understand that putting others first was paramount to success and for always supporting our goals and dreams**

**To our spouses and children for always being there to support us and provide their unconditional love …and to keep us grounded**

**To our coaches and teachers for always pushing to become better…for motivating us to become the best we could be and for believing us even more than we sometimes believed in ourselves…. and for being great role-models in the bigger picture of life**

**To our teammates and to our friends ……we learn in life that most things are accomplished with and through others.   Knowing you were always there …and will always be there for us in good times and bad times is one of life’s greatest joys !**

**To our competitors --- thank you for pushing us and MAKING us become better.  We would not be here today if it weren’t for you!**

**To all officials and referees -- a very difficult role.  And I’m adding this for my grandfather (god rest his soul) who had a tendency to BLAME the refs for everything…..we never lost a game, yet the refs always did.  I must add he always thought Studio wrestling was real so that gives you some perspective.  In all seriousness, they were and are  many, many outstanding officials in Mercer County / Western Pa who show up and give their best to make great sporting events.**

**It's amazing the rarely a day goes by where we don't reflect back on the values we learned in our respective communities and sports and how much of what we learned has impacted our lives.  You can take the kids out of Mercer County yet you can't take the Mercer County out of the kids.    We were taught honesty, integrity, commitment; dedication and loyalty......do "what is right", respect one another, win with class and lose with dignity.     In essence we learned the LESSONS OF LIFE !**

**Although we** **live in a world of chaos and uncertainty, we also learned that  people determine the outcomes!   People are disciplined fanatics….people are hard working….….. People lead…..people build teams…..people build organizations and people build cultures.   People exemplify values, pursue purpose and achieve goals and achieve their dreams.   If there is any luck in the world we create it with people luck…….the luck of finding the right mentor, partner, teammate, leader, friend is one of the most important and we can all see we were the lucky ones because we found those people !!**

**In closing,  words alone can't do justice to all of our thoughts, yet we thank all of you for making this possible and accept our heartfelt thanks for teaching, coaching, guiding, leading, challenging us and motivating us to become better men and women, which has allowed us to pass these qualities on to others.**