

FINGER LAKES TIMES

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'EVERY FIGHT WAS A WAR'

Ex-boxer Ray Ciancaglini, suffering the effects of repeated head injuries, to receive Courage Award

By **CHRIS MARQUART**
Finger Lakes Times

Ray Ciancaglini lives with a combination of dementia and Parkinson's disease-like symptoms, the result of repeated head trauma he suffered during a long-ago boxing career.

In March, the Varick resident launched The Second Impact, an initiative aimed at warning young athletes about the dangers of concussions and the importance of proper recovery from head injuries. It started with a few speeches at area schools and is blossoming into a regional venture.

It's a big reason the Rochester Boxing Hall of Fame is honoring Ciancaglini Saturday at its 21st annual banquet. James "Quick" Tillis, Bobby Czyz and Ron Lyle headline the festivities at the Diplomat Banquet Hall in Rochester. Ciancaglini, 60, will receive the Jerry Flynn Courage Award.



Ciancaglini

"Ray is a fine man," lauded Mark Irwin, chairman of the 2011 banquet and Rochester Boxing Hall of Fame board member. "He is a good example of a boxer who has been upstanding in the community. Ray's name came up not only for what he has done with boxing, but also for The Second Impact."

"This really is an honor. It makes a lot of everything worth it," remarked Ciancaglini, whose hands tremble with a combination of emotion and uncontrollable tremors that have increased incrementally over the last 40 years. "This life, this disease, there are no scars. There are no bruises or marks. You just look like a guy that shakes. It's all internal, in your head, always there. Always there."

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If you go ...

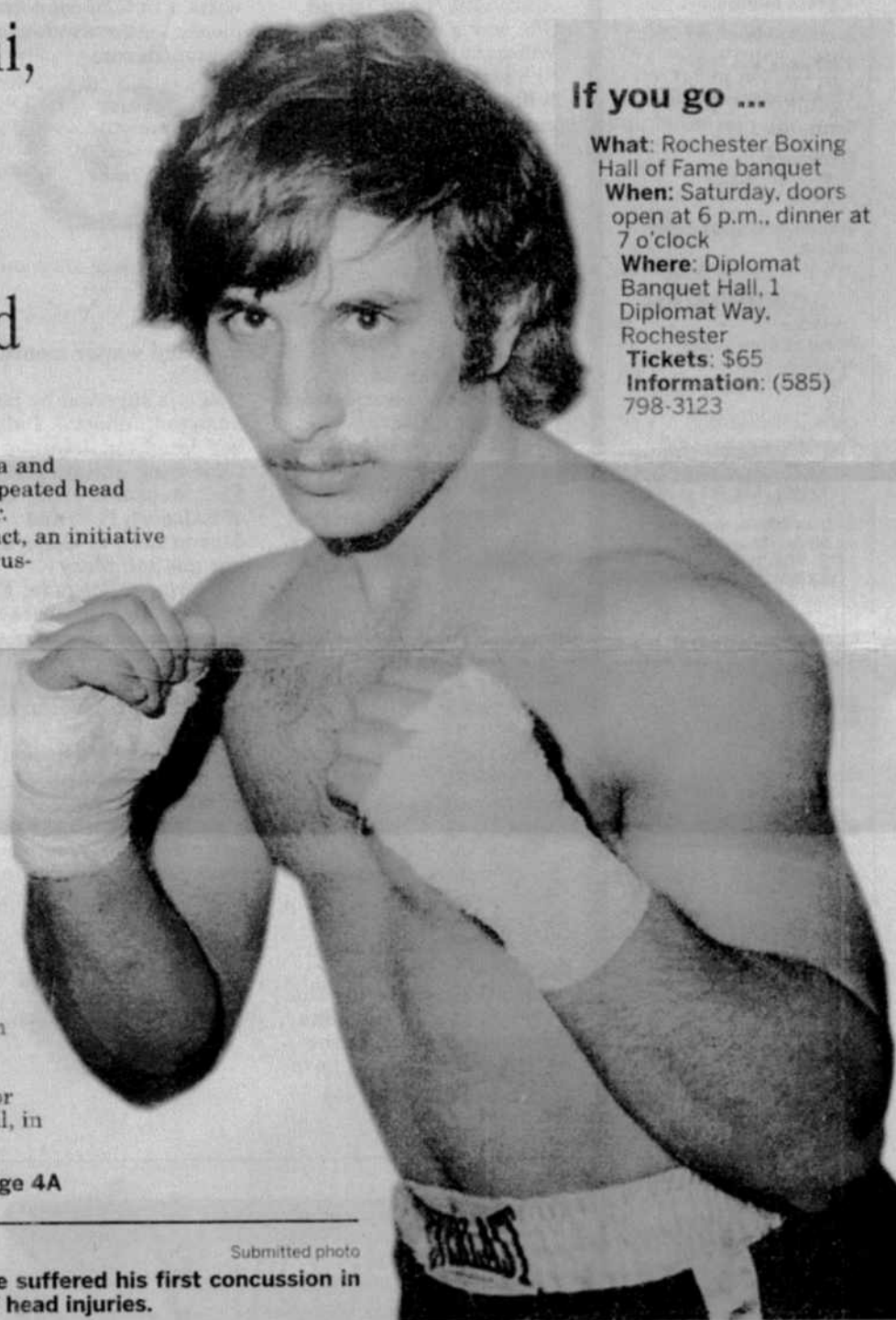
What: Rochester Boxing Hall of Fame banquet

When: Saturday, doors open at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 o'clock

Where: Diplomat Banquet Hall, 1 Diplomat Way, Rochester

Tickets: \$65

Information: (585) 798-3123



Submitted photo

Ray Ciancaglini began his boxing career in the 1960s. He suffered his first concussion in 1968. He now warns young athletes about the dangers of head injuries.