

# Lou Holtz, Rudy Giuliani Come to Town

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Lou Holtz (left) and Rudy Giuliani shared a laugh before heading into the Lou Holtz Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame Monday for a brunch as part of the annual induction celebration. (Photo by Jo Ann Bobby-Gilbert)

EAST LIVERPOOL - With the country still reeling Monday from news of what is being called the worst mass shooting in history, one man who lived through it once before visited the city and offered his empathy to the victims' families.

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani was in East Liverpool Monday, along with former Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz, to honor this year's winners of the Lou Holtz Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame inductees.

The irony of the mass shooting in Orlando was not lost on Giuliani, who was mayor when terrorists flew planes into the Twin Towers in his city, killing nearly 3,000 citizens and emergency responders.

Addressing guests at the scholarship luncheon at the East Liverpool Country Club, Giuliani said, "Having lived through that, it remains with you the rest of your life. It affects you the rest of your life."

He encouraged those present to offer whatever help they can to those involved, saying people from all around the world helped his city after the attacks on Sept. 11, saying even though some could not actually help, just knowing they wanted to was heartening.

He told the scholarship winners, "I hope this scholarship gives you the confidence you need in the future to succeed."

He introduced Holtz, calling him a "great coach and great human being" and saying, "There's something beating in his heart that's very special, and if you can get a little bit of that, you'll be special."

Holtz, in turn, praised Giuliani for his leadership following the 9/11 attacks.

A Follansbee native, Holtz grew up in East Liverpool and graduated from East Liverpool High School. He spoke about his early years, growing up in a one-bedroom house with his parents and sister with no sink, tub or shower but saying he was nonetheless born with a silver spoon in his mouth due to his parents and the values they taught him.

He said that, while the Hall of Fame bears his name, it actually showcases what others in the valley have done, pointing out, for example, Homer Laughlin official Joe Wells.

Holtz noted that Wells built the Newell Bridge so people could reach the pottery, saying, "Just think of the people he has educated and employed over the years."

He told the scholarship winners, "We wanted you to understand (with the hall of fame) it doesn't matter where you were born. You're not born a winner or born a loser. Where you are going to be is because of the choices you make."

Last year, Holtz did not make the celebration because that day his home burned to the ground, and he told those present, "I told my wife we didn't lose anything we can take to heaven. I told her you have 24 hours to cry," and said they then rebuilt their home.

Holtz said there are three rules to follow: Do what's right; do everything to the best of your ability; and let people know you care.

"Follow these three rules and you'll never need a fourth rule. We complicate life when we don't have to. We can't make you successful; that's up to you," he said.

This year's Life Improvement Scholarship winners are Bethann Calahan, Southern Local; Noah Hendrick, Wheeling Park; Evan Longo, Edison Local; Jay Louks III, Edison Local; Mandy Minger, Oak Glen; and Kami Tice, Wellsville.

These trade school scholarships were initiated in 1998 by Holtz.

As Holtz arrived on the scene at the Hall of Fame for a brunch earlier in the day, the sounds of renovations could be heard at the New Castle School of Trade vocational school across the street.

He and Giuliani were greeted by a line of firefighters and police officers from the city, Liverpool Township and Chester in honor of Giuliani's work with emergency responders in NYC.

During the annual induction banquet, Giuliani was named 2016 Most Distinguished American.

The first-ever MVP Award went to the Team Mojo Foundation of East Liverpool, founded by Bill Crawford.

Inductees were Calvin Jones, Gen. Robert P. McCoy, Jerry McKenna, Pete Wooley, The Lomba Family and Derek Wolfe.