

**For Immediate Release  
July 23, 2006**

**Contact: Georgeane Tacelli**

## **AL PETRILLI NAMED CHAIRMAN OF VIKING PRIDE FOUNDATION**

Winthrop resident and Viking Pride Foundation (VPF) board member, Al Petrilli was recently elected to serve as Chairman of the VPF, Winthrop's non-profit organization devoted to raising funds to support co-curricular activities in the Winthrop Public Schools. As Chair, Petrilli will preside over the 11-member volunteer board for approximately two years.

Petrilli replaces Richard Fucillo who formed the organization in 2004. Fucillo founded the Viking Pride Foundation as a way to combat devastating school budget cuts that threatened the livelihood of several programs. Fucillo vowed to raise \$1 million in a perpetual endowment so that current and future generations of students would never suffer. Under his leadership, the Viking Pride Foundation has raised more than \$500,000 and has awarded nearly \$212,000 to the Winthrop Public Schools. A wide range of programs, from math and science clubs to music, drama and art classes as well as athletic programs have all benefited from the support of the Viking Pride Foundation. This past month, the foundation awarded \$72,500 to the Winthrop Public Schools for the 2006/07 school year. The VPF also makes grants available to all faculty to supplement their curriculum. Grant applications are available throughout the school year.

Petrilli has served on the VPF board since its inception and more recently as Vice Chairman. He is a dedicated community activist whose passion for Winthrop and its citizens is evident in his work. Petrilli, 54, is a graduate of Boston University and was a former teacher and athletic coach at Revere High School. Petrilli is employed as the Assistant Vice President of MSA Mortgage, LLC of Winthrop and also serves as Chairman of the Marie C. Petrilli Memorial Fund that benefits cancer research and treatment through improvements to patient care at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"I am honored to serve as Chair of the Viking Pride Foundation," said Petrilli. "I intend to lead this organization with the vigor and spirit that was so much a part of Richard Fucillo's approach. The VPF stands strong in its mission to ensure that programs that are integral to a well-rounded education are available to all children. We will continue to work hard so that all students and their families may benefit from lower school fees and a full schedule of programs. With the continued support of the board and from the Winthrop community, the Viking Pride Foundation will march on, continuing to build this organization and to invest in the quality of our schools."

Petrilli was married to the late Marie Cavaleri of South Boston and is the father of two children, Albert age 16 and Marielle, age 14.

The Viking Pride Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for co-curricular activities in the Winthrop Public Schools. The all volunteer board is currently represented by Winthrop residents: Richard Fucillo, Dr. Robert "Doc" Harney, Attorney Chris Tsiotos, Gus Martucci, Vinnie Eurizione, Robert Deeb, Georgeane Tacelli Coleman, Vincent Crossman and Trudy Macero. For more information about the Viking Pride Foundation including programs, corporate sponsorship opportunities and membership, visit [vikingpride.org](http://vikingpride.org).

###