



## **2005 HOF Induction Speech**

## **Norman H. Engelke - Inductee**

I would like to thank US Lacrosse and all the inductees for this truly great honor. I would also like to thank all my friends and former teammates, who are present, to make this an unforgettable evening.

A big part of my success in lacrosse and personality comes from my family. Both my mom and dad were always at my sporting events and supported everything I did, and I love them, and thank them for this. I know my dad would have loved to be here this evening, and I am sure that in some way he is.

My brothers Rob and Tom (who are both great players) – what can I say other than there is nothing more that I would ask for in a brother and friend. Thanks for what we have together.

My wife and children are something I am very proud of. I take great pride in being a good husband and father. Our children (who all play lacrosse) range in age from 21-years-old down to 3-years-old (college to pre-school), and I love them more than anything.

I would particularly like to mention the most important person in my life, my wife Ellen. We have been together since high school and she is my best friend and the only love I have ever had. El, I know it has not been easy, but thanks for putting up with all this lacrosse!

I know that I have been truly blessed with the people I have been surrounded with. I look back at my coaches over the years and they include the legendary Bill Rich from Sewanhaka, Rich Speckman at Nassau CC, the fabulous Ritchie Moran at Cornell and Tom Postel, Stan Kowalski and Bill Beroza from L.I.L.C. All these guys, except Coach Speckman, are members of the Hall of Fame and I am sure Coach Speckman will get his day.

As for all my teammates, there are so many to thank – I would like to specifically mention – Pat McCabe, Randy Natoli, Matt Crowley, Sal LoCascio, Ed Hughes, Tom Sweeney, Frank Tashman, Larry Quinn, Steve Sombrotto and Matt Panetta. In addition, I would also like to thank John Phillips for everything he has done, not only for me, but L. Two others I would like to give a special thanks are John DeTommaso and Vinnie Sombrotto. Both of who are great players and friends.

I know that when I played – I played with no fear of losing. The teams we played on were special – as we played for the teams' success – and not for individual accomplishments.

In closing, I would like to just take a second to mention John Driscoll, John Krumnecker and my idol, the great Eamon McEaney.

Eamon, I used to look up to you, and everyone from Sewanhaka wanted to be a player like you. After graduating from Cornell (like you) and making a third World Team, to hear you say that I was your idol was something I will never forget. So everyone, thank you again for this special night.