

# Surprise! Honor catches Ferrarese off guard

Fund will grant college scholarships to 10 local students each year

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VICTORVILLE — He has boasted that he knows what it's like to be booed by 50,000 people.

After Tuesday night, retired Major League baseball player Don Ferrarese knows what it's like to be appreciated by entire cities.

Ferrarese, a High Desert icon, showed up at a \$100-a-ticket fund-raiser at Coconuts nightclub in Victorville and was stunned to find out that the newly founded scholarship fund it was benefiting was named after him.

Ferrarese figured on being at the event to auction off some items.

"I've never been at a loss for words in my life," a stunned Ferrarese said. "But I'm at a loss. I'm shocked. I'm speechless.

"To be acknowledged before you die is really something — maybe they're trying to tell me something," Ferrarese joked.

Ferrarese thanked his wife Betty for her support and understanding, especially when baseball pulled him away, he said.

He said he was touched when Apple Valley named a park after him. He said to have the scholarship named after him was really special.

Ten different "founders" have already donated \$10,000 each to the Don Ferrarese High School Scholarship Fund. Combined with many generous donations in smaller amounts, the new fund finds itself with a total of \$130,000 — raised in just three weeks.

Each year, 10 students from 10 local high schools will each receive grants of \$1,000 from the scholarship.

Carl Vanburg, owner of Victor Valley Property Center, said the fund's goal is to



FERRARESE/B9

Dan Tate, left, presents Don Ferrarese with the plaque commemorating a scholarship named in his honor.

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