Dixie Boys Baseball Hall of Fame



Press Release: August 22, 2015 Office of the Commissioner... Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. J. Sandy Jones - jjones29@sw.rr.com

The Board of Directors of Dixie Boys Baseball created a Hall of Fame to honor those that have served the organization in an exemplary manner. Dixie Boys Baseball is pleased to announce the latest Hall of Fame inductees representing the Class of 2015.

Class of 2015

Rodney Fillingim....Mooringsport, Louisiana – Rodney was posthumously named as a member of the Hall of Fame. He was an early supporter of the Louisiana program as well as the eventual national umpire program. Prior to serving as the State UIC, Rodney called many district, state, & World Series games. The Louisiana Junior Boys Sportsmanship award is named in his honor.

★ Eugene Haley....Lake Independence, Louisiana – Eugene spent 47 years as a District Director in Louisiana. This accomplishment will never be matched. His sole interest was having a positive impact at the local league level. Louisiana Dixie Boys Baseball granted him Life Member status for the state program. Mr. Haley always managed his district with a keen sense of fairness to all!

➤ Jerry Juneau....Bossier City, Louisiana — Jerry served the State of Louisiana in various capacities on the district, state, and national level. He was instrumental in Dixie Boys Baseball visiting Bossier for tournament play. Jerry deserves a great deal of credit for the formation of the Junior Boys tournament program. He remains involved as an appointed assistant state director.

★ Jason Parker....DeQuincy, Louisiana – Jason serves as Louisiana Dixie Majors State Director. He has held the position for the last ten years & previously served as assistant state director. The State of Louisiana Majors program continues to experience growth under his leadership. His influence and commitment has allowed young people to excel both on and off the baseball field.

★ Jack Stokes....Ozark, Alabama – Jack has accomplished a remarkable feat by being involved in youth baseball for over 50 years. He held the position of Alabama Dixie Majors District Director for eighteen years. Over the years, Jack has administered the local baseball program in Ozark as well as coached teams. He is a fixture at Eagle Stadium, home to many Dixie Majors World Series.

★ Jean Thornton....Cumming, Georgia – Jean becomes the first female inducted into the Hall of Fame. Another first is that Jean and her late husband, Jim are now both members of the Hall. Jean faithfully served for many years as the Georgia Dixie Boys State Secretary-Treasurer. She has a real passion for Dixie Boys Baseball as evidenced by the Thornton family involvement.

J. Sandy Jones, Commissioner/CEO stated, "We are pleased to formally announce our Class of 2015. The six members of the Class of 2015 have all made outstanding personal contributions. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to recognize each of the 2015 class members. I think it speaks very highly of each member that their ceremony was conducted on a baseball field. Each individual has dedicated their time and talents and as such allowed young people to have the opportunity to play baseball. It was fitting that youth and parents were in attendance for this special recognition. We sincerely thank each Hall of Fame member."

The Board in 2011 approved an individual deserving of immediate recognition as a Hall of Fame Member. As such the Class of 2011 included only one member: W.E. "Bubba" Brasher. Mr. Brasher, Founder of Dixie Boys Baseball was recognized at a special ceremony held on November 10, 2011 in Alexandria, Louisiana. Dixie Boys Baseball was incorporated in 1957 by members of the Alexandria Youth Baseball program. It was the desire of Mr. Brasher and twenty- one other incorporators to create a baseball program for youth age 13 and above.

The Hall of Fame Task Force in concurrence with the Dixie Boys Baseball Board of Directors also named the Class of 2012. This class was comprised of those that had achieved the status of "Life Members" within the Dixie Boys Baseball Inc. organization. Fourteen (14) individuals were included as Class of 2012 Hall of Fame inductees. The inclusion of each 2012 member to the Hall of Fame was based on their many outstanding contributions and dedicated volunteer service to the organization. A perpetual plaque recognizing their achievements was created.

The ten members of the Class of 2013 were all program pioneers and made a large imprint on the organization. Members of the Class of 2013 (immediate family in the case of those deceased) were recognized throughout the 2013 calendar year for their lasting impact on the organization. Each member made significant sacrifices and all faithfully served during the period that the program reached record numbers.

The eight members of the Class of 2014 were all easily recognizable as each had either ascended to positions of national leadership, prominence within their state program, or unequaled success as a coach on the field. Their dedicated service was vital for the Dixie Boys Baseball organization. All eight members were appropriately recognized during 2014 tournament play. Each member has made a lasting mark on the organization and were rightfully honored for their contributions.

J. Sandy Jones, Commissioner/CEO stated, "I want to commend the Board of Directors for their support of the Hall of Fame. Dixie Boys Baseball is extremely blessed to have outstanding leadership found in our local leagues, eleven state organizations, umpire's program, and within the Executive Board. Most of the real unsung heroes of this program never receive the recognition that they deserve. With a solid foundation dating back to 1957, we have truly benefited from the many noteworthy contributions made on behalf of the program. We are indebted to those that have given so much in service to our youth."

More information related to the Hall of Fame will be made available during the 2016 season.