

The Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball League

Presents

2012 Hall-of-Fame Induction



June 28, 2012



Welcome to the Sacramento Men's Baseball League Hall of Fame induction dinner. It has been a privilege to serve as President of the most successful MSBL affiliate with 45 national championships to our credit. This year we honor four more well deserving gentlemen who have contributed so much to our league and our nationwide reputation as the premier amateur baseball organization in America.

I must also recognize the members of our Hall of Fame selection committee for donating their hard work, time, and energy putting this event together. Lanny Ropke Chairman, Val Lewis, Jerry Karnow, John Rice, Ken Chavez, Doug Hilton, and Bob Snook along with myself.

The league has made many changes this year to our McAuliffe facility including a new complex superintendent, turf and equipment improvements for the fields, a new 2 year agreement along with a increased revenue commitment with the Babe Ruth league, plans for additional construction projects on the bleachers, scoreboard light repairs, and added 3

more advertisers and banners to the outfields from Aerojet, Sports Authority, and Hooters. Most importantly there is now an AED (Defibrillator) on site.

We continue to support youth baseball with 20 weekend tournaments scheduled between the Memorial Day Holiday and November. Also we regularly contribute to the local Volunteers of America. The annual CIF playoffs were held at McAuliffe in May. We have again this year increased our membership and team total after having long overdue tryouts in April.

Sadly in September of last year, right after he was inducted, we lost our hall of famer, friend, teammate, complex "super" and the symbol of our men's league Dennis Viegas while playing the game he loved. His #4 is where it should be on the outfield fences at our complex where he excelled not only playing but working at the facility. We will never forget Dennis, he made sure of that with his loyalty and dedication to our organization.

I must acknowledge the members of the league Board of Directors that receive little recognition but have accomplished so much: again Lanny Ropke (Vice President), Rusty McLain (League Commissioner), Alan Van Ness (Marketing&Recruitment), Dave Whitesel (Scheduling), Ron Williams(Special Projects), Tina Hass(Compliance), Steve Welch(Facility/Electrical Support), Tony Im(Secretary/Records),and Gordy Olson(Treasurer). In addition we recognize the outstanding work on our website by Boyce Whitlock and photography of Jane Burkitt and welcome George Ortiz to the facility staff.

In closing I am honored to be part of tonight's special occasion and welcome Dick Adams, Bill Bailey, Fred Creal, and Dave Lewis into the Sacramento Men's Baseball Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Jim Tygrett

Jim Tygrett

President-Sacramento MSBL/MABL

It is my honor to welcome: DICK ADAMS, FRED CREAL, BILL BAILEY, DAVE LEWIS into the Sacramento MSBL Hall of Fame, as 2012 inductees.

What a wonderful recognition for your outstanding contributions in making the SMSBL/MABL one of the premier MSBL local affiliates in the country.

You join a most impressive list of former inductees whose past contributions, like yours, allow the over 500 playing members in your league to enjoy recreational baseball in a professionally run environment.

In the 25 Year history of the Men's Senior Baseball League, there never has been the continuation of leadership that Val Lewis, Jerry Karnow, Jim Barr, Lanny Ropke and Jim Tygrett exhibited/exhibit! They were/are all irreplaceable.

I thank you all for your continued support of MSBL and wish you all a most enjoyable, well deserved evening.

Steve Sigler



Steve Sigler

**PRESIDENT
MSBL / MABL**

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Dick Adams

Dick started playing baseball in the Cambrian Park Little League, San Jose, Ca. in 1955, played at all levels thru Colt League. Played 4 years at Camden High School, had knee surgery his senior year, was invited as an undrafted free agent to Minnesota Twins spring training in 1966, was released that year. Dick joined the CHP in 1971, played fastpitch and slowpitch softball, started coaching at Colfax High School in 1986, began playing with the Auburn Braves in 1991, played with the A's and Solons until knee problems forced him to retire in 2000. Was the pitching coach at Sierra College from 1994-99, pitching coach at Yuba College 2010, also coached at Cardinal Newman High School, Santa Rosa, 2008. Became an associate scout with the Cincy Reds from 2001-2009, became the nor-cal scout for the Atlanta Braves in 2011 to current. Played with the Auburn Braves in 1991 for two years and then joined the A's who he played with until his knee injury forced retirement. Won the 1994 State Cup with Sacramento Majic in San Diego. Played in 5 Arizona World Series with the Majic, two with Lou, and two with the Solons. Thanks to the SMSBL he's made many life long friendships.



Fred Creal

Fred's baseball career started at the age of 7 in Portland Oregon with the Oregon trails little league. He went on to play with Babe Ruth's league. Afterwards Fred played at Jefferson high school in his freshmen and half of his sophomore year. Fred then moved to Eugene Oregon and played football basketball and baseball. Fred played these sports at both North Eugene and Sheldon High. After graduation he attended a tryout camp with the Kansas City Royals and signed on in the first year of the Kansas City Royal's baseball academy. Fred was team mates with Frank White who made it to the big leagues and was the short stop and second baseman for more than 20 years with the Kansas City Royals. Another teammate was Ron Washington who is now the manager of the Texas Rangers. In 1979 Fred moved to California where he decided to try baseball again after an elbow injury. He was lucky enough to join the MSBL Giants. At that time there was only 4 teams in the league. From there he joined the Tigers, where he met Howard Scott and became friends and teammates. When Howard retired as Team Manager Fred took over. Fred is currently Manger of the Tigers and his team has taken two division titles. Fred is still enjoying Managing his Team and is looking forward to more wins.



Bill Bailey

Bill began playing baseball in 1953 for the Grant Little League, then played for the local Babe Ruth and American Legion teams. At Grant high school, he lettered in both baseball and wrestling. His post-high school baseball career included the Sacramento Night League, Sacramento Winter League, the Mexican & American League, and 10 years with the Sacramento Smokey's. Bill also played 2 years while serving in the U.S. Navy. Bill joined the SMSBL during its inaugural 1984 season with the Dodgers and in 1989 joined the Phillies where he still plays and pitches today. In 2003 Bill' helped pitch his Phillie team to the SMSBL's first wood-bat division championship. His resume includes three MSBL World Series rings. Bill is a great guy and great teammate. Congratulations Bill.



Dave Lewis

Dave Lewis has played baseball in the MSBL since the second year of the league's inception, but unlike many of the players in the league, his early athletic career did not include very much organized baseball. Instead, Dave's high school days was centered around being one of the Sacramento area's elite track athletes, excelling in the pole vault. In 1971, he took his talents to the University of Oregon, where he lettered as a freshman on the nationally ranked Duck track team. His teammates and friends included Olympians Mac Wilkins and Steve Prefontaine. Dave finished fourth in the Junior National Meet later that year and then transferred to CSU Fresno. He competed for three seasons as a pole vaulter, long jumper, 4x100 relay man and decathlete. He was a mainstay on his team, winning many of his meets and finishing second in the PCAA Conference meet his senior year. He narrowly missed the Olympic Qualifying standard of 17' 1" in the pole vault in 1976. In 1982, Dave moved back to Sacramento to live. When the opportunity arose to play baseball in the MSBL, Dave embraced the challenge of a new sport. Fortunately, his new team, the Phillies, had several players--Bob Oliver and Don Hammit--who were professional players who taught

baseball skills to Dave. As time went on, he learned to hit a curveball and his speed enabled him to stretch hits and run down balls in the outfield. Today, he is the all time Phillies leader in many Phillie categories including hits, doubles, and RBIs. Most telling, his track speed made him the king of Phillie triples. More importantly, playing as a Phillie for the past 26 years has created lifetime friendships and memories for Dave. The Rich Williams, Steve Gannons and Doug Hiltons of this world are hard friends to find. Most importantly, the longtime coach of the Phillies, Jerry Karnow, was a friend and the main reason that Dave stayed in the league and enjoyed himself for so long. Jerry created the Phillie way of friendship first that earmarked his teams and kept everyone's egos in check. In a sense, this is really what the MSBL is all about: an opportunity for anyone to participate and enjoy the friendships and memories created on a baseball field.



Past President's Comments

Val Lewis (1984 - 1991)

My congratulations to the worthy 2012 inductees! It has been a blessing and a pleasure to witness the development of the Sacramento MSBL from its beginnings through today. So many great players, great friends, and great leaders. Thanks to all of you for all your support over the years. Also, much thanks to Mickey Lebeck and his MSI staff for publishing this professional program for the past 6 years!

Jerry Karnow (1991 - 2002)

My 12 years as League President was quite a ride! The building and growth of the league / the complex construction / the games / 50 hours of baseball / the many social activities for players and their families such as the western BBQ, Crab feeds, pre-season league meetings at Arco Arena and Sacramento Race Track, managers dinners, etc. / working and helping our local team managers / working countless hours with my board, and the community, including the Sacramento Children's Home. Also working with the National MSBL and gaining many good friends. I wish to thank board members, team managers, all the players, their families and all the support groups for their support during my tenure as League President. A special thanks to all my players on the MSBL Phillies I managed for 25 years, and a very warm thank you to my wife, Patty, for the 110% support to me and the league. "The biggest thrill of all was to attend our league games, playing or sitting in the stand, and watch the players and fans enjoy this great game"! Congratulations to this years 2012 Hall of Fame Inductees!

Jim Lortz (2005 - 2009)

My presidency was from 01-25-05 to 01-20-09. It was an honor and a privilege to be the League President. I would also like to thank the Board members and all the other volunteers that made our four years so progressive and successful. We were able to rehabilitate in most part both the physical and the financial condition of the League to what it is today. The first ever Hall of Fame induction dinner was during my time with over 200-250 in attendance! I encourage all those who have been inducted or have previously attended to honor and recognize those that were inducted to join us again in welcoming the new inductees in this years ceremony. This is a once in a life-time deal for those being honored. So, lets all welcome them by showing our support. See you there!

Lanny Ropke (2009 - 2010)

Welcome to the 6th. Hall of Fame Induction of Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball League.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Val Lewis's replacement as Hall of Fame Committee Chairman. My thanks to the committee members, Jim Tygrett, John Rice, Val Lewis, Bob Snook, Ken Chavez, Doug Hilton and Jerry Karnow. We as a committee take very seriously the responsibility to honor those deserving induction and to maintain the integrity of this organization.

As many of you know I spent 25 years in various positions of leadership in the Woodland/Davis MSBL. I have been asked, after all that, why would I want to do it all again in the Sacramento League. The answer to that is that I was just so impressed with the quality people and in such a well run organization, that I just couldn't say no. So after 21 years in the league, Five years as manager, seven years on the board, and as a past League President, I want to impress on everyone in the league that this is an organization worth preserving. We need the next generation to step up and continue the wonderful tradition that is known as Sacramento Men's Senior Baseball League.

I hope you all will join me in saying thanks to those who worked so hard over the years to hand down such a wonderful league that we love so much. Val Lewis, Jerry Karnow, and Jim Lortz, took us from start up through year 24. Each one faced many problems and difficulties unique to their time of service. And each one turned over to the next guy a league that was better than before. The last three years have found Jim Tygrett at the helm. He has not broken the trend, when he steps down his successor will be blessed by taking over a well oiled operation with many, many major problems solved and behind us.

It is our pleasure to present the 2012 inductees. Congratulations to Dick Adams, Fred Creal, Bill Baley, and Dave Lewis.