

COP CORNER

With Jeff Blair



I have decided to work some cop jargon into my article this month. Anytime you see an asterisk you can find out what that word translates to in civilian terms at the bottom of the article, 10-4*. If nothing else, it might help you understand what the heck those guys are talking about on the television show COPS.

This year at the second annual World Series of Police Softball 34 individuals will be inducted into the PoliceSoftball.Com Hall of Fame. The reason the inaugural class is so large is because we are making up for over 30 years of law enforcement softball

where our elder statesmen have gone essentially unrecognized other than via word of mouth through stories at the bar that usually began with, "One of the all-time best players was..." We felt that merely mentioning the names of our predecessors at choir practice** did not do them justice, so we created the Hall of Fame. To be eligible for the Hall, candidates must be 45 years of age or older and have made a significant and positive impact on the law enforcement softball circuit. Each inductee will be given a PoliceSoftball.Com medallion that is engraved with the Latin words "Finis coronat opus." Translated those words mean, "The end crowns the work." The only way to possess one of these medallions is to earn one because Hall of Fame status cannot be purchased. The tradition of inducting qualified members into the Hall of Fame will take place every year at the World Series. There will be a special section on the PoliceSoftball.Com website dedicated to the Hall of Fame. Boots*** break out your notepads and start writing because the following list of gentlemen were instrumental in making the game what it is today.

•**Leo Allen, Cleveland F.O.P. # 8 Softball:** Leo played on the Cleveland teams that won the first two National Police Championships that were held in Cleveland in 1970 and 1971 prior to the tournament moving to Dayton.

•**Andy Wurm, Wayne-Oakland PSC:** Andy started playing police softball with Wayne-Oakland in 1988 and took over the leadership of the team in 2001. Andy's teams have won many tournaments including Jacksonville, Detroit USSSA Worlds, Las Vegas Games 2000 and Texas.

•**Mike McDowell, Metro-Macomb Police Softball Club:** Mike was a main staple on the famed Metro-Macomb team of the 80's and early 90's. Mike stood out as an all star shortstop and he is in the Michigan Hall of Fame as well as the USSSA Hall of Fame.

•**David "Popeye" Stevens, Jacksonville PSC:** David began playing with Jacksonville PSC in the late 1970s. He ran the Rick Hall Memorial Tournament for many years. He later became player/coach of Jacksonville PSC for 12 years and was a vital part of creating the Law Enforcement Softball Association (LESA) in the early 1990s.

•**Mike Reuvers, Minnesota Lawmen:** Mike has played upper class softball for 23 years and has been the backbone of the Minnesota Lawmen team since 1989. Mike has been a player/coach for many years and is responsible for every aspect of the team including fund raising and talent recruiting.

•**Arthur "BJ" Gland, South Bay Heat (California):** Arthur played for the outstanding South Bay Heat team and was their #3 hitter for many years. During his time with the Heat, the team consistently finished in the top 3 in every tournament they entered.

•**James "Snake" Roepken, Dayton-Metro:** James was known for his amazing speed in covering the 3 man outfield and he also used his athletic talent to play shortstop. James was a founding member of the Kettering/Dayton Metro team and earned several MVP awards along with numerous All Tournament selections.

•**Patrick "Augie" Acierno, Cleveland F.O.P.# 8 Softball:** Pat has played for Cleveland since 1977 and was named to the 25th anniversary team in Dayton. Pat was a five tool player and his Masters team won the Dayton tournament in 1999, 2000, and 2005.

•**Dennis Leonard, Jacksonville PSC:** Dennis has played police softball since 1986 with teams including the Florida Lawmen and Jacksonville PSC. Dennis has been a 6-time National Champion at Dayton, Detroit, and Georgia. He has been a part of over 32 tournament winning teams and has been selected on over 30 All Tournament teams.

•**Frank Navarre, Dayton-Metro/Tournament Director Dayton NPC:** Frank started playing with the Dayton Police softball team and was recognized for his outstanding speed turning routine ground balls into base hits. Later in his softball career he joined the Dayton-Metro team and played some of his best ball on the over 40 circuit.

Frank runs the prestigious Dayton National Police Softball Tournament and is a true ambassador for the sport of police softball.

•**Stephen "Woody" Crews, Dayton-Metro:** Steve began his police softball career in 1974 and in 1980 he joined the Dayton-Metro team. Steve was the Director of the Dayton National Police Softball Championship Tournament from 1985 to 2000. Steve was also the driving force behind establishing the Law Enforcement Softball Association (LESA) in 1990.

•**Marty Camacho, Arizona Softball Horrors:** Marty was the pitcher for the Arizona Horrors team that won numerous tournaments in their time. He was a fierce competitor and was a dominant pitcher. He also had an outstanding glove and is remembered as a clutch hitter in big situations.

•**Delbert Salazar, Arizona Softball Horrors:** Delbert was the heart and soul of the Arizona Softball Horrors which were one of the most dominant teams on the West Coast. Delbert was a feared hitter and continues to hit bombs today while playing on a 55-plus traveling team.

•**Dave Woolf, Dayton-Metro:** Dave started playing police softball in 1972 and in the late 80's he became the founding father of the Kettering Metro Police Softball Team (later to be known as Dayton-Metro). Dave's teams won 3 National Police Softball Championships.

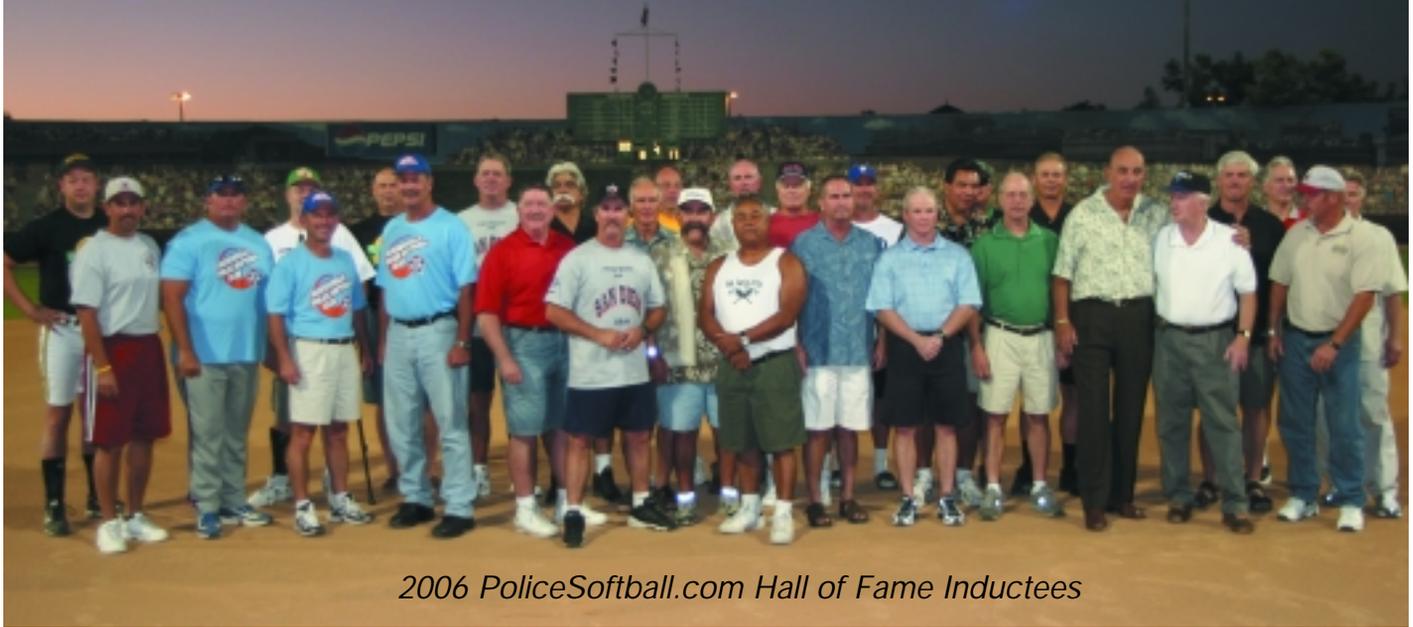
•**Dennis McKee, Wayne-Oakland:** Dennis was the founder of the Wayne-Oakland team in 1972 and he was instrumental in developing police softball in its early years. Dennis led Wayne-Oakland to the championship title in the inaugural Jacksonville tournament and several other championships would follow.

•**Stephen Margetts, San Diego Gray:** Steve is 61 years old and started playing police softball in 1973. In 1995, Steve became Manager of the San Diego Gray and during that time, the team has won 21 medals in various Police & Fire Games. Steve is a true West Coast legend.

•**Gordy Bush, Orange County Hitmen (California):** Gordy started playing police softball in the early 1980s when he was a speedy outfielder. He eventually became a heady pitcher who mastered 3 pitches such as a wicked knuckleball, an exaggerated backspin pitch and a flat fast pitch. Gordy led the Hitmen to 4 consecutive Cal-Games Gold Medals in 2000-2003.

•**Skip Stephenson, San Diego Gray:** Skip joined the San Diego Red Softball Club in 1975 and that team later evolved into the San Diego Gray. He was an excellent leadoff with a lifetime batting average near .700. Skip has been a part of over 20 medals won by San Diego Police softball teams. This is Skip's last year of playing competitive softball.

•**Rick Hall, Jacksonville PSC:** Rick was a pioneer in police softball and started the Jacksonville PSC Tournament



2006 PoliceSoftball.com Hall of Fame Inductees

in 1980. Rick passed away in 1990 as the result of a heart attack. Rick was thought of so highly by his peers that the Jacksonville PSC Tournament was named in his honor. Rick Hall EOW**** 1990.

•**Bobby Deal, Jacksonville PSC:** Bobby was a tremendous team leader and power hitter for Jacksonville PSC during their National Championship titles in 1989, 1992, 1993 and 1997. In addition to being a great player, Bobby was a true ambassador for the game.

•**Terry Yackley, Wayne-Oakland:** Terry is the current senior player on Wayne-Oakland and has been playing for 20 years. His loyalty goes unmatched as he has not missed a major tournament in his 20 year tenure with the team. At 50 years old, he is one of the few senior players still hitting and making a difference in the open arena.

•**Elwin Jobe, Sacramento County Probation:** Elwin is currently playing ball with the 55+ Probation team and has been instrumental in keeping law enforcement softball in the Northern California spotlight. He has run the Elk Grove and North Shore Lake Tahoe tournaments for many years.

•**Danny Munoz, Sacramento Sheriff Razorbacks:** Danny started the Razorbacks softball tournament team and took them to tournaments throughout California and Nevada. Ultimately Danny built the team into a competitive team that is widely respected on the West Coast.

•**Roger Stanfill, Sacramento Sheriff Razorbacks:** Roger was an original member of the Razorbacks and helped create the logo which is still used today. Roger was a true goodwill ambassador for police softball.

•**Sam Sapienza, New York Metro/New York Lawmen:** Sam won numerous National championships in Dayton and Detroit in the 80's and 90's. Sam used to have crowds stay just to watch him pitch as he was an innovator on some of the most unique USSSA pitches ever seen in police softball.

•**Henry "Hank" Cluess, New York Metro/New York Lawmen:** Hank also won numerous National championships in Dayton and Detroit in the 80's and 90's. Hank hit for both power and average and if you played against him you knew your work was cut out for you.

•**Glen Formica, New York Metro/NYPD Blues/NYPD Shields:** Glen recently turned 50 and he started his softball career with New York Metro in '88. Glen hit for a high average and he always knew how to win the mental part of the game. He was widely respected by both his fellow teammates and opponents.

•**Donny Meyer, New York Metro:** Donny is a legend in police softball and even in his late 40s, he still plays at a level many will never know. Donnie has won multiple MVPs and has been named to numerous All Tournament teams. He was the Policesoftball.Com East Coast Player of the Year in 2006.

•**Ron Quarn, Long Beach Softball Club:** Ron has been playing

softball for the Long Beach team for 28 years. He is a leader both on and off the field. Ron is the Long Beach all-time leader in every offensive category and at the age of 58 he continues to bat at least .500 at every tournament.

•**Walter "Red" Conry, New York Metro:** Walt started the New York Metro team in August of 1982 at the Detroit Worlds. As a Manager, Walt has compiled over 75 tournament wins including 6 championships in Detroit, 7 National titles in Dayton, 7 wins in Jacksonville, and over 12 wins in Houston. Walt has spent thousands of dollars of his own money for Metro and has and will always be the heart and soul of the most consistent team in police softball during the last 25 years.

•**Philip "Flip" McGovern, New York Metro:** Phil has played on New York Metro from 1983 to present. Phil is one of the most consistent hitters and best fielding first basemen in police softball history. Metro has long been a winner and that success comes due to the likes of Phil.

•**Richie "Father" Carter, New York Metro:** Richie has played with New York Metro from 1982 to present. At 52 years old he can still hit for power. Although Richie does not play as much as he used to, he still travels with Metro and is a big part of the team and their future.

•**Gary Mulleneaux, Arizona Softball Horrors:** Gary was one of the original members of the Arizona Horrors softball team. Gary hit with power, and could play defense as well as anyone. Gary was diagnosed with cancer during his playing days and despite the fact the doctors gave him a short time to live he continued to play and still plays today.

•**Jan Marshall, Arizona Softball Horrors:** Jan was the founder of the Horrors and was responsible for forming one of the first combo powerhouse teams in the Western states. The Horrors are still by far the best team to ever represent the state of Arizona. Jan was a fast outfielder with very good range. His playing was limited due to coaching duties but his recruiting abilities back in the late 80's and early 90's were unparalleled.

So there you have it, 34 individuals who had such an impact on our sport they were named to the inaugural Policesoftball.Com Hall of Fame class. It is our intention to ensure their efforts are not forgotten and honoring them with a Hall of Fame induction is our way of paying tribute to these well deserving individuals.

I look forward to giving you a detailed blow by blow of the 2006 World Series. Will anyone unseat the Ohio Lawmen as World Champions? Make sure your Softball Magazine subscription is renewed because I will have the results for you in the next issue!

Cop Glossary: *10-4= Okay or acknowledged; **Choir Practice= Meeting the crew after work for a drink; ***Boots= Rookie cops; **** EOW= End of Watch, end of shift or sometimes used to describe when an officer has passed away.