

USA Softball of Metro Detroit Hall of Fame and Honor

**October 4, 2016
Troy, Michigan**

"The history of sports has been marked by the occasional appearance of an athlete who seems to have been touched by a magical hand, whose extraordinary skills are embellished by an intangible spark of greatness, an athlete who seems destined to leave an indelible stamp on his or her chosen avocation. Greatness assumes many shapes and forms, like subtle colors blending into a deep blue hue, but in any form, greatness separates the legends from the mere mortals in the arena of sports. Proficiency and skill can be honed by practice and dedication but the really outstanding athletes, the Hall of Famers, come to the arena with greatness already programmed into their personalities. The purpose of the USA Softball of Metro Detroit Hall of Fame and Honor is to recognize and honor those metro Detroit men and women who have played so brilliantly and competed so well during their careers, managed, umpired, sponsored, or provided that special touch to the game of softball, and who at the same time have contributed to the development and growth of their sport."

Categories are as follows:

Player

Umpire

Manager

Sponsor

Commissioner

Meritorious Service



USA Softball of Metro Detroit
"The Best in Softball"

www.metrodetroitasa.org

National ASA web site: www.asausasoftball.com



USA Softball of Metro Detroit Hall of Fame and Honor

1982

George Caloia*-FPP
Bill Cole-SPP
Carl "Tex" Collins*-SPP
Mike Gouin-SPP
Bonnie Jones*-FPP
Sam Lombardo*-FPP

1983

Ed Figelski*-FPP
Mike Ilitch-S
Beatrice Lollar-SPP
Roy Lombardo*-MG
Jim Snyder*-S

1984

Mike Adray*-S
Bob Auten-SPP
Mack Phillips*-S
Johnny Spring*-FPP
Frank Verbanac*-SPP

1985

Al Dolecki-S
Joe Gauci-SPP
Charles Justice*-FPP
Anthony Lutomski*-C
William Svochak*-C

1986

Mike Axelson-SPP
George Gillies*-U
Wilbur Landis*-C
Rocco Palmeri*-FPP

1987

Joe Castrodale-FPP
Felix Michaels*-S
Jim Puckett-SPP

1988

Thomas Chappelle-SPP
Sammy Gee*-FPP
Bob McCaffrey*-U
John "Jack" Trompicks-MS
Jack Westerlund-SPP

1989

George Corona*-SPP
Jackie Huggins-SPP
Fred Nothdurft-S
Karl Nothdurft-S
Tom Trompicks-SPP
Ed Tyson-FPP

1990

Wally Galba*-SPP
George LaPlata-S
Don Lair*-C
Linda Mueller-SPP
Carl Walker-FPP
Jerry Zarick-FPP

1991

Milo Karhu-SPP
Tony Mazza-SPP
Percy McConner*-FPP
Evans Telegadas-FPP
Jack Tobias-U

1992

Diane Laffey-MS
Bob Malicki-SPP
"Buck" Polonczyk*-MS
Charlie Williams-SPP

1994

Ernie Flowers-FPP
Leon Grunalt*-MG
Robert Kaump*-U
Andy Kovalcik*-MG
Gary LaDue-SPP
Sally Whalen*-MS

1996

Mike Engan-MS
Paul Gatto*-FPP
Jim "Torch" Scullen-S
Ed Shankin-SPP
Mike Turk-SPP

1998

Al Hortop*-MS
Shelley Larned-FPP
George Lerchen-SPP
Frank Pilarowski*-P/MG
Al White-MP

2002

Mike DeLeo-U
Scott Grace-S
Tom Kaminski-SPP
Don Stuckey*-MS
Bob/Sandy Thompson-M

2004

Mike Busch-SPP
Tim Doyle*-C
Angie Fielder-FPP
Gary Urbanczyk-M
Ted Younce-U

2006

Mike Barel-U
Dick Collard-M
John Eckstein-SPP
Danny Lipinski*-C
Kelly Thayer-FPP
Doug Zimmerman-U

2008

Bob Allen-U
Peter Karmanos Jr-S
Jeanne Martin-U
Mike O'Connor-SPP
Pam Ossenseimer-FPP
Mike Zdrodowski-SPP

2010

Bob Green-SPP
Tom Fitzsimmons-U
Carol Hutchins-MS
Mike McDowell-SPP
Evelyn Micol-MS
Dennis Troshak-MS

2012

Gary Bryce-MS
Bob Kost -U
Al Land-MS
Julie Liljeberg-FPP
Tony Profita*-MS
Don Sheffield-SPP
Tim Whitson-MS

2014

Steve Bienkowski-SPP
Dave Brubaker-MP
Kelly Holmes-FPP
Margo Jonker-MS
Bob Lawson-U

22nd USA Softball of Metro Detroit

Hall of Fame Awards Banquet



KEY: SPP – Slow Pitch Player; S – Sponsor; MS 0- Meritorious Service; MG – Manager; FPP
– Fast Pitch Player; MP – Modified Player; U – Umpire * Deceased

Tom Newcombe Meritorious Service

When Tom makes a commitment, he sticks to it. It is rare nowadays that a professional in the recreation field begins their employment and ends their employment with the same organization – Tom did that with Waterford Township Parks & Recreation for more than four decades dating back to the mid-1970's.



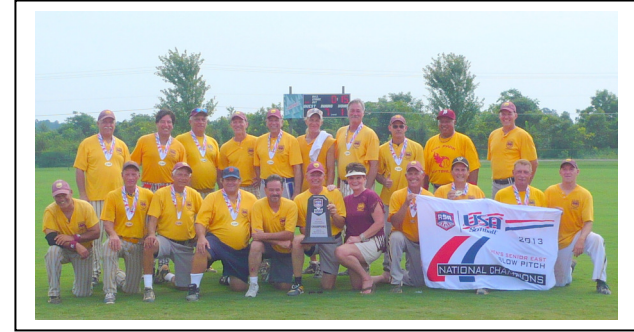
His dedication continued with USA Softball of Metro Detroit as he has been on the board since 1982. He served as the association secretary in 1983; two terms as president in 1985 and 1993; and is the current treasurer since 1993. His commitment to the association is instrumental as his leadership and experience shines not only at the local level, but throughout the region and nationwide.

He also administrated, played, and coached in adult fast and slow pitch leagues for many years, coached youth softball from t-ball to High School, and is currently a member of the Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes High School softball coaching staff. Softball has been a part of Tom's life for many years!

USA Softball of Metro Detroit Hall of Famers in the USA Softball National Hall of Fame

Johnny Spring – 1970, Fast Pitch
Charles "Choo Choo" Justice – 1974, Fast Pitch
Bill Cole – 1982, Slow Pitch
Bonnie Jones – 1983, Fast Pitch
Mack Phillips – 1986, Meritorious Service
Carl "Tex" Collins – 1987, Slow Pitch
Roy Lombardo – 1988, Manager
Carl Walker – 1989, Fast Pitch
Mike Gouin – 1989, Slow Pitch
William Svochak – 1990, Meritorious Service
Sam Lombardo – 1991, Fast Pitch
Fred Nothdurft – 1992, Sponsor
Karl Nothdurft – 1992, Sponsor
Al White – 2011, Modified
Leon Grunalt – 2012, Manager
Harry Haroian – 2016, Fast Pitch

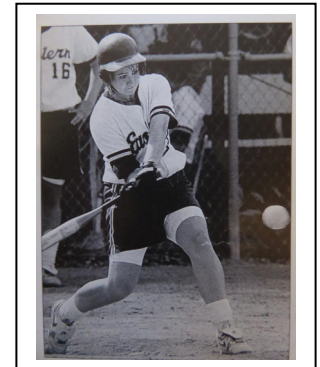
A Golden Salute



The Golden Viper senior slow pitch team evolved starting league play in 2004 comprised of former ASA team members from the Sterling Vipers that played in Sterling Heights from 1998-2003. They have captured 22 first place tournament finishes since 2010; along with 10 second place finishes while participating in 39 tournaments. Their accomplishments also include two national ASA/USA titles and two runner-up finishes in the ASA/USA senior divisions. The Vipers have won several league titles and playoff championships with their 50+ team including an 18 and over league in 2014. They have full support of the Vipettes, a cheer squad comprised of player's spouses.

Melissa (Drouillard) Bater Fast Pitch Player

When you say softball is part of someone's life, it truly is the case for Melissa as she starting playing the game at the age of 7 for Roseville Parks and Recreation. She played on many summer teams throughout her career after starring at Grosse Pointe North high school and Eastern Michigan University where she named EMU's Female Athletic of the Year and MAC Player of the Year as a senior.



Melissa, a fast pitch star power hitting shortstop and third basemen, played with the famed Daly Softball team beginning in 1995 for four seasons. Her honors included being named first team all-American in 1998 where her Daly team placed fifth; second team in 1997 as national runner-up, and third team in 1995 as runner-up all at the Class A ASA national tournaments. One of Melissa's playing highlights included one of only two women to hit a home run in the bay while playing in a tournament in Petoskey. Melissa continued her career in softball after her playing days while coaching at the high school level and most importantly for her two daughters Sophie and Natalie.

Dan Daldine Umpire

Blue has been a part of Dan's life for many years. He became an ASA umpire in 1986 and has had an illustrious career since then. Dan has participated in numerous umpire clinics, seminars, camps; in addition to attending four national umpire schools. He is a gold level member of the ASA Medals program, an elite slow pitch umpire, and a National Indicator Fraternity member (1996). Dan was an administrator for Metro Softball Umpire association (2000-04). Dan has served stints on the metro Detroit umpire staff from 2004-08 and from 2014 to present.

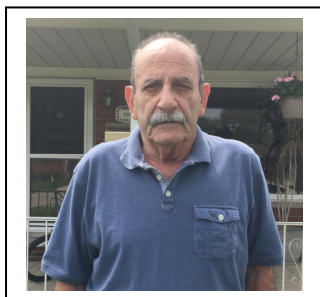
Not only has Dan umpired and been a UIC in numerous metro Detroit tournaments, but he has taken his umpiring skills to the national level as has been an umpire in 14 national tournaments including one men's super slow pitch tournament in 2003, three ASA Championship Series tournaments in Oklahoma City; and three men's Armed Forces tournaments.



Harry Haroian Fast Pitch Player

Harry Haroian was one of the premier fast pitch players in the 1960's and 1970's while playing on multiple teams in ASA/USA Softball championship play. Earning All-American honors four separate times, including two first-team selections, Haroian was not only an outstanding catcher but also a utility player who played on some of the top fast pitch teams in the country. He also was selected to 10 all regional teams, was a member of the 1964 ASA world championship team; along with a member of the 1979 national champion McArdle team of Midland, MI.

A teammate of past Hall of Fame inductee, Carl Walker, Harry Haroian made an everlasting impression on the game of fast pitch softball and has earned numerous MVP awards and All-Tournament selections en route to his induction into the ASA/USA Softball Hall of Fame.



**Softball and Baseball
added to 2020 Olympics
in Tokyo, Japan**

Steve Hill Slow Pitch Player

Steve began his playing career in the wood bat era as a teenager in the 1960's in the city of Detroit. Following serving our country in the Army in Vietnam, Steve starred on many of the top slow pitch softball teams in metro Detroit including – Michaels Lounge, Stroh's, Uniroyal, Spartan Steel, Miller High Life, Budweiser, and Nothdurft.

He played in many local leagues capped by playing in the top league back in the 1970's and early 1980's – Major Metro Travel league – that has not been matched in quality competition since that decade. The star outfielder and first basemen was a member of 10 ASA national championship teams in the 1980's and 1990's while playing with Nothdurft teams.

An influential individual in Steve's life was Frank Verbanac. While a teenager in the 1960's growing up in the inner city of Detroit and being a student. At Fletcher Field, Frank demanded respect, responsibility, determination, and execution. Steve's skills have shined on the softball field for many years from the wood bat era to the aluminum bat era!



Jim Martin Umpire

Jim Martin was an umpire in the metro Detroit area during the 1970's and early 1980's. He also served as a member of the original ASA Metro Detroit umpire staff under Hall of Famer George Gillies. Jim umpired in many local leagues, metro tournaments and two ASA national tournaments. He moved from the Detroit area in the mid 1980's when he received a promotion from his employer General Electric. Jim was an outstanding umpire, an exceptional UIC and an excellent clinician. He was modest, respected by his colleagues and an asset to the umpire program. We are proud to honor Jim Martin for his contribution to USA Softball of Metro Detroit.



Hall of Fame on Display

The current Hall of Fame is on display at Canton Softball Center – Victory Park located at 46555 West Michigan Avenue, approximately two miles west of I-275.

