

★ All Star Award
District 1

GERALDINE (JERRI) O'DELL

This year's District 1 All Star Award recipient has been in the Masters Games since the beginning. She has been a member of the Muscle Shoals Living Center since around 1990. Over the years she has donated time and sewing abilities in her church to programs helping those with cancer and the underprivileged, volunteering many years at the local hospital, and even sings in a group known in the Quad cities as "The Sweet Adelines". She has taken a cruise to Alaska with her daughter, her only child, and later this month she will be taking another cruise with friends from the senior center. As you can tell, she loves to travel.

From 1989 to 1992, Jerri competed with the Opal Olympics sponsored by Humana Seniors Association run by the YMCA of the Shoals. Then the Masters Games of Alabama came along and she began playing. Her events over the years have been Softball Throw, Frisbee/Nerfball Throw, Dominoes Singles, Dominoes Doubles, Rook, Shuffleboard and her favorite, Billiards. With her competitive spirit, she has acquired many, many medals over the years.

In 2006, her husband became ill and needed her care until he passed away in 2008. In 2011, she was able to return to the center. The competition, fun and fellowship brought her back to the Masters Games. Once again Geraldine (Jerri) O'Dell looks forward to entering the games every year with great enthusiasm. It's the Masters Games that have kept her a young 83 years of age.

Way to go Jerri! We are proud to have you as District 1's All Star!!!

★ All Star Award

District 2

JAMES MANNING & DIANNE MANNING

This year's District 2 Hall of Fame All Star inductees are James and Diane Manning of Fyffe, AL. They are active members and volunteers at the Fyffe Senior Center. James has been competing for 10 years. Dianne has been competing since she retired 7 years ago. Until this year, they only signed up for the bowling event. With encouragement from their center manager and the new Council on Aging director, the excitement was contagious, and they entered several other events winning ribbons and having a lot of fun meeting new people along the way.

Dianne said, "Mostly we do bowling, but this year we spread out and tried some of the other games like horseshoes, basketball free throw, and few of the other games. We just did things that we haven't done since we were children or since our children were small, so it was a lot of fun to do that. Masters Games is real interesting... a good fellowship that you can meet with so many other people that you normally would not meet in your lifetime from different areas of the state. We have met many people over the years, and the same people will participate year after year and you look forward to seeing them the next year. It's really a good basis for building friendships or fellowships."

James and Dianne, we are so excited that you are District 2's All Stars!!!

★ All Star Award
District 5

JUANITA GIVENS

Juanita Givens began participating in District 5 Masters Games in 2004 as one of our "youngsters" barely meeting the then age requirement of 55. Since that time, she has become fully vested and looks forward to the games each year. In the beginning, dominoes was her only game but she quickly added nerf and frisbee throw to her list, and in recent years, a little shuffleboard and rook. She doesn't forget a face and is always quick to welcome new participants and make new friends with her warm personality and infectious smile. She is definitely a person you are always happy to see and sad when you must leave.

At the Trussville Senior Center we were happy to "adopt" her as one of our own and it is with great pleasure that we award the 2018 District 5 All Stars Award to: Ms Juanita Givens!

★ All Star Award
District 7

WILLIE BRANT

Willie Bryant is proudly nominated for District 7's All Star Award. Willie, President of the Downtown Resident's Association in Mobile, eagerly joined in the Masters Games in 2012 and has played every year since then. When he first heard of the games, it immediately lit a flame within him. You see, he was former semi-pro baseball player who still had that desire to compete. The Masters Games was just what he needed to get out of the dugout and get going again.

Not only did Willie sign up for the games, he also recruited fellow residents and secured the equipment for those people to practice for the games, thus helping to create new activity as his senior apartment complex. In addition to the Masters Games, Willie shows great leadership and is involved in numerous activities as the President of the resident association, as well as continues to recruit for the Masters Games.

Willie, who is now 74, won his first gold medal in the state games for softball throw and the silver for horseshoes in 2012. By 2014, he was renowned for his big softball arm and people asked, "Where's Willie?" But he had a strained muscle in his shoulder that year and did not tell anyone. Not wanting to disappoint anyone, he kept his injury to himself and competed. Although he came up short, he made no excuses and congratulated the winner.

Willie has played numerous events over the years and has won 29 ribbons at his District games and 12 Medals at the State games. Willie said that participating in the Masters Games has given him and other seniors from his community the opportunity to compete in friendly competition and to make new friends. He looks forward to fellowship, having fun, sharing and continuing life-long relationships.

CONGRATULATIONS Willie Bryant for being and All Star!!!

★ All Star Award
District 8

SHARON ANDREWS & DONALD ANDREWS

Sharon and Donald have been competing in the Masters Games for 10 years. Together, they share a love of bowling, and they both compete in state and national bowling events.

Sharon has won over 15 medals at the games, and most are gold. She has recently started competing in rook and looks forward to having a chance to compete at the state events. Sharon says that the games have allowed her to have friendships with people in other areas and give her the opportunity to have fun and compete with others. This, she says, helps her maintain her sense of stability and health. She also helps reach out to others in District 8 to encourage them to participate in the Masters Games.

Donald has won over 30 medals in the games and most have been gold medals too. Donald says the Masters Games keep him young at heart and spirit and allow him to mingle with others from different ages and areas. At 88 years young, he is still competing and attributes this to opportunities offered by the Masters Games.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sharon and Donald Andrews for being ALL STARS in District 8!!!

★ All Star Award

District 9

TOMMY HATCHETT

District 9 nominates Tommy Hatchett for the Master Games of Alabama's All Star Award. Tommy has competed in the District 9 and state Masters Games golf tournaments for over 20 years. Tommy is known by all our golfers for his "quick wit," "good golf", and "lack of humility." Everybody picks on Tommy because... it's so easy!

Seriously, Tommy adds to the atmosphere of fun and good times during our golf tournaments. Tommy excels at golf which may explain the numerous different scramble partners he has had through the years. Tommy certainly holds the Master Games record for the highest number of different partners he has teamed up with through the years. Master Games of Alabama's purpose and vision is to help seniors like Tommy enjoy playing competitive sports and having a good time with others. Tommy is one of our best advertisements for the success of Master Games.



Golden Alumni Award District 2

HARRY CHANDLER

It's that time of year again. Seniors from all over District 2 will compete at the Masters Games in Huntsville for a chance to earn a spot at the state competition in Valley this year.

Kelly Wheeler, who nominated Mr. Chandler, said:

"I have had the honor, the last 9 years, to be actively involved in the Masters Games by serving on the District Masters Games & State Masters board.

Over the course of time, the games have allowed me to formulate friendships I will always carry close and dear to my heart. One of those friendships was with a very sweet and competitive soul named Harry Chandler.

I will never forget the very first time I met the spry 80-year-old grandfather. He was holding a ping pong paddle and challenged me to a game. '

'Let's see what you got', he grinned. Of course, I wasn't a pro like him, but we definitely had a good time competing against each other.

And gradually, Harry and I formed a wonderful friendship. I had the honor of spending a week with him and his lovely wife each year at the State Masters Games. Through the years, I came to really respect and admire Harry for his willingness to never give up and do his very best at every game he participated in.

It was such an honor several years ago to nominate him for a State All Star Award and watch him receive his award, with friends and family present. I will never forget the admiration I felt for him after he suffered a stroke months before the district games, but still fought his way back to the strength he needed to compete at the District & State Master Games.

He never slowed down and he never stopped doing what he could to help other people. So, when I heard that Harry Chandler died on April 28th, I definitely shed a lot of tears. I was on bed-rest and only a few days away from unexpectedly having my twin boys early, so I wasn't able to be at the funeral. However, I thought a lot about him.

[Harry] was born on December 27, 1930 to Edward F. and Josephine (Campbell) Chandler in Malden, Missouri. He graduated from Hanceville High School in 1950

and then moved to Michigan. He served two years in the U.S. Army and was in the Korean War. He began working for Buick Engineering where he was a Test Build Analyst and retired after 42 years.

He headed the bus ministry at Corunna Road Baptist Church in Flint and never failed to give his testimony to everyone he saw. He served as a Deacon for 58 years and a greeter, most recently at Seventh Street Baptist Church, where he made an impact on the lives of each and every one who came through the church doors.

He was an avid softball player throughout the years, holding the record at Flint Whaley Park for the fastest windmill pitch. He coached girls' softball at Faith Missionary Church and was pitching coach for the Carman-Ainsworth High School girls softball team in Flint. His true sports passion was his love for table tennis. He played on his lunch break everyday throughout his career at General Motors.

He loved to exercise and was a member of the Wallace State Wellness Club where he played table tennis and volleyball 3 days a week for 20 years. While at Wallace, he participated in the Senior Olympics and Masters Games through the Cullman County Commission on Aging, as well where he played table tennis and horseshoes, winning a total of 18 gold medals in District, State and Regional competitions.

Even though, he won't be here to compete with us in June at the District Masters Games, his spirit will definitely be felt as seniors compete at the District Masters Games."

It is with love in our hearts that we honor Mr. Harry Chandler with the Golden Alumni Award in District 2.

Presidents' Award

BRUCE AND KAY WEST

This year's Presidents award Hall of Fame award is being given to a couple whose journey with Masters Games began 6 years ago in Valley, Alabama. Their path to Masters Games was not like most participants. They joined as volunteers to Masters Games. Most of us realize that no one person or group can pull off an event without the help of volunteers. This couple has been a definite Godsend to the Masters Games organization. There are not too many people who would spend their free time for a week at a time and volunteer at the games and as a Board we are eternally grateful!! Their daughter, a board member, told them how amazing it was to help with and be a part of Masters Games and They have been running the name tag registration table for the last 6 years.

It is my honor to award Bruce and Kay West (Emily's parents) with the 2018 Masters Games of Alabama **Presidents Award!**