

# Hall of Fame to welcome Blocker, Kneas, Spriggs, and Yarborough

***“Class of 2014” induction October 4 at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling***



**Eddie Blocker Jr.**, was introduced to bowling as a result of a leisurely outing with friends. After a planned evening to a concert was cancelled due to the loss of tickets, someone suggested bowling, and this was how it all started.

Eddie joined his first bowling league in 1972 at Fair Lanes University using a house ball and house shoes

for an entire season. His first bowling instructions and encouragements came from Pete Jackson of Myers' Pro Shop at University and Jim Robinette of the Carmen Don Pro Shop. While continuing to gain more knowledge of the art of bowling, Eddie briefly worked at Myers' Pro Shop and Holmes' Pro Shop at AMF Capital Plaza to learn the art of ball drilling and bowling equipment maintenance.

His passion for the sport, his positive mental attitude, and his wonderful experiences with his mentors made his

decision easy to become a mentor to youth bowlers. He quickly became a certified youth bowling coach for the American Junior Bowling Congress and has been an active coach since 1977.

He takes pride in having coached and assisted in the development of numerous youth bowlers, including future NCAUSBCA Hall of Famer Anthony Chapman, Chris Johnson, Nate Bolden, Anthony Whitehead, Ronald Davis, Christy Peets, and Debbie Myers.

For the 2012-2013 season, he served as Head Official, Division II for NCAA Women's Bowling at Howard University.

On the lanes, Eddie, has recorded 15 perfect games and two 800 series. As a 16-year PBA Senior member, he made six "Top 16" match play finals, including a third-place finish in the 2007 PBA East Region Fort Meade Senior Open. His tournament titles include the 1982 Virginia State Scratch and Handicap Doubles (with future NCAUSBCA Hall of Famer Donny Carr) and the 1986 NCABA (Nation's Capital Area Bowling Association) Scratch Singles. He also has a third-place Singles finish in the Bill Rhodman Tournament in Delaware.

Even though Eddie has suffered three knee operations in the past seven years, he continues to enjoy the sport he loves by bowling in two leagues.

Eddie Blocker Jr., is an accomplished bowler with a wealth of knowledge that he enjoys sharing, especially with the youth. A special spot has been reserved for him in the NCAUSBCA Hall of Fame.

## IMPORTANT

As a result of this year's Hall of Fame Induction & Dinner Celebration being held in the Capital Ballroom of the Bolling Air Force Base Officers Club on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, security regulations require that information (name, date of birth, and driver's license number & expiration date or SSN) will have to be collected from all attendees not possessing a Federal Government, law enforcement, or military ID.

To avoid the hassle of a trip to the Visitor Center on October 4, the day of the event, those planning to attend are advised to supply the required information as noted on the Hall of Fame ticket to NCAUSBCA Manager Ronald McGregor (301/499-1693 x102), who will submit the information to the base. A special gate list then will be prepared that will permit easy entrance through the South Gate at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling for those holding a Hall of Fame ticket.

All attendees must arrive no later than 5:15 p.m. to be assured of admittance to the base.



**David Kneas** has enjoyed local success in competition at Crofton Bowling Centre and The Lanes Fort Meade, where he was one of the first bowlers in this area ever to average over 200 in a Sport Bowling league. In recent years, in addition to his league participation, he has spent much time on the road competing—and succeeding—in Professional Bowlers

Association events.

His success on the lanes, in fact, has earned the right-hander much admiration and respect from the likes of PBA Hall of Famers Danny Wiseman, Johnny Petraglia, George Pappas, Tom Baker, and numerous other pros. Said

fellow NCAUSBCA Hall of Famer Greg Goetz: "I am impressed with his dedication to bowling and to the integrity of bowling. I think he is an outstanding ambassador for all that is good in bowling."

A partial list of David's PBA achievements includes:

- 8 regional titles (one regular in Middletown, Del., and seven Senior victories)
- 6 second-place finishes
- 6 times "Top 5" in points, average, and earnings in PBA East region
- 1 time "Top 5" in points, average, and earnings in PBA South region
- 8 "Top 16" finishes on the PBA National Senior Tour
- Over \$100,000 in PBA career winnings
- Only bowler in PBA history to win a match play title by bowling back-to-back 300s (Franklin, Va., 2010)

He also is a winner of more than 40 amateur tournaments, including:

- 3 Nation's Capital / Baltimore Area Masters titles
- 3 Tournament Concepts titles
- 9-time Sport Shot Tournament Champion (York, Pa.)
- Guys & Dolls Tournament Scratch Team title at Crofton Bowling Centre.

He has "Top 125" finishes in Singles and All-Events categories in the USBC Open Championships Tournament and third-place finishes in the Scratch Team category in the association's Open Championship Tournament and in the Senior Division of the *Bowlers Journal* Tournament.

David, who has averaged over 220 for nearly all of the past 20 seasons, has rolled over 50 perfect games and 20-plus 800s, with a top series of 861.

David Kneas has excelled on the lanes in local league and tournament competition for many years, and his overall success as a professional is among the best ever by a bowler in this area. He is a most worthy addition to the NCAUSBCA Hall of Fame.



**Ernest W. Spriggs**, a native Washingtonian and mortgage professional for over 20 years, began his love for the sport of bowling in the early 1970s. The Spriggs bowled as a family at Parkland Bowl, when the center consisted of duckpins and tenpins. With the positive reinforcement by his Mom, Dorothy Spriggs, an avid bowler herself, bowling became Ernest's passion.

He began his bowling career in the junior program at Parkland and became a full-time adult association member in 1983 after graduating from college. He also has been a member of TNBA (The National Bowling Association) for over 20 years.

Some of his bowling achievements include:

- 32 - 300 games (first perfect game rolled in October 1985 in Cincinnati Mixed at Parkland)
- 15 - 800 series (high of 844 ... first 800, an 802, scored November 1993 in Potomac Masters at Bolling AFB)
- Highest season average of 237, with a 228 composite for 441 games in the 2012-2013 season
- 6 "Top 10" finishes on NCAUSBCA Official Men's Average Ranking
- Living Legends Challenge Champion
- Over/Under 50 Doubles Scratch Champion with partner Marcus Bell
- 3-time Money Bags Champion (both Open and Senior divisions)
- VMSBT (Virginia Maryland Scratch Bowlers Tour) Champion
- Nation's Capital / Baltimore Area Masters Champion
- Tournament Concepts Champion
- A two-time 600-700 Scratch Mixed Doubles Champion, Ernest is an active participant and casher in NCAUSBCA Open and ABC/USBC Open Championships tournaments
- Several "Top 5" finishes at TNBA's Reed Hawthorne and Eastern Bill Rhodman Singles Scratch Classic tournaments
- Member (with Anthony Chapman, Graylon Clagett, Norman Smith, and Ernest Sevous) of the first all African-American team in the Brunswick World Team Challenge to make TV finals in 1995
- Bowled the 2007 64<sup>th</sup> U.S. Open in Brunswick, N.J. (averaged 189 for 18 games on an extremely tough pattern)
- Appeared in *BOWL Magazine's* "The Best Bowling Tip I've Ever Received" in November 2005

Ernest has competed in the sport at a very high level for many years and has averaged in the 220s for the past 15 years. He is well respected in the bowling community and always exemplifies a professional attitude and demeanor.

Ernest Spriggs's commitment to and on-lane excellence in the sport of bowling, along with his longtime support of association events, make him a well-deserved addition to the NCAUSBCA Hall of Fame.



**George Yarborough** started bowling in 1981 with the Mount Zion Rollers at Rinaldi's Riverdale Bowl. He bowled in several leagues over many years, starting with a low average of 134 and ending his bowling career with an average of 161. A lot of people would say that this is not an average to be proud of, but during his bowling career, he became deeply involved with both the local adult and youth bowling associations.

During 1987 and 1988, George became part of the Vir-

See **HALL OF FAME**, page 19

[www.ncausbc.org](http://www.ncausbc.org)

## HALL OF FAME, from page 10

Mar District Junior Bowling Association as a Coach Director. In 1989-1991, he served as the organization's Sergeant-at-Arms, after which he served as Youth Director for the Silver Hill Strikers League.

His Vir-Mar District officer roles continued as he was elected Third Vice President (1991-1995), then First Vice President (1995-1999), and finally President (1999-2001).

George's tireless contributions to youth bowling also include his longtime assistance with the prestigious annual Youth Invitational Scratch Singles Tournament. His heartfelt involvement with youth bowlers stemmed not only to bowling but to their personal lives as well. He opened the doors for many bowlers who were unaware of educational and other opportunities that came from the game of bowling.

As noted earlier, George also was active with the adult association: He was a Director for the Nation's Capital Area Bowling Association (NCABA) from 1990 until 1994, during which time he served on the BVL, Program Evaluation, and Tournament Site Selection committees and also was Legislative Chairman until 1994 when he became Fifth Vice President. For the next five seasons, he held each of the vice presidential posts and then was elected NCABA president for the 1999-2000 season.

George Yarborough's positive attitude, commitment, and successes in the sport of bowling, especially with our youth bowlers, have earned him an honored place in the NCAUSBCA Hall of Fame.