



2004



**Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball**



Mr. Clancy Propp



The first Dave McNally Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball Award is going to Clancy Propp, who was a long-time supporter of the program. Mr. Propp died in 1999.

“He ran the concessions stand and he was a state director,” said Joel Hawkins, a Legion player. “He was a great ambassador for the program.”

—Excerpted from Ed West’s column
in *The Billings Gazette*



2005



**Dave McNally Award
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Mr. Lew Morris

Lew was born in Midwest, Wyo. and attended school at the University of Wyoming. He later received his Master degree at the University of Montana. He taught school in Evanston, Wyo. before coming to Billings West High School, where he worked for 37 years before retiring in 1999.

He enjoys all sports but his true love is baseball, and his team has always been the St. Louis Cardinals. He grew up listening to Cardinal games with his dad. In his early years in Billings he coached Little League teams at Burlington field. He worked for the Billings Mustangs as General Manager from 1978 to 1985. He then worked with American Legion baseball from 1986 to 1990. Lew is married to wife, Allene, and they have two children, Tammi and Jeff.





2005



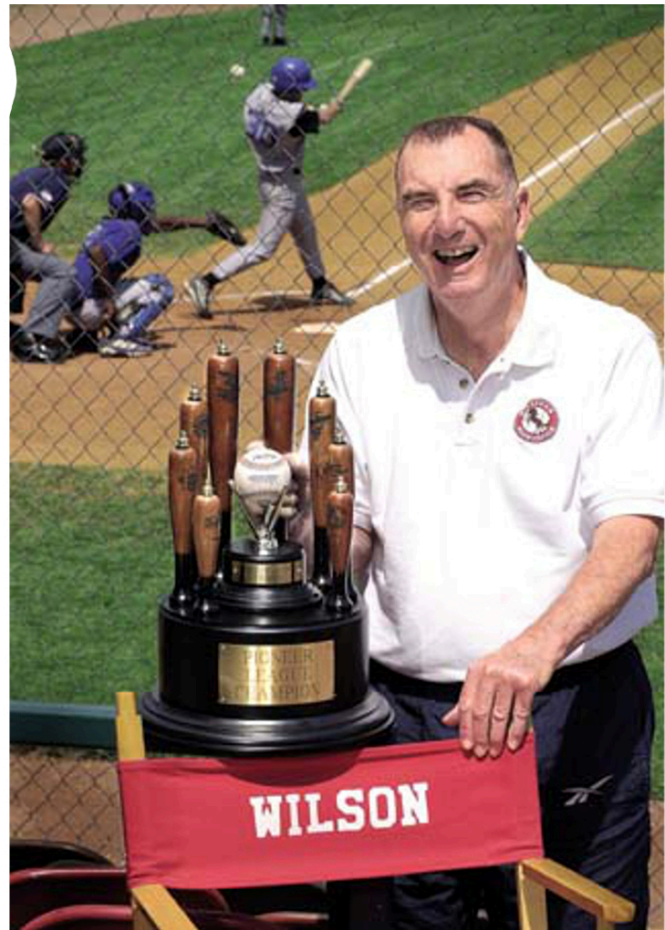
Dave McNally Award

Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball



Mr. Bob Wilson

Bob Wilson played Legion ball in San Diego, 1952-1955, and at Arizona University 1956-1959 before playing pro ball 1960-61. He was a member of the All Tournament Team in the 1959 College World Series. Wilson was elected president of the Billings Mustangs in 1974, and was named Pioneer League Executive of the Year 1988-2001. He was named Bob Freitas minor league executive for the short season, 1993. In 1994, Wilson received the John Johnson Award as Executive of the Year in Minor League Baseball. Wilson was named to the Montana High School Hall of Fame and the Mustang Hall of Fame in 1997. His dedication was recognized in 2003 with the "King of Baseball" —major league's highest award.





2006



Dave McNally Award

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John Kosich

John was born January 15, 1923 in Voddize, Italy which borders his native country of Yugoslavia. He came to the United States in 1934 to Chicago and graduated in 1942 from Bowen High School. He played minor league baseball as a catcher in the White Sox organization, and then was drafted into the US Army where he played football, baseball, and basketball while stationed at the quarter master base in Fort Warren, Wyoming. He met his future wife, Dorothy, who worked at the hospital there and they were married June 6, 1945. (Dorothy is an artist and has donated one of her pictures for our auction this evening.) They have three sons (who all played for the Billings Royals under Ed Bayne.) When discharged from the army in 1946 he went to college on the GI Bill to the U of W where he lettered 4 years in baseball and football and was honored as Wyoming's Athlete of the Year in 1947 and selected 3rd team All-American in football. He started his teaching and coaching career in Greybull, Wyoming. The family then moved to Michigan where he started his masters program. He continued it back in Wyoming and completed it in Billings, when they moved here in 1959, while he taught government and physical education and coached football at Billings Senior High School. After 8 years at Senior he became the Dean of Boys and then retired in 1984.

In retirement, golf became his passion to which he has numerous awards including a hole in one at Lake Hills in 1991. John is a charter member of the National Football Foundation; a life member of the National Education Association; the BEA Administrator of the Year for 1975-76; he is in the Montana Officials Association Hall of Fame; inducted into the U of W's Hall of Fame for football and baseball in 1995. His trophy shelf includes bowling, golf, football, baseball, and basketball awards with plaques for years of service in kids programs.

John has umpired at all levels of baseball throughout his many years in Billings. But the countless and dedicated years he gave to American Legion Baseball are why we are honoring him tonight as the Dave McNally Friend of American Legion Baseball.



2007



Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball



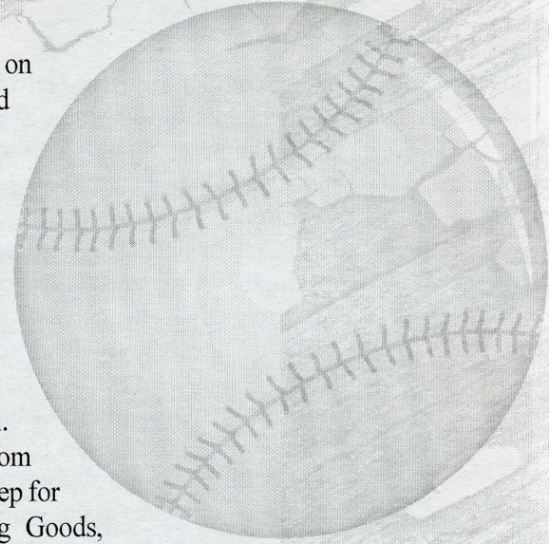
Tom Farrell

Tom Farrell was born in Glasgow, Montana in 1935, the youngest of five children. His summer months, as a youth, were spent in swimming and diving competitions. But he excelled in football in high school where he was a two time all-state running back, awarded All-American honors, and played in the East/West Shrine Game. He also played American Legion Baseball as well as the Vets club team. After attending the University of Montana for one year, he filled his military obligation with the Navy, spending two years in a Bomber Squadron at Barbers Pt. Ohau and then transferred to Key West, Florida to a Naval Ordnance unit. He played a lot of baseball and softball on the Navy teams.

When he was discharged and heading back to Montana he stopped in Billings to visit a friend, met his future wife, Millie (of 47 years now), and eventually started work for Athletic

Supply, calling on high schools and colleges. It was at this time in 1963 that he met Ed Bayne who got him interested in helping with the Billings American Legion Baseball Program. In 1970, Tom became a factory rep for Rawlings Sporting Goods, and in 1977 he and Millie were given the business part of the BALB Program to handle paying the bills and taking care of the travel budgets. Together with Bob Wilson and the Billings Mustangs, and First Interstate Bank, they were instrumental in adding the Blue Jays and Cardinals into the program as Class A teams. Over the years Tom was able to help with many donations of sporting goods.

In May of 2006 Tom retired and he and Millie live in Laurel, Montana where they spend time with their two children, two grandchildren, and "lots of time" on the golf course. He says, "Legion baseball was always a real plus in our lives and the program will always be strong with good committee work, the good coaching we have always had, and the parents' and boosters' cooperation."



2007





2007



**Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball**



The Scott Family & First Interstate Bank

The Scott Family's modern history began with Homer and Mildred (Pil) Scott in Sheridan, Wyoming. He was a regional manager for Peter Kiewit and Sons Construction. After serving two four-year terms on the Federal Reserve Bank Board of Omaha in the early 1960's, he purchased Security Trust and Savings in Billings in 1969 and quickly involved his five children (Dan, Homer Jr. (Scotty), Susan Tom and Jim) in the management of the banks where it has become the largest banking institution in both Montana and Wyoming.

Dan was the manager of the family ranch, The Padlock, for 30+ years until his retirement in 2003. Dan and Jeanne have five children and reside in Dayton, Wy.

Scotty was the Chairman of First Interstate BancSystem, Inc. until he retired two years ago. Scotty and Janet have four children and own and manage the Powderhorn Golf Community in Sheridan, Wy.

Susan and Jack Heyneman have five children and live on the Bench Ranch in Fishtail, Montana where they are very interested in philanthropy and conservation.

Tom was CEO of FIB and, after retirement, became its chairman. Tom and Joan have two children and now reside in Dayton after living in Billings for over thirty years.

Jim started the First Interstate Bank Foundation fourteen years ago, and was Chairman of the Homer and Mildred Scott Foundation until last year. Jim and Chris have three children and live in Billings,

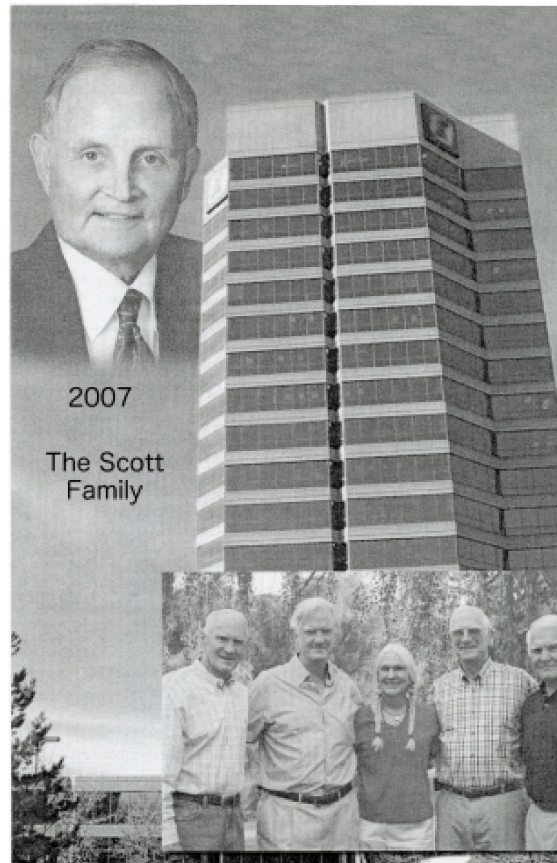
Homer and Pil's legacy was defined by their core values, one of which is giving back to the communities they live and work in. Those values are shared by the 2nd, 3rd and now even the 4th generations of the Scott Family. They give back millions of dollars every year to important organizations in their communities, such as their partnership with the America with Legion Baseball Program.

This partnership began in 1971 with Ed Bayne asking Tom Scott for help in purchasing a pitching machine for the baseball program and then for help in purchasing their uniforms the following year. This commitment to help purchase the teams' uniforms has continued for the last 35 years. Ten years ago FIB committed to donate \$10,000.00 a year for ten years to help with the Program's financial debt.

First Interstate Bank's president, Keith Cook, says, "Part of the Strategic Vision for First Interstate BancSystem is to assist in making our communities a better place to live and work.

We are proud of the difference we make through our philanthropy and the knowledge that we are investing in our future as well as the future of the communities we serve. We also ask our officers and employees to participate in community and charitable organizations by being active and taking leadership positions. Almost every community organization in Billings is touched in some way by First Interstate Bank!"

The Scott Family and the Bank are excited about the community's support for the construction of a new baseball park that the baseball teams will be playing in next summer.



2007

The Scott Family

They have pledged \$500,000.00 over 10 years to this project. Keith Cook says, "Baseball is important to the Billings community. This new facility will provide a great place for our young people to play baseball for many years to come. It helps define who we are and First Interstate Bank is committed to help ensure the future of the American Legion Program. Socially responsible leadership requires nothing less."





2008



Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball



BOB SANDLER

Bob Sandler was born in the Bronx, New York. By age five he was going to games with his father at Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds to watch Joe Dimaggio, and seeing Ted Williams when the Red Sox were in town, or watching Bobby Thomson and the Giants play the Dodgers with Jackie Robinson and Duke Snider. Bob began playing sandlot baseball in his neighborhood. He eventually played sandlot baseball all around the Bronx against teams that had former major league and minor league players as well as future major league players like Joey Foy and Ed Kranepool. He later played high school and some college baseball in New York.

In 1965 Bob came to Billings to Rocky Mountain College to complete his education. He played baseball for Rocky from 1965 to 1967. Upon graduation Bob began his teaching career, which spanned 35 years for the Billings Public Schools. In addition to teaching, he coached football and track. However, Bob was never far from baseball. He began coaching Pony-Colt baseball for several years. And when his sons were old enough, he began the journey with them through T-ball, Little League and Senior League. When his oldest son, David, began playing Legion ball for the Royals, Bob was approached, while sitting in the stands at Cobb Field, to report to the announcer's booth. The announcer informed him that he was on the FBI S.W.A.T. Team and he had to leave. He asked Bob to take over. Thus began twenty years of announcing games for Billings American Legion Baseball.

In addition to announcing, Bob has held every position in the program from ballpark manager to general manager as well as serving as the AA State Chairman for Montana Legion Baseball for a dozen years.





2009



**Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball**



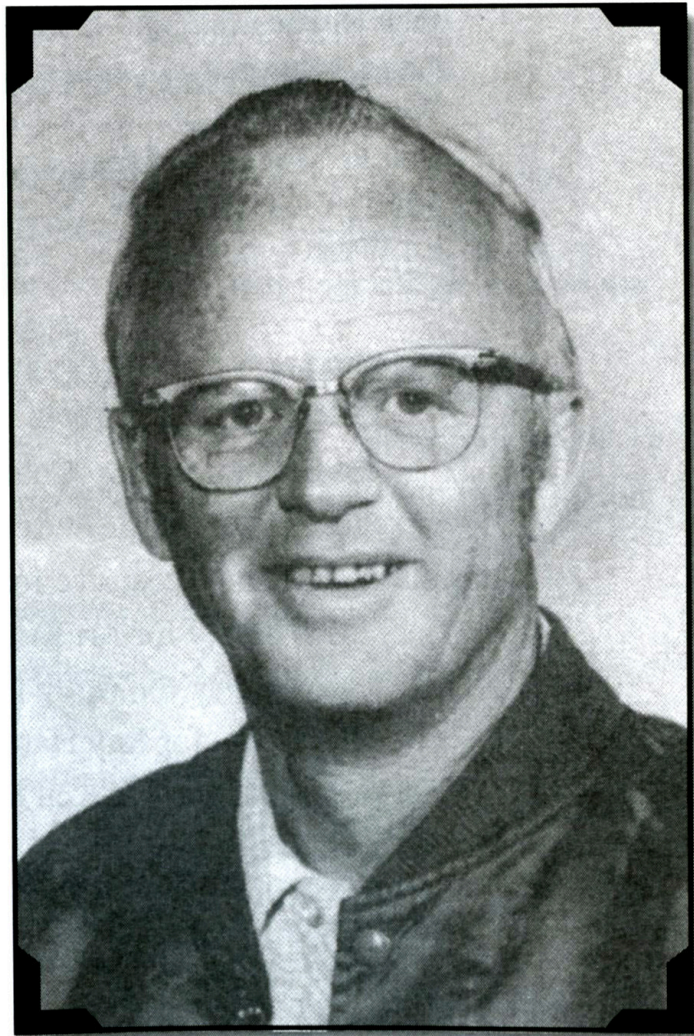
ART KNUDTSON

It was about 1973 when Art Knudtson got involved in American Legion Baseball. His son, Jim, was 14 years old and headed down to Cobb Field to try out for the Billings Scarlets when they were still the farm team for the Billings Royals. In 1974 they won the State B Championship in Havre, Montana. Then in 1975 the team moved up to the "A" ranks with the Royals and Art took charge of ticket sales and helped out with various jobs at the field.

In 1976, the 2nd year of the Scarlets competing in Class A, they won their first state championship, the team being honored here tonight for that accomplishment. Art's son, Jim, was a member of that team.

1977 had some financial set-backs and in 1978 Art stepped in as Athletic Director and combined two high level teams under one American Legion Baseball program. Art says, "I recruited some excellent help over the years of my involvement. People such as Don Kuehn, Tom Farrell, Marilyn Sexton, Doris LaGaly, the Propp family, accountants Tom & Sandy O'Conner, and others on the Board of Directors pitched in to help get Cobb Field equipped with bathrooms, a Legion office, RSVP ticket takers (so parents could watch their sons play), and a sprinkler system at Pirtz Field. When we turned the books over to the next board in 1985 we were financially in the black and in very good shape." Art's dream of seeing the Royals and Scarlets play each other for the State Championship came to fruition in 1980, '85, '88, '89, '93, '05, '08.

Art and Dottie still live in Billings. They have two children, Jim and Sharon and five grandchildren. Art wishes to thank all the people who helped with the Program during his tenure, and those who have donated their time and talents to continue the BALB.





2010



Dave McNally Award

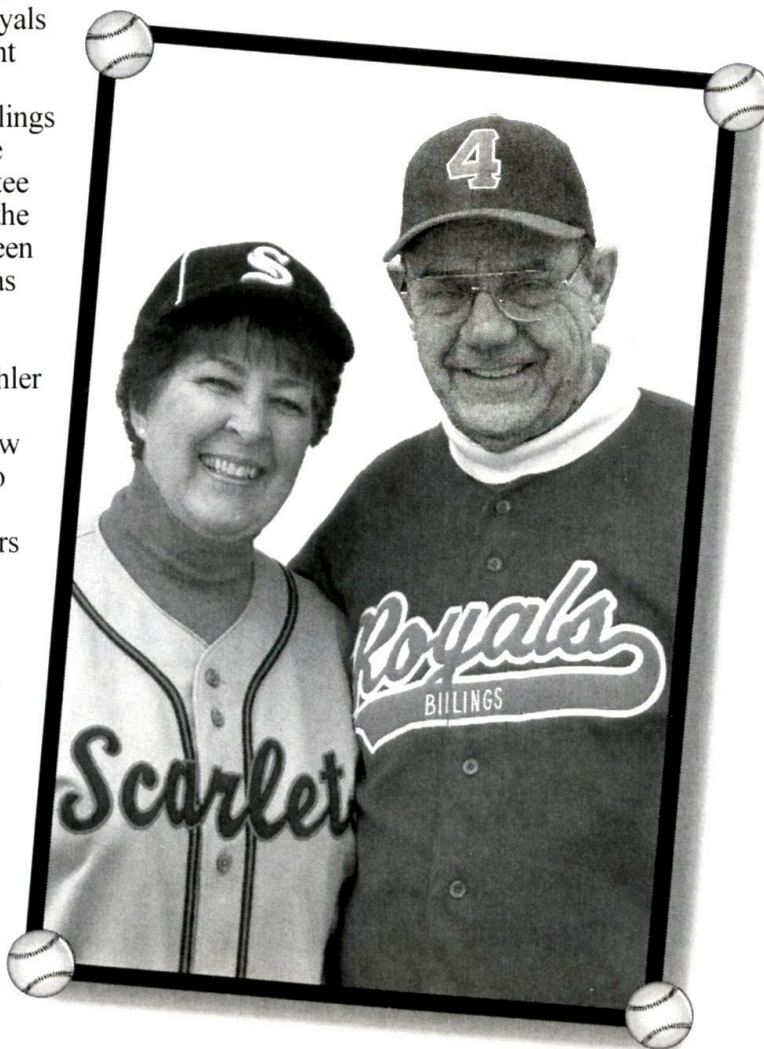
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball



JOE & "SAM" STUDINER

Childhood sweethearts, Joe and Sam Studiner met on the ice skating rink at Scheffer Playground in St. Paul, Minnesota.....one block from her house and six blocks from his. She was 12 years old, he was 13 ½, and in the summer they each played youth softball/baseball. Sam pitched in the St. Paul city softball championship and Joe worked his way through youth baseball programs to become the starting catcher at Mechanic Arts High School. Joe then spent several years in Minnesota Class A semi pro baseball, where Sam was the only paid female official scorekeeper in the Twin Cities for that program. Joe coached youth baseball and American Legion Baseball prior to them moving their family of five children to Billings in 1970. He began with Pony Baseball in Billings and when their three sons started playing ball, Joe started a long coaching stint at Rimrock Little League and Rocky Senior League (now known as Big Sky Little League) and Sam helped run the league, put on score keeping clinics around the state, oversaw the concession stand, re-strung hundreds of baseball mits, and in 1978, became the first woman umpire in Billings for baseball. Joe coached two state championships at Rimrock LL that went to the Western Regionals in San Bernardino, California where the first girl (Michelle Studer) to ever play there was his starting 3rd baseman. He also won two state titles in Senior League, going to regionals at Vancouver, Washington and Salem, Oregon. Sam continued umpiring into the late 1980's until after she became a grandmother (to future Scarlet Joe Studiner). Her favorite umpiring partner was husband, Joe, when he was available. When their three sons played for the Billings Royals, Sam did the announcing and official scorekeeping at Cobb Field. She was also the secretary for District 1 Little League. Joe helped coach the Royals one year and in 2002 to the present has been on the American Legion Board of Directors and on the Billings Mustangs Board of Directors. He was also on the Steering Committee to build Dehler Park. In 2006 to the present Sam has chaired or overseen the Hall of Fame evening. She has also been "Mom" to 24 Mustang players. In 2008 she initiated the idea of a Baseball Museum at Dehler Park to commemorate ALL of Billings' baseball history. It is now becoming a reality! In addition to their involvement in baseball, the Studiner's were founding members of the Billings Amateur Hockey League where Joe was the first coach.

Joe and Sam have been married 47 ½ years, have 5 married children, and 16 grandchildren. They say, "This program, its history, and its alumni extend far beyond Billings, Montana, and we are proud to be a small part of such a rich tradition that has endured the test of time and continues to strive to develop its young men of tomorrow."





2011



Dave McNally Award

Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball



ALEX & DOLLY WEBER

Alex and Dolly (Michael) Weber were both born in the Laurel, Montana area in 1919. They grew up poor in large farming families during the Great Depression. Alex was forced to quit school after the 8th grade to help support his family. He and Dolly married in 1941 and added daughter, Sandi, in 1942 and son, Doug, in 1948.

Alex served in the Pacific in the US Navy during WWII. He worked at various jobs throughout his life but ultimately retired from the US Postal Service after 30 years. Dolly also worked a

variety of jobs including Barney's Drug, Western Drug, and Wonderland, a special place for many Billings' residents. She ended her working years shortly after her first grandson was born and continued to lovingly care for their three grandchildren and two of their great grandchildren off and on for many years.

Alex coached the VFW Little League Baseball Team for three years while Dolly kept score and son, Doug, was bat boy. Doug's love of baseball and passion to play the game soon became apparent so Alex and Dolly encouraged him through Little League, American Legion, and college ball. When Doug's Legion days were over the Webers were asked to continue helping at Cobb Field. And so began the years of flipping burgers and selling tickets (Dolly) and working the ground crew and spinning cotton candy (Alex). Of course the cotton candy was in the same location as the beer garden (where else would it be???) so if Alex got thirsty he didn't have to leave his post to quench his thirst!

Alex and Dolly had a great love for the game of baseball and spent thirty plus years volunteering in one way or another. They were good supporters of the Billings Mustangs, they rarely missed a Legion game when Doug played (at home or on the road), and they followed their grandchildren as they played baseball and softball. They thoroughly enjoyed helping out in any way they could and seemed to know everyone at the ballpark. Anyone who knew Dolly knows she never met a stranger!

"Alex passed away in September 2000 and Dolly shocked all of us when she followed in 2002. She wanted to live to be 100 and we all had no doubt she would. They were wonderful parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and in-laws. Both were hard-working, down-to-earth people who were always willing to lend a hand when needed. We're so proud of them for receiving the Dave McNally Award and they would have been deeply honored to be recognized. We love them and miss them and are very grateful for this award."

The Weber Family





2012



**Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball**



**MARCIE BAYNE
(The Dave McNally Award)**

Marcie Bayne was the wife of longtime Billings American Legion coach, Ed Bayne. They were the proud parents of Ed Bayne, Jack Bayne and Marcia Bayne Pehlke; grandparents to ten, and great grandparents to seventeen.

Marcie was born in Missouri and raised in Billings by her maternal grandparents, Frank and Elizabeth Zimmerman (of Zimmerman Trail), on a ranch west of Billings on what is now Grand Avenue.

She spent most of her life as a friend to American Legion baseball as a coach's wife, a mother, and a spectator.

She and Coach Bayne were married for 62 years and many of their adventures were interwoven with American Legion baseball. Most of their closest and lifelong friends were baseball people from Billings and across the United States. Their only vacations were baseball games and tournament destinations. She often mentioned her "real" vacation, riding the team bus to Yakima, where she watched over the ballplayers as they shared a hotel with a Rainbow Girls convention! She rarely missed home games and considered the hundreds of ballplayers to be "her boys", remembering them always. She was known for pacing outside the fence or behind the bleachers during crucial games.

During all these years, Marcie wore many hats. Her home was always open for ballplayers who needed a place to stay for short or long periods of time. At the drop of a hat, Marcie was a gracious host to countless college and pro scouts which helped give many Billings

players added opportunities after Legion Baseball. She took care of all office work, correspondence, cleaned and mended uniforms and towels, and was a nurse to the boys on the road. She even played the role of a guidance counselor. Many times, ballplayers came to her for advice before they approached Coach Bayne, hoping that she would talk to him first. Taking care of all these roles, she kindly never complained that Ed coached without pay and that they monetarily helped many young men.

Deservingly, Marcie was named American Legion Baseball Mother of the Year in 1969.

After Ed's coaching days were over, she always mentioned that she truly missed the summer baseball adventures and loved the Hall of Fame banquets where she could renew old friendships. And, until her passing on July 28, 2009, she ALWAYS cared about her hair and makeup! Her favorite drive was going by Dehler Park to proudly view the statues of Coach Bayne and Dave McNally and fondly remember old baseball times.

Marcie and Ed could be considered the richest people in Billings when measured by the things that matter the most - the love of family, friends, faith, and truly making a difference in many lives.





2013



Dave McNally Award Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball



FRED URBASKA

Fredrick John Urbaska was born August 27, 1949 in Sheridan, Wyo. While growing up in Billings, baseball played a tremendous role in his life. He excelled as a pitcher for Western Giants LL. However, his desire to pursue higher education superseded his aspirations of playing Legion ball. After being named outstanding young man in Montana by the American Academy of Achievement he graduated from Billings Senior H.S. in 1967. Fred attended Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN where his scholastic regimen was legendary. His mind ranged over topics large and small: He simply wanted to know about everything!

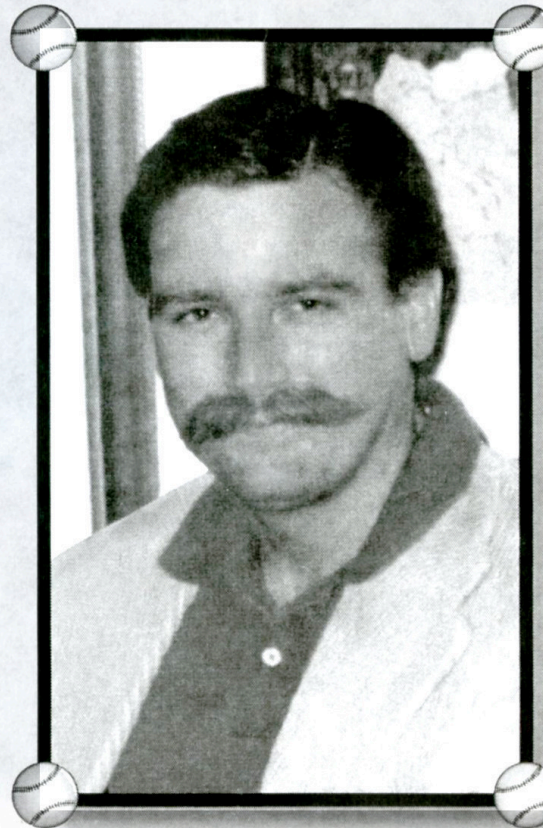
Fred received a Bachelor's degree in French and History from Wabash College, a Master's degree in special education from Ball State Univ. in 1977 and a second Master's degree in cognitive development from Northwestern Univ. in 1979. As a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship he had the opportunity to teach English in a high school in Beauvais, France in 1973-1974.

Youth baseball was always the brightest arena for Fred's altruism. He supported Little League and American Legion programs and was a backer of Billings' pioneering Challengers Program which encouraged physically and/or developmentally challenged youngsters, with the help of other youth, to play baseball. He annually sponsored several baseball teams and was a frequent contributor to the development of baseball fields around Billings. As a good friend once said, "A lot of people support baseball, but not many people build baseball fields. Urbaska did." Fred's vision culminated in the creation of Urbaska Field at the corner of 17th and Poly.

In 1995 the Deaconess Foundation named Fred Philanthropist of the Year. He earned an Outstanding Service Award from the Billings Park and Recreation Department and was given the Community Award by the Billings Chamber of Commerce. He was named a Friend of Education by the Billings Public Schools, and was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International. Fred twice won the Commitment Award for Business in the Arts from the Forbes Foundation and the Business Community for the Arts in New York City. His commitment to the local arts community dated back to 1971 at the Billings Studio Theatre where he initiated the Urbaska Fund which awarded tickets to schoolchildren. He supported the Yellowstone Art Museum by sponsoring public exhibitions and contributions to the museum's education department. And he was a long-time supporter of Public Radio where, for almost two decades, he underwrote the National Symphony Orchestra Concert Weekly Broadcast on KEMC. Other organizations that benefited from his philanthropy include: The Alberta Bair Theatre, The Billings Symphony Orchestra, Family Services, Family Support Network, Yellowstone Search and Rescue, Boy Scouts, Montana Rescue Mission, The Boys and Girls Club of Yellowstone County and the Boys and Girls Ranch.

In 1971 Fred married Maile Meeds from Muncie, IN. They had three children; Mandy (1973), John (1975), and Katie (1979). Mandy preceded her father in death in 1992. Tragically, Fred died all too early in 1997. Fred's family says his sense of community was large and unreserved. He was a great communicator who could make you smile, relax, and feel good about yourself. When his attention shown on you, you would feel warm and happy inside. Countless numbers of people in the area were touched by his love, his friendship, his kindness, his wit, his sparkling mind and his boundless energy. His creativity, insight, financial support and, most importantly, his enthusiasm touched Billings deeply.

Legendary Billings coach, Ed Bayne, said about Fred, "He was quite a gentleman. His priority was youth, he kept things rolling. He did it quietly and never made a show of it. He was a great friend. I could not start to tell people what he did!"





2014



Dave McNally Award

Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball



Nancy & Joe Pirami



(The Dave McNally Award)



Nancy and Joe Pirami have supported the Billings American Legion Baseball Program since their son, Randy, played for the Billings Scarlets during the 1987 and 1988 seasons.

Scarlet coach Dennis Maggert got the parents together and said he would like to take the team to Minneapolis but the Legion program did not have enough money to finance the trip. He asked if they could help raise the funds he needed and a booster club was formed with Carol Holgate as president and Nancy as Secretary. They met every two weeks with Nancy spearheading the organization of activities from September until May. The first fund raiser was a garage sale which had some large ticket items and brought in \$1,600.00. It was so successful they did eight other fund raisers. No pressure was put on the parents but most of them helped willingly. One parent suggested a three on three basketball tournament and it was probably one of the first in Billings due to the success it generated.

At the time in the late 80's there were no 50/50 raffles at the games and Nancy asked someone at the City if they could use the 50/50 as a fund raiser. She was told, "No, it is illegal." However, the Laurel School District was doing 50/50 so the Booster Club decided to give it a try anyway. And, of course, the rest is history!

The parents raised \$12,000.00 that year and the Scarlets got to go to Minneapolis!

Joe announced all of the Scarlet home games for the two years that son Randy played Legion ball. Nancy was asked to be on the BALB Board of Directors and remained there for several more years. She is still one of the signers on the Halverson Scholarship Award check. Joe and Nancy sponsor a Legion player each year with a donation and buy a family pass each year, in addition to attending almost every Hall of Fame banquet.

Joe says, "Nancy did most of the work. I just went along for the ride!"



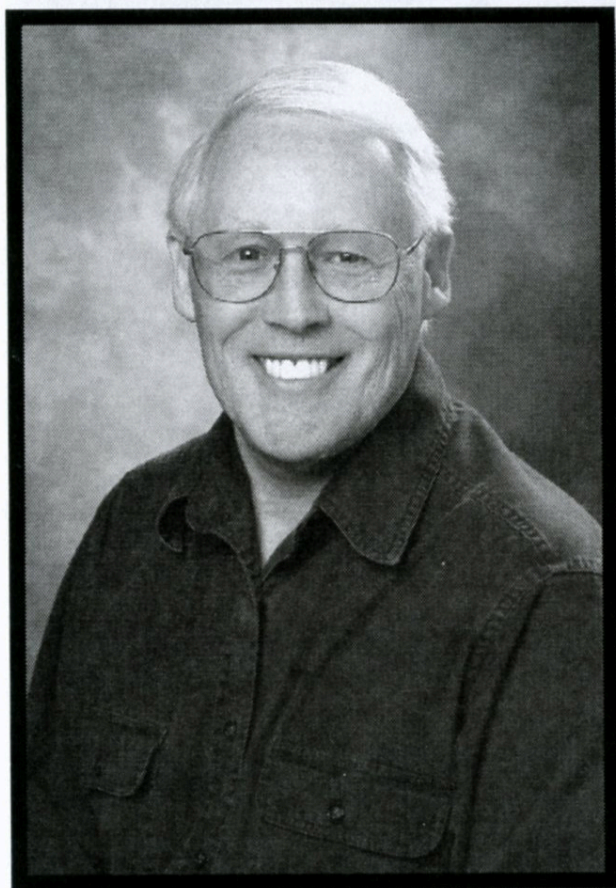
2015



Dave McNally Award Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball



In 1958, Ed West remembers watching pitcher Jerry Walters lead Billings to a victory in an American Legion regional tournament game at Cobb Field. Two years later he witnessed Dave McNally hitting a home run and pitching the team to a regional victory that helped send them to another World Series where they finished second. He recalls Hans Pidino's home-run in the bottom of the ninth that gave Billings its 14th consecutive state championship in 1967.



Ed has been a student of the game of baseball as well as many other sports here in Billings, witnessing plenty of highlights over the years. He has become a "go to guy" for stats and info on the BALB Program. While a sportswriter for the Billings Gazette, Ed covered the Billings American Legion program and wrote about numerous regular season, state, and regional tournament games of the Royals and Scarlets. He was sent to cover his first state tournament in 1974 at Helena. The program had just been officially separated into two AA teams, and the Royals ended up winning the tournament with the Scarlets finishing third.

Since that time, the Scarlets have claimed 13 state championships and the Royals have added six more crowns for a total of 28.

Ed was born in Billings on Dec. 15, 1947. He graduated from Billings Senior and Eastern Montana College (now MSU-Billings.)

Ed spent 39 years as a sportswriter, 37 at the Gazette and two at the Montana Standard in Butte. He was selected as Montana's Sportswriter of the Year in 1983 and 1993. He was a 2004 recipient of the Montana Chapter of the National Football Foundation award and was honored by the Midland Roundtable in 2012.

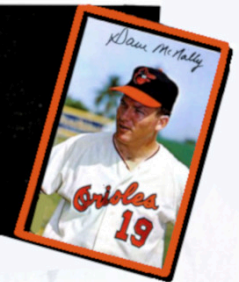
Ed and his wife, Pat, will celebrate their 34th wedding anniversary in June.



2016



**Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball**



Joel Hawkins

In the spring of 1988, Joel received a phone call early one morning. The caller said "I'm getting back into coaching the Royals and I need Assistant coaches. You interested?" The caller was Ed Bayne. At the time, Joel was President of the board of directors for American Legion Baseball.

Paul Marshall, Dick Peterson, and Dave McNally...all worked hard and got Coach Ed Bayne another state championship. Along with a lot of great players, they had a winning combination.

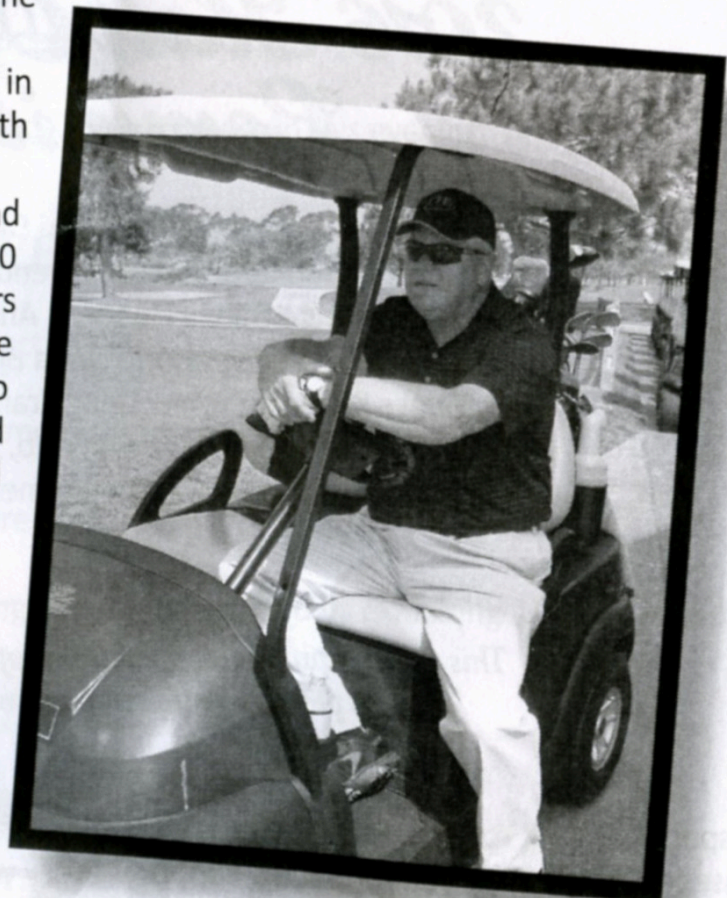
Joel was born in Algona, Iowa on August 15, 1948 and graduated from Billings Senior High School in 1966.

Joel coached with Ed Bayne from 1988 to 1992. In 1993, Joel became the head coach of the Billings Royals along with Jim Rogers, Andy Wade, Rex Welton and Brent Bolin. Joel so enjoyed his time coaching. He was also an assistant coach, the bus driver for the team, grounds keeper and served twice as assistant coach of the Blue Jays. When asked about some of his favorite players, he said all of them.

Joel retired from Cenex Refinery in 2014 after 22 years but still works with their summer student program.

He met his wife Debi on a blind date and has been married to her for 10 years. He has two wonderful daughters Kristie Schuck of Billings and Janelle Haworth of Casper, WY. He has two step-children, Melissa Anderson and Christopher Eurich, both of Billings and blessed with many grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

His interests are golf, grandkids and traveling with his wife. They say if you love what you do you never work a day in your life. If that is the case, Joel has not worked for a very long time.





2017



**Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball**



MARILYNN SEXTON

(The Ed Bayne Award)

Marilynn met her future husband Ron Sexton at Eastern Montana College, now MSU-Billings. When they got married, they moved to Thermopolis, Wyoming where Marilynn taught physical education and reading. Ron coached football and basketball, besides teaching history. Their children, Michelle and Douglas were both born in Thermopolis. Baseball was always a part of their lives as the whole family watched Ron coach the Thermopolis Bobcats and go on to win the state baseball championship.

After five years, the Sextons moved back to Billings and daughter Laurie was born. When Ron decided to get his doctorate at the University of Oregon, they moved to Eugene and daughter Lisa was born.



Mt. Pleasant Michigan was the next destination and Ron began work at Central Michigan University. Baseball again entered the scene when six-year-old Doug started playing ball. After six years, the Sextons moved back home to Billings and Marilynn worked as the Billings Summer Parks and Recreation Director and Ron returned to teach at EMC. Both Michelle and Doug played Little League at Veterans Park (Rimrock Little League). Marilynn returned to teaching at Riverside Jr. H.S. and then Skyview H.S. where she taught computers and journalism, which included the yearbook and newspaper classes. At the same time, Ron became Chancellor at MSU-B and helped re-start the MSU-B baseball program.

As a 14-year-old, son Doug tried out and made the Billings Scarlets team. At the first American Legion meeting of the year, the parents were urged to become involved and support the Scarlets and Royals. After the meeting, Marilynn volunteered to design the athletic program that was sold at the ball games. She created a new template and challenged the parents to sell ads for the books and fence signs. That began a five year tenure of getting the programs printed, overseeing selling the ads and signs, selling the programs at the games, and keeping track of the income generated from all. She also instigated having an additional program printed for state and regional contests. Marilynn served on the Boards of both American Legion Baseball and Little League in Billings.

Son Doug became a member of the 1982 Billings Scarlets team inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011 which included Jeff Ballard, Mike Wier, Brad Helmer Kerry Wahl, Kyle Johansen, Brent Bolin, Mike Reichenberg, Travis Teegarden, Scott Halverson, Brad Stief, Hal Hoagland, Todd Teegarden, Larry Hawthorne, Brian Oistad, Rich Slater, Rob Meidinger, Greg Milbrandt, Mike Nardella, Warren Scheafer and Coaches Dennis Maggert, Mark Schultz, and Kevin Thibeault Through the years, the Sextons say they have been eternally grateful to Coach Maggert for his coaching expertise and for helping his "boys" receive scholarships, of which son Doug received one to attend the University of Utah.

Marilynn and Ron have been married 56 years, and are enjoying three grandsons, two step-grandsons, and family gatherings at their Red Lodge cabin. They have spent a great deal of their time attending orchestra concerts, baseball games, football games and basketball games.



2018
Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball



Dan Barz



Dan Barz

Dan Barz moved to Billings in 1953. He lived here for 53 years. Dan met his wife Diane MacDonald at his brother's wedding in Terry, MT.

Diane Barz, "Judge Diane Barz" was the only woman in her class of 30 men. She received her Juris Doctor of Law degree at the University of Montana law school. Dan said, "Diane was one of Montana's trailblazing women". In addition she received many awards. Judge Barz was appointed the first woman to serve on the Montana Supreme court. After an 8 year battle with cancer, Diane passed away on May 14, 2014.

Rocky Barz was their only child. Rocky played for the Scarlets under Coach Dennis Maggert and Les Rohr, as a catcher.

Dan Barz has been very involved in the Billings community, holding such positions as State Chairman Ducks Unlimited for 5 years, and President of the Billings Jaycees. Before moving to Polson, Dan was the President of First Interstate Bank West in Billings. Dan is retired.

Dan enjoyed many wonderful years as President of the Scarlet Booster Club and a couple years on the Billings American Legion Board of Directors. Dan has many fond memories of trips and activities with the Scarlets including fundraising events for the American Legion Baseball program such as "Corn at the Cobb Field." The baseball players sold corn for \$1 a dozen and it funded their trip to go to Texas for a tournament!

Dan still has a patio home in Billings, and belongs to Yellowstone Country Club, so that he can travel down to see Rocky's family and do some hunting in the fall, but he still lives in my home on the west shore of Flathead Lake.

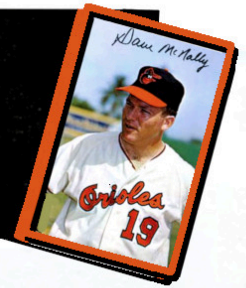
"Our involvement (Diane and Dan) with American Legion Baseball was a joint effort, obviously a result of the 4 years Rocky spent with the Scarlets, that I will forever treasure," Dan said. "They were truly 4 of the greatest years of my life!"



2019



**Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball**



Karen Maggert



Karen grew up in Iowa, attending Central Community School. Her father Robert Buckner was a baseball coach and Karen grew up attending his games. Mr. Buckner coached two State Championship teams in Central City Iowa. Karen's father was a survivor of Iwo Jima and is who she looks up for more than baseball. Her father was just a 17-year-old Marine on the first day (second wave) of the battle until the flag went up. After that he was shipped off to occupy Japan.

Karen married Dennis Maggert former coach of the Billings Scarlets. They had two daughters, Kristy (Matt Hamar) and Lindsay (Eric Whirley). Karen has five grandchildren, Ian 15, Miah 13, Noah 10, Madison 21 and Emily 19. Kristy and family live in Bismarck ND. Lindsay and family live in Bozeman MT. Karen is a bookkeeper at C & B Operations, LLC (John Deere)

It was a privilege to be at Dennis Maggert's side during his tenure as head coach of the Billings Scarlets for 21 years. Baseball was a huge part of my young adult life. I always felt that I had 18 boys in my family. I celebrated the wins and mourned at losses like a parent. Denny often said he was sorry that we did not have a normal summer like everyone else, but I always said, I would not change a thing, I loved my life and I loved baseball. Those were great days!! Life long friends were the result of y baseball days. Our daughters grew up played with Barbie dolls in the bleachers, retrieving foul balls for treats, going to the swimming pool in the summer while Denny had practice and having crushes on ball players that gave them any attention. Both Kristy and Lyndsay would agree, baseball was a huge part of their lives and would not change any part of it. Growing up, hanging out at the ball park back in the 70's and 80's was carefree and fun. Nothing like sitting in Cobb Field on a hot day and a cool evening watching your favorite team. Life was good then and still is today!!!!!!!!!!!!

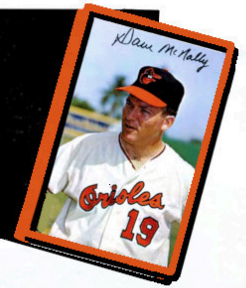
Thanks for the honor. I am humbled and appreciative!



2022



Dave McNally Award
Honorary Friend of Legion Baseball



The Dave McNally Award

The Dave McNally Friends of American Legion Baseball award was started in the 1st year of the Hall of Fame banquet. The award is meant to honor and recognize any individual or company that has volunteered and/or gone above and beyond in supporting Billings American Legion Baseball over the many years of its existence.

Scheels is the award winner for this year. They have been such a strong supporter of Billings American Legion Baseball in this community. Scheels is directly responsible for our turf infield at Pirtz Field and they are very deserving of this award. The community, Billings American Legion board, players, parents, and fans are very thankful for their giving spirit.

Thank you Scheels for all you do for BALB and baseball in Billings!

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