

Tennessee Senior Olympics 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees

Marilyn Beckner- 87

- Marilyn is from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and has been involved with the Tennessee Senior Olympics for more than 10 years.
- A retired physical therapist, she continues to inspire others through her passion for healthy, active living.
- She competes in swimming and pickleball and has represented Tennessee at multiple National Senior Olympic Games.
- A cancer survivor, she has overcome significant challenges while earning multiple medals and setting records.
- She has been an asset to her district Games, always willing to jump in and volunteer.
- Known for encouraging others and leading by example, she is a true role model for active aging.
- Congratulations Marilyn!

Gail Ragland-82

- Gail is from Brentwood, Tennessee, and at 82 years young, is being recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- A dedicated presence within the Tennessee Senior Olympics, Gail has served as one of the first and most welcoming faces many athletes encounter.
- For 18 years, she has managed the TSO Athlete Check-in.
- Over the years, she has greeted thousands of participants, helping create a positive and memorable experience for competitors from across the state.
- Known for her warmth and enthusiasm, Gail has been described as “a bright shining star for the TSO.”
- Her commitment, spirit, and lasting impact truly embody the heart of the Tennessee Senior Olympics community.
- Congratulations Gail!

Larry Thoman-69

- Larry is from Gallatin, Tennessee, and has been involved with the Tennessee Senior Olympics for 30 years.
- A dedicated athlete and volunteer, he has led and hosted the TSO table tennis competition for three decades, never missing a year.
- He has medaled every year he has competed, earning gold for more than 15 years.
- From his teenage years, he has competed at a national level.
- Beyond competing, he organizes year-round events, supports players, and ensures fair and inclusive competition.
- His leadership and sportsmanship make him a true ambassador for the Tennessee Senior Olympics.
- Congratulations Larry!

Bob VanFleteren- 67

- Bob is from Fairview, Tennessee, and has been involved with the Tennessee Senior Olympics for 15 years.
- He is an accomplished track and field athlete, holding 14 Tennessee state records.
- Amazingly, he did not start competing until joining the TSO.
- He has competed in every district and state meet since turning 50.
- Known for encouraging others (including staff) and recruiting new athletes, he is a strong ambassador for the program.
- His dedication, character, and sportsmanship truly reflect the spirit of the games.
- Congratulations Bob!
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Athletes and volunteers like our inductees inspire us with their drive and dedication to living a healthy and active life.

Thank you for being great role models for us and all your neighbors throughout Tennessee!