

## **Tennessee Senior Olympics Hall of Fame Inaugural Class 2017**

For the past 37 years, Tennesseans age 50 and up have taken part in the Games to stay active in sports and engaged with their peers. Those being honored in this inaugural class have taken full advantage of the opportunities the Senior Olympics has provided.

The six inductees chosen have all participated or served in the Senior Olympics for decades.

It is the privilege of title sponsor BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and the Hall of Fame Committee to recognize these extraordinary people for their unique achievements and their commitment to maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle as they age. They are each an inspiration to all of us, to their families and to their communities.

### **CHARLIE BAKER**

Mr. Charles Baker is from Chattanooga. Charlie, a lifelong runner, is 90 years old and has been involved with the Senior Olympics since 1993. He has participated in track and field events including running, discus, javelin, high jump, and long jump, as well as racquetball, pickleball and volleyball. He's participated in local, state and national Senior Olympics events in more than half a dozen states over the years – breaking numerous records. Charlie's favorite thing about the Senior Olympics is that it offers him a way to stay active and involved. During his time as a Senior Olympics Ambassador and Board member, Charlie has helped others understand the value of the program, too.

### **WARREN BARGER**

Mr. Warren Barger, of Chattanooga, has been involved in senior activities for decades, even before the Senior Olympics were founded. His senior sports career began with volleyball and soon spread to badminton. He turned out to be a gifted recruiter and instructor, and he taught many people how to play. Active all his life, 96 year old Warren currently plays badminton twice a week, pickleball once a week and golf once a week. He's broken more than a dozen records as a senior athlete - in fact, he broke the National Senior Olympics high jump record in his age group at the 2017 Nationals – and has won many medals. Warren enjoys being able to compete at the Senior Olympics and see the friends he's made over the years.

## MARGARET JONES

Ms. Margaret Jones is from Clarksville, Tenn. While she's the youngest of the inductees, she also holds the distinction of having been involved with the Senior Olympics almost since the very beginning, thanks to her work as Deputy Director with the City of Clarksville Parks and Recreation department. During her three decades of service with the department, Margaret did just about everything there is to do when it comes to hosting a Senior Olympics event. She has scored all kinds of events, done brackets, paid bills, you name it. About 10 years ago, she became a Senior Olympics participant herself, competing in her favorite sport, golf. She has served as a Board member for many years and helped the organization grow. After the Games moved to Williamson County in 2005, she continued to travel each summer to serve at the state finals. Little Mama, as she's known, loves coming and working the Olympics, and seeing all her old friends each year.

## ROBERT JONES

Another legend in the Tennessee Senior Olympics is Mr. Robert Jones, **age 103**, who has competed in the Jackson area for decades, winning hundreds of medals and breaking more than 95 records in everything from track & field events like shot put, discus and javelin, to softball throw. He also competed in shuffleboard, basketball, and softball, as well as bowling, his favorite event. Robert was setting records as recently as 2015, and continued to train and compete for another 15 years after undergoing major organ-removal surgery. He has fond memories of attending the Nationals over the years, traveling to places like Syracuse and Louisville with his wife and their friends.

### **EDDIE LISKOVEC**

Mr. Eddie Liskovec, of Crossville, is an 88 year old Michigan native who has won 287 medals over the past 28 years in a variety of events including track & field, golf and pickleball. Eddie is a proud Ambassador for the Senior Olympics program and has been a huge help and support for his Upper Cumberland district – he loves getting others involved, and truly enjoys encouraging and congratulating his fellow participants. Eddie credits the games with helping him to recover from a quadruple bypass in 1995. His wife, Muffin, stays active with him and volunteers to support many of the Senior Olympic events.

### **JOANNE RAMSEY**

Mrs. Joanne Ramsey began participating in the Senior Olympics in 1992, not long after retiring from her career as a high school coach and physical education teacher. She coached women's basketball, softball, tennis and volleyball at Columbia Central High School where she received coach of the year honors and won several district, regional and state championships. The softball complex in Columbia, Tenn. is named "The Joanne Ramsey Complex" in recognition of her contributions. She was inducted into the Columbia Bowling Association Hall of Fame. She and her husband, Bob, competed together in Tennessee Senior Olympics for 20 years, earning 370 medals in a variety of events including horseshoes, track and field, shuffleboard, badminton, basketball free throw and bowling. She competed in three national senior games. Joanne passed away in December 2016 at the age of 85, but what an honor to have her in this first class.