

# Virginia High School Hall of Fame

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## 2014 Virginia High School Hall of Fame Honorees Chosen

*25th HOF Class features eight inductees*

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA** — Eight individuals who have made outstanding contributions to high school athletic and activity programs have been selected to the 2014 Virginia High School Hall of Fame. Members of the Class of 2014, the 25th to be inducted, will bring total membership to 249.

The Class of 2014 includes four coaches (Marie Crump – Powhatan HS; Stan Morgan – Midlothian HS; Steve Ragsdale – Giles HS; Rich Serbay – The James Monroe HS) and four contributors (Mary Kay Downes – Chantilly HS; Wylie French – Frank W. Cox HS, Kempsville HS, Green Run HS and Salem HS, Va. Beach; Cecil Hurst – Cardinal Basketball Officials Association; Linda Mercer – Halifax County HS).

Sponsored jointly by the Virginia High School League and the Virginia High School Coaches Association, the Hall is dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of outstanding achievements by students and adults in sports and activities within Virginia's public high schools.

Athletes are eligible for consideration 10 years after completion of their high school careers and are judged primarily for their achievements in interscholastic sports. Coaches are eligible after 15 years of experience or upon retirement and are judged on the merits of their achievements at the high school level. Contributors are professionals who have rendered significant services in some other capacity such as administration, academic activities, officiating, media or sports medicine.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame induction dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 15, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Charlottesville. The honorees are as follows:

### Coaches

#### **Marie Crump**

**Powhatan High School**  
Softball

As the softball coach at Powhatan High School for 34 years (1981-present) Marie Crump has guided her teams to a 679-96 overall record; five state championship (1993, 1994, 1996, 1999 in Group A and 2001 in Group AA); two state runner-up finishes (1997, 2006); 26 district titles; 10 regional championships; eight region runner-up finishes and one conference title in 2014. She has been recognized as state softball coach of the year four times (1993, 1996, 1999 and 2001); region coach of the year 10 times; district coach of the year 15 times and twice named an NHSACA (National High School Athletic Coaches Association) Coach of the Year finalist. Crump also posted a 219-44 overall record as head girls volleyball coach from 1990-2002, which included 11 district titles and two region

runner-up finishes. She also served as the head girls basketball coach (1984-1992); assistant girls varsity basketball coach (1993-1999) and JV girls basketball coach (1982-1983).

An active member of the Virginia High School Coaches Association (VHSCA) for over 30 years; Crump serves on the VHSCA Legislative Committee and the VHSCA Executive Committee as well as coordinating the VHSCA softball all-state selections while also serving as the VHSCA all-star softball game coordinator. Born in Richmond, she graduated from Powhatan High School in 1976 and received her BS degree in health & physical education from James Madison University in 1980. She also has an M.ED in secondary guidance and counseling from Longwood University. Crump retired from teaching in June of 2013 and resides in Powhatan.

### **Stan Morgan, Jr.**

**Midlothian High School**  
**Boys and Girls Cross Country**

Stan Morgan came to Midlothian in 1987 to coach football and indoor/outdoor track and in 1989 took over the boys and girls cross country programs beginning a legacy that includes 11 cross country state titles (six girls and five boys); 23 cross country region championships; 32 cross country district titles and four conference championships. He was honored as girls state cross country coach of the year twice (2005 and 2006); region coach of the year 14 times and district coach of the year 14 times. As the boys cross country coach, he was named region coach of the year seven times and district coach of the year 15 times. Morgan was selected VHSL Coach of the Year in 2005 and 2006. He was an NHSACA girls cross country coach of the year finalist twice (2008 and 2012) and a finalist for boys in 2007. He was the NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) Mideast Sectional Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2012. In 2006, both his boys and girls cross country teams were ranked the number one team in the southeast and qualified for the Nike Nationals in Portland, Oregon.

Morgan serves on the Virginia High School Coaches Association Legislative Council and is a member of the USA Track and Field Association. A 1958 graduate of Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Morgan earned his BS in physical education from Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va in 1963. Morgan retired from teaching in 2006 and resides in Midlothian.

### **Steve Ragsdale**

**Giles High School**  
**Football**

Steve Ragsdale became the head football coach at Giles High School in 1978 and led the Spartans to three VHSL state football championships in three different decades, claiming Division 2 titles in 1993 and 2005 and a Group AA title in 1980. During his 31 years as the Spartans head football coach, his Giles teams compiled a 255-89-2 record; won 15 district championships; 10 regional championships and two state runner-up finishes in 1996 and 2006. In addition, he was the head basketball coach at Giles from 1975-86. He was named New River District Coach of the Year in football numerous times, Region IV Coach of the Year, All-Timesland Coach of the Year and state coach of the year. He was also selected to coach in the Virginia High School Coaches Association (VHSCA) all-star football game. A member of the VHSCA from 1978 through 2007, Ragsdale is also a member of the National Single Wing Coaches Association.

Born in Roanoke, Ragsdale graduated from Narrows High School in 1969. He earned a BS degree in math education from Roanoke College and was a four-year letter winner (1969-73) in basketball. Ragsdale played on the Maroons 1971-72 national championship team coached by Charlie Moir and is a member of the Roanoke College athletic Hall of Fame. He received a Master of Arts degree from Virginia Tech in 1975. He retired from coaching following the 2007 football season and resides in Pearisburg.

### **Rich Serbay**

**The James Monroe High School**  
**Football**

Rich Serbay has led The James Monroe High School to four VHSL state football championships, claiming Division 3 titles in 1986, 1987, 1996 and 2008 as well as two state runner-up finishes in 2011 and 2013. During his 29 years as the head coach, his James Monroe teams have compiled a 224-117-1 record; posted 24 winning seasons; made 22 appearances in the state playoffs; won 10 district championships; nine regional championships; and played in

six state title games. He was selected state Division 3 coach of the year twice; as well as VirginiaPreps Division 3 Coach of the Year and Fredericksburg Area Coach of the Year three times. He was named district coach of the year 20 times and region coach of the year eight times. In addition to his outstanding record as a head football coach, Serbay served as athletic director at James Monroe for 22 years. Under his direction, the Yellow Jackets athletic teams won 142 district, regional and state championships. He also directed 29 district tournaments; 22 region tournaments and three state quarterfinal basketball tournaments.

An active member in the VHSCA for 35 years, he is also a past member of the VIAAA (Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association). Serbay is a member of the James Monroe High School Hall of Fame and the Towson University Hall of Fame where he was a starting offensive lineman on the undefeated 1974 Towson Tigers football team. A native of Yonkers, N.Y., Serbay graduated from Towson with a bachelor of science degree in 1974. He resides in Fredericksburg.

## Contributors

### **Mary Kay Downes**

#### **Chantilly High School**

##### **Journalism**

For over 40 years, Mary Kay Downes has taught journalism, while producing award winning yearbooks for Chantilly High School. Her award winning yearbook, "Odyssey" has earned 18 VHSL Trophy Class distinctions; 18 NSPA Pacemakers and 10 CSPA crown awards. In addition, "Odyssey" has earned four Charles E. Savedge Awards for Sustained Excellence in Scholastic Journalism – Yearbook Category. She is founder and past-resident of AFPE, a professional educators organization; past-president of CSPAA and current Chair of the Honors Committee; judges yearbooks for NSPA, CSPA and SIPA; provides on-spot critiques at CSPA and JEA National Conventions. In addition, Downes presents and takes students to four journalism conventions each year; authored articles printed in state and national journalism publications and mentored seven new publication advisers in the Fairfax County Public Schools.

Her numerous awards include: VAJTA Freeman Award; Thomas Jefferson Award; CSPA Gold Key; NSPA Pioneer Award; Herndon Dulles Educator of the Year Award; JEA Distinguished Yearbook Adviser; JEA National Yearbook Adviser of the Year; JEA Medal of Merit and SIPA Elizabeth Dickey Service Award.

A native of Albany, N.Y., she earned her bachelor's degree in English from Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y., in 1964 where she was editor-in-chief of her college yearbook. She earned a master's degree in English Literature from Duquesne University in 1965. Downes resides in Centreville.

### **Wylie French**

#### **Frank W. Cox HS, Kempsville HS, Green Run HS and Salem HS-Va. Beach**

##### **Principal**

Wylie French served with distinction as a high school principal in the Virginia Beach Public Schools with a noted record of achievement and support of the Virginia High School League (VHSL). At the age of 35, French became the youngest principal in Virginia when he was appointed to that position at Frank W. Cox High School in 1969. During his tenure at Cox, he oversaw a Falcons athletic program that won a Tidewater record 40 state titles and win 12 prestigious Wells Fargo Cups for athletic excellence. After leaving Cox, he went on to open two new high schools – Green Run High School in 1979 and Salem High School in 1989. As the Beach District's first chairman, and spanning the inaugural six years of its existence, French helped usher in cutting edge opportunities for all students, particularly young women in support of Title IX. He also appointed Virginia Beach's first African-American head football coach, Cadillac Harris, at Green Run High School. His 45-year contributions and service to the VHSL include serving on the executive committee (1987-91) and the VHSL redistricting committee. He was honored with the VHSL's distinguished service award.

French served as chair and vice-chair of the Tidewater Community College Board of Directors; vice-chair and second vice-chair of the Norfolk Sports Club. He has been a 30-year member of the NASSP and AASA and is a member of the University of Virginia Student Aid Foundation. The Virginia PTA conferred him with a lifetime membership.

A Norfolk native, French graduated from Norview High School in 1952. He attended VMI and received his bachelor's degree in history from the College of William and Mary-Norfolk Division in 1958. He earned a master's in educational administration from the University of Virginia in 1965 and a certificate of advanced studies from Old Dominion University in 1974. Although "officially" retired, he continues to serve as a weekly volunteer at Landstown High School and Technology Academy and resides in Virginia Beach.

### **Cecil Hurst**

#### **Cardinal Basketball Officials Association Commissioner**

A member of the Cardinals Basketball Officials Association since 1971, Cecil Hurst is widely respected as one of the top officials in the state, working numerous regional and state championships. He also served as the association's commissioner for over two decades, assigning officials to local high school games and assisting in the selection of state championship officials. Beyond his stellar reputation as a top basketball official, Hurst has worked to mentor and develop generations of younger officials who have proceeded to achieve success at the state, collegiate and professional level. He works with the VHSL to coordinate camps to train new officials on the principles and practice of officiating, while also working with development camps to identify new officials to work games at the championship level.

He was awarded the Cardinal Basketball Officials Association Ralph Gordon Award in 1992 and in 2013 was awarded the Washington Post Donald Huff Award for contributions to high school athletics in Northern Virginia. He resides in Locust Grove.

### **Linda Mercer**

#### **Halifax County High School Journalism**

Linda Mercer began advising the student newspaper and started the yearbook at the newly created Halifax County Junior High in 1970. She continued to advise both publications until 1988 when she transferred to Halifax County High School teaching journalism and advising both the yearbook and newspaper. Until her retirement in 2004, she taught at VHSL fall and spring workshops; Columbia Scholastic Press Association and other journalism workshops.

Mercer is a founding member of the Virginia Association of Journalism Teachers and Advisers (VAJTA). When the VAJTA began its mentor initiative, Mercer was among the first group of volunteers. She has mentored journalism teachers at both Halifax County middle and high schools. Her involvement in the VHSL includes judging the VHSL's Creative Writing contests since its inception and teaching sessions at VHSL workshops as well as VAJTA teacher training and national conventions. She continues to judge yearbooks for Columbia Scholastic Press Association and National Scholastic Press Association. Her other honors and achievements include: Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Key; Lifetime Achievement for Advising from the Oklahoma Interscholastic Press Association; VAJTA Thomas Jefferson Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Education and the JEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

A native of Holyoke, Mass., she graduated from Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C., in 1969. She has taken post-graduate courses in journalism at the University of Oklahoma, the University of Virginia, VCU, Ohio University and the University of Iowa. She resides in Halifax.

#### **Inductees in the Virginia High School Hall of Fame include:**

**1990:** Athletes - Keith Atherton, Edd Clark Jr., Carroll Dale, Doug Dickinson, Benton Dodd and Ralph Sampson. Coaches - Jimmie Bryan, Fred Cooper, Bobby Crantz, Howard Deel, Bill Littlepage, Billy Martin, Alger Pugh, George Quarles Jr., Mike Smith and Gracie VanDyke. Contributors - John Caywood, Greever Crouse, Bob Frank, Art Greene, Marshall Johnson, Bill Pace and John Youngblood.

**1991:** Athletes - Ollan Cassell, Moses Malone, Sidney Snell and Bobby Stokes. Coaches - Vince Bradford, Julius Conn, Ralph Cummins, Pat Dean, Chester Fritz, Harry Fry, Husky Hall, Bill Long and Lefty Wilson. Contributors - Richard Fletcher, Hubert Grim Jr., Ben Hurt, Norm Lord, Frank McCue and Chuck Savedge.

**1992:** Athletes - Johnny Oates, Tommy Theodose and Ben Valley. Coaches - Gordon Bragg, James (Suey) Eason, John Epperly, Del Norwood, Charlie Nuttycombe, Al Rinaldi and Paul Sizemore. Contributors - Harry Blevins, Eddie Crane, George Gasser, Clarence Jones, Robert McLelland, Barbara Reinwald and Gene Thompson.

**1993:** Athlete - Paul Gentry. Coaches - Ken Brown, Bob Hardage, Charlie Harkins, Jim Holdren and Thad Madden. Contributors - Vic Blue, Joel Grimm, Bob McCoy and Wendell Seldon.

**1994:** Athletes - Raymond Crouch and Frank Eastman. Coaches - Francis (Boodie) Albert, Welton Bloxsom, Pete Brewbaker, Louise Martin and Joe Robinson. Contributors - Carl Deane, Earl Gillespie, Jimmy Jones, Charles Karmosky and Bert Smith.

**1995:** Athlete - Jeff Baker. Coaches - Eddie Dean, Paul Hatcher and Claude Warren. Contributors - Hud Clark, Don Riviere and James (Smokey) Stover.

**1996:** Athlete - Jacob Adams. Coaches - Donald Glick, Joan Hudson, Norman Lineburg, Ronald Skeen and Robert Williams. Contributors: Nancy Haga and James Omps.

**1997:** Athletes - Eric Sievers and Tom Trice. Coaches - Ed Henry, Phil Robbins and Frank Webster. Contributors - Robert Carson, Bill Knowles, Bill Lee and Betty Morton.

**1998:** Athletes – Paula Girven and Barty Smith. Coaches – Glynn Carlock, Nancy Fowlkes, Ann Lockett and Mack Shupe. Contributors – Richard Fitz, Charles Kurtz and Bob Sandell.

**1999:** Coaches – A.K. Johnson, Bill Lawson and Sam Woods. Contributors – Jennifer Bradley, Jim Carroll and Larry Pence.

**2000:** Athletes – Jackie Gordon, Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, Buster O’Brien and Ken Willard. Coaches – Kate Carter and Chip Chappell. Contributors – Delmer Botkin, Bill Leffler and Bob Patterson.

**2001:** Athlete – Robert Banks. Coaches – Bill Brown, Jim Cutler and Willis White. Contributors – Buddy Comer, Ralph Harrison, Nancy Ruth Patterson and Jim Sangston.

**2002:** Athlete – Tamela Penny. Coaches – Pat Austin, Gerald Burke, Eddie Icenhour and Glenn Proctor. Contributors – Claudia Dodson, Carol Lange and Hugh Pendleton.

**2003:** Athletes – Barry Hamler and Grant Hill. Coaches – Stephen Hubbard, Joe May and Lillie Moore. Contributors – Karen Finch, Cecil Layman Jr. and Judy Wallace.

**2004:** Athletes – Doug Bates and Bryant Stith. Coaches – Leo Anthony and Leroy Dail. Contributors – Edward Allen, Evelyn Dawkins, Donald Hitt and David Morgan.

**2005:** Athlete – Evan Tracy Stallard. Coaches – Dominick Joe Colobro, Frances Ann Simpson, Jerry Lee Slaughter, Thomas L. Turner and Lucy Elizabeth Walker. Contributors – Larry Johnson and Vito A. Perriello, Jr., M.D.

**2006:** Athletes – Ronde Barber and Tiki Barber. Coaches – Bo Bowers and J.J. Updike. Contributors – Joe Gieck, Donna King, Nancy Phaup and Wilma Wirt.

**2007:** Athletes – Dell Curry, Terry Kirby and Chris Slade. Coaches – Wayne Cosby and Dennis “Koz” Kozlowski. Contributors – Bruce Bowen, Dr. Carol Chory, Jerry Deviney, Sandy Hadaway and Harry Ward.

**2008:** Athletes - Thomas Jones, Megan McCarthy and Calvin Talford. Coaches - Roger Bergey, Shelly Blumenthal, Patricia Mitchell and Jim Rike. Contributors - Martha Akers, Jeff Dietze, Ralph Law and Charlene Tiller.

**2009:** Athletes – Ronald Curry and Steve Jolley. Coaches – Kevin Denson and Cecil Maddux. Contributors - Alma Blythe, Doug Hunt, Dave Nelson and Bruce Phelps.

**2010:** Athletes – Walter Bowser and D.J. Dozier. Coaches – Michael Cooper, Nancy Specht, John Wymer. Contributors: Drew Bright, Bob Button, Jane Layman, Debbie, Turlip.

**2011:** Athletes – Charlie Beverly and Steve Marsee. Coaches – Alan Cantrell, Dave Crist, Jr., Dave Davis, Spencer Mayfield, Jr., and Tim Sarver. Contributors: Lora Bickley, Ron Richards and Emilie Tilley.

**2012:** Athletes – Stacy Ervin. Coaches – Pat Deegan, John Shotwell, Robert Smith and Troy Wells. Contributors: John Altizer, Mary Sue Crommelin, Steve Geiman and Bruce Patrick.

**2013:** Athletes – Mike Milchin and Anthony Poindexter. Coaches – Chip Berry, George Lancaster, Jr. and Jim Woodson Contributors: Cindy Bomboske and John Williams.

Nominations for the Hall of Fame are due October 31 of each year, for induction the following fall. Nomination must be made through members of the VHSL or VHSCA, and those interested in nominating deserving individuals may secure a nomination packet from Mike McCall and/or Sharon Condoulis at the VHSL office (434-977-8475), [mmccall@vhsl.org](mailto:mmccall@vhsl.org) or [scondoulis@vhsl.org](mailto:scondoulis@vhsl.org).

### **About VHSL**

The Virginia High School League is an alliance of Virginia’s public high schools that promotes education, leadership, sportsmanship, character and citizenship for students by establishing and maintaining high standards for school activities and competitions. The 313 member schools and more than 200,000 students participate in 27 different sports and eight academic activities, culminating in more than 100 state championships each year.

### **About VHSCA**

The idea was born in 1947. A purpose and constitution was established in 1957. By 1968, 1,219 coaches belonged to the VHSCA. Today, over 7,100 coaches representing 293 public high schools are members of the Virginia High School Coaches Association.

**-VHSL-**