

Merrilyn E Mallette

Meritorious Service



Merrilyn E Mallette, “Meri” as she is known in bowling circles, was born September 17, 1927 in Centreville, Michigan and educated in schools in Michigan, Indiana and Kansas. She graduated from Marian, Indiana High School in 1945, and enrolled in Stuart Circle Hospital school of Nursing. When Robert “Bob” Mallette returned home from the Marine Corp, he and Meri were married in September 1946 and were married for 57 ½ years. They have 4 children Jon, Joel, Jeff, and Jennifer. Meri has 11 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Meri’s introduction to tenpin bowling began in 1947 on newly built lanes in Coldwater, Michigan, when the employer, the Federal Mogul Corp formed an employee’s league. Meri was a PBX Operator/Receptionist. She had to forgo all bowling activities while the children were small. In 1961 after Bob was transferred to Cleveland, she and her neighbors joined a ladies daytime league. The following year, Meri became the secretary of the league. Through this experience, Meri learned the value of workshops and open meetings and she attended regularly. In 1966, another company move for Bob brought the Mallettes to Baltimore. Meri again took to the lanes as a substitute in the Coffee-Breakers league at Fair Lanes Woodlawn. By the end of the season, she was a regular member. Meri was elected secretary of those leagues for the 1968-69 seasons, and has served continuously since then. Meri is retired from Maryland National Bank, where she was employed part-time for 18 years as a teller.

On the local level, Meri has been a member of Baltimore Women’s Bowling Association (BWBA) for 41 years, and has participated in 39 BWBA tournaments. In 1974, she was elected a Director and served in that position until 1981. She was elected Treasurer in 1981 and served in that position until 1994 when she was appointed 1st Vice-President. She served as Vice-President for one year and continued to serve on the board as a life member. She has devoted numerous hours to serving on almost every committee, and has chaired many. In 1981, when BWBA hosted the Women’s International Bowling Congress National Tournament and Annual

Meeting, Meri was chairman of the Memorial Service. Through her efforts, a very moving and memorable service was achieved.

She has sought other avenues of service to the members and strengthened her means of service through attending the four WIBC Leadership Training Seminars held nearest our area; she has participated in several Maryland State WBA Annual Meetings, AJBC Annual Meetings. She was BWBA Delegate to 25 WIBC Annual Meetings and has competed in 33 WIBC National Tournaments. She has bowled in the BWBA Grand Duchess Tournaments, the MSWBA Queens/Princess, MSWBA Championships, Maryland 600 Club, and Brunswick 500 Club. She has also represented Maryland in two National Senior Championships. Currently she still bowls in the Coffee-breakers League now at Brunswick Normandy. In 1983, Meri was the recipient of the BWBA President's Award for her service to the association.

Meri was one of the first women in Baltimore to become a Certified Lane Inspector (CLI) after attending a two-day CLI Workshop in 1984, and spent many hours verifying high scores and certifying lanes since that time.

Meri's years of service have benefited not only BWBA members, but from 1976 to 1991 she and her husband coached and chaperoned the Baltimore entries into the United States Youth Games. These activities include setting up qualifier, coaching the winning team weekly, and traveling to the host cities for the competition. In 1989, Baltimore hosted the U.S. Youth Games and Meri was most active in helping to prepare for this competition which welcomed youth teams from all over the United States to Baltimore. Meri and Bob received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the mayor of Baltimore and the Department of Recreation and Parks for her service to the U.S. Youth Games participants. She is always promoting bowling for all ages. Since the inception of the Fair Lanes Collegiate Tournament, Meri has served as Audit Chairman.

Meri was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Maryland State Young American Bowling Alliance (YABA) for 25 years. She has been for many years and still is the BWBA representative to the Central MD (formerly) Baltimore YABA Board of Directors. Her talents have been recognized by the National YABA, and she was asked to serve on the 1989 National YABA Rules and Awards Committee.

Meri was a member of the National Bowling Writers and in 1990 was awarded the Helen Duvall award for working with youth. She is also a charter member of the Maryland Bowlers Writers.

In 1997 the Central MD YABA honored Meri with the "Volunteer of the Year" award. In 1999 she was the recipient of the national Volunteer of the Year award from the National YABA Organization.

Meri was on the founding committee of the MD State Tenpin Bowling Council in 1980. She served in positions of Director, Secretary and Vice President. Currently she is a Life Member and Director and has been Tournament Director since its inception.

With her busy schedule, Meri still found time to work during the Miracle Network Telethon and the Maryland Senior and Maryland Special Olympics whenever the bowling portion was held.

For her dedication and service to the game of tenpin bowling, the Maryland State USBC Association is proud to induct Merrillyn E Mallette into its Hall of Fame, this date 8th day of September, 2007, as a member in the Meritorious Service category.