

## Robert W Evans Sr. Meritorious Service



Robert W Evans Sr. was born July 7, 1948 and began bowling in 1962 when he moved to Edgewood with his parents, Robert H. Evans and Margaret Thetis Evans. Starting at the Center at Edgewood Arsenal, Bob's first competitive venture was a summer league at Be1 Air Bowl in 1963.

During his high school years at Edgewood. Bob participated in Cross Country, Track and Golf. He graduated from Edgewood High School in 1966.

Bob enlisted and served in the Air Force from 1967-1970 where his game developed. While stationed in Okinawa Bob first began testing a fingertip grip under the coaching of his Master Sergeant Bill Cowan and his average climbed to 192 by September of 1970. He qualified and became a member of the Edwards AFB team and traveled throughout

southern California competing against other military bases.

Upon his return to Harford County, Bob really became an active bowler posting 9 yearbook averages in 1972. During this time he traveled to many tournaments with the many other young bowlers from Bel Air Bowl. It was the advice, mentoring, and fellowship of coaches like Laverne Britton, Bob Thomas, and Bob Cryster that got Bob Evans on his path to bowling success. It was also these same individuals, along with Joe Bonney, that recruited Bob to join the Cecil-Harford Counties Bowling Association in 1971. He was already a Certified AJBC coach working with the youth at Bel Air Bowl and this seemed to be a natural progression.

The CHCBA did a great job of involving young individuals in the administration of the board and they had one of the youngest boards in the country. The energy of this youth started many new programs and that same philosophy continues today. In keeping with the youth movement the CHCBA in 1972 sent Bob to the MSBA as a Delegate. Bob filled that position until 1982 when he became the Director for the CHCBA. He returned as Delegate from 1984 through 1987. In 1988 Bob again served as Director and during that session he was elected to the MSBA board as 3rd Vice-President.

In 1990 Bob was elected to 2nd Vice President and was awarded the MSBA Director of the Year award. In 1993 he was elected to 1st Vice President. In 1995 Bob was elected President of the

MSBA and he held that position for a record 11 years until stepping down in 2005 due to work commitments.

Additional involvement during that period was as a representative to the Maryland Ten Pin Council, a board member of the state YABA and a board member of the CHCYABA. During his time as an officer of the board, he instituted many new programs. The first of these was the Organizational License Plate program. It became the first such program in the country denoting "ABC" as the organization. In 1989 returning from the ABC tournament in Wichita, Kansas, the first plate, ABC0000 was presented to the Bowling Hall of Fame in St Louis to be mounted on the Bowling Pin Car. He lobbied the State Congress to change the rules to allow all organizations to use three letters on an organization plate and then developed the Logo plate that is in use today. He is currently working with the board to develop a new USBC plate for the organization.

In 1987 Bob started researching and created the State Tournament Champion data base. It is currently available online and has proven an invaluable as a tool for anyone researching HOF qualifications. As president Bob established the State Hall of Fame and, with the help of perennial chairman Mike Bowers, hosted an awards dinner for eleven years. As a result, many very deserving individuals have been properly recognized.

Also, during that first year in office, Bob initiated the Maryland State Mixed Championship Tournament. The first year, there were 153 entries and it continues to be a successful tournament. Bob's friendship with Dennis Baldwin of "Hammer" led to their sponsorship of the Championship Tournament. He continues to work with Ebonite and they are continuing to sponsor the tournament each year.

Bob was a leading proponent in the efforts to merge the State organizations. Maryland became one of the first to merge and some of our learning experiences have assisted other states in making a smoother transition. Bob was also involved in the youth program for 30 years. He started in 1970 with the AJBC at Bel Air Bowl under Bob Thomas and after being dormant for a few years, returned as a Certified Coach with YABA in 1985. He and his wife Linda ran a successful program at Forest Hill Lanes for 10 years. During that time they watched their son develop into a great bowler in his own right. It was a proud night for both to watch him start a night with back to back 300 games and an 805 series after being a member of ABC for only eight weeks.

Service is not the only involvement in the game of bowling for Bob. The service aspect was his way of returning his dues to the sport but his first love is competing. Bob has competed in 37 consecutive State Championship tournaments, and during that period he has won four (4) titles. He is the only bowler to have won state scratch titles in four different decades. 1976 All-Events Scratch (record high score) also 2nd in singles & 2nd in team. 1987, 1996 (record high score), 2000 Team Scratch

Bob has bowled in 38 consecutive CHCBA tournaments with the following titles.

1981, 1984 Team Handicap  
1984 All Events Handicap  
1985 Singles Scratch  
1990 Team Scratch  
1995 All Events Scratch (Record Score)  
One CHCBA 700 club title.

Bob has competed in 35 consecutive National Championship Tournaments. His best year was 1998 with an All Events score of 1999, finishing 91st, and the Team All Events position was 62nd.

Individual scoring accomplishments were usually during tournament competition. Although he has averaged over 200 for more than 20 years, he is most proud of his high series of 784 during the 1996 State Tournament and a 299 game during the 1988 State tournament. He also shot a 298 in doubles at the Hoinke in 1991. Other scores are (2) 300 games, (2) 299 games and (2) 298 games.

In recognition of his outstanding record, both on and off the lanes, in the sport of American Ten Pins, the Maryland State USBC Association is proud to induct Robert W. Evans Sr. into its Hall of Fame in the Meritorious Service category.