

## H. Richard Bucey

### Superior Performance



H. Richard Bucey was born May 15, 1942 in Allegany, Maryland to Betty Marie and Edward Lewis Bucey. At either two (2) or three (3) years of age, Rich encountered a life altering event. He pulled a boiling pot of beans off the front burner of the stove and was scalded. This event led to years of surgeries and skin graftings. Shortly thereafter his parents divorced. His mother moved to Baltimore to find employment. Rich remained in western Maryland with his maternal grandparents, Harold and Nellie Cheney, who owned farmland in Flintstone, Maryland. Rich enjoyed fifteen (15) years of exploring the western Maryland streams, rivers and mountains. Often he could be found at his “second home” with his best friend, Johnnie Mauzy, son of Carl and Edith Mauzy.

In 1958 at sixteen (16) years of age, Rich’s grandparents sent him to live with his mother, stepfather, Steve Endrich, and two (2) year old step sister on Curley Street in Baltimore. You can take the boy out of the country but you can’t take the country out of the boy. Finding himself unable to adjust to city life, Rich on two (2) separate occasions set out on the adventures of his life. He “hitchhiked” around the United States stopping in many locations to work for food and shelter. He has many fascinating, exciting and dangerous memories of the experiences.

It is not known exactly when Rich began his bowling career. Sometime in the mid-sixties, Rich’s new family moved to Arizona Avenue in Cedonia, Maryland. Rich and his friend Frank Scarpula decided to go bowling one day. Rich was hooked. The right hander began bowling left handed due to the scars and weakness in his right arm from the burns. Although unable to locate any records, Rich remembers posting a 128 average for his first year league average. He wanted nothing more than to improve and master the game of bowling. His motto became practice, practice and more practice. He bowled morning, noon and nights while working rotating shifts at Armco Steel Inc. for nineteen and a half years. At the Armco Steel plant on Biddle Street in Baltimore, Rich worked his way up the ranks from laborer, junior moldman, moldman, ladleman and teamer. Rich worked on the continuous caster when Armco computerized operations in the early 1990’s. Rich never turned down the opportunity to work overtime whenever possible. But anytime not working, Rich could be found at a local bowling center usually either Dundalk or Cedonia Lanes.

In 1993, Armco Steel closed its Baltimore plant. Rich received continuing education and training through Maryland Employment. He received his GED in 1993 and his Maryland commercial

driving license in 1994. Since then, Rich has held driving positions in various industries. In 2004, he was employed and still continues today with Ryder Integrated Logistics in Hanover, Maryland.

Rich has one son, Christopher Richard Bucey by his ex-wife, Rose. Rich remarried in 1981. Although Rich and Michele were introduced by John Moran at Cedonia Lanes, Michele only bowled on a Loyola College mixed handicap league on Friday nights. Rich did not bowl for ten (10) years between 1981 and 1993. After moving to Forest Hill, Maryland in 1993, Rich happened to meet Bob and Laura Thomas in a store. Bob asked Rich and Laura asked Michele to join their teams at Bel Air Bowl. Rich was hooked again. To this day hardly a week goes by without Rich stopping in one of the area bowling centers to check out what's new or practice.

Rich credits Joe Doonan for both making him a better bowler and "ruining" his game. Sometime in the seventies, Joe drilled Rich a bowling ball. The ball tracked over the thumbhole when delivered. Joe "ruined" Rich's game by converting him from a full roller to a three quarter delivery. On the other hand, Joe turned his back to one of Rich's questions once too often. Rich told himself that he would practice until he achieved the right ball, the right pitch, the right surface, the right feel, the right approach. Guess what... he's still trying today. Rich is always changing something in his game. He still strives to repetitively deliver the same ball with the same results...perfection.

Thanks to center managers like Chuck Brocato, Bill Ruckert, Tom Runkle and Warren Smith, Rich learned about lane maintenance and pin setters. Over the years Rich has worked almost every position in a bowling center. As he learned and worked at bowling, his average steadily climbed. Rich began competitive bowling in tournaments whenever he was backed or sponsored. By 1964, the Baltimore Sun began writing about his accomplishments on the lanes. Rich had "the reputation as the Jackie Brandt of area ten pin bowling". For those not familiar, Jackie Brandt was a leading eccentric Baltimore Orioles. During competition at one of the tournaments covered by the Baltimore Sun, a spectator approached Rich. It was there that he first remembers meeting his father. His father had seen the Baltimore Sun articles and began to follow his progress on the lanes.

1965/66 GBBA first & only association 200 yearbook average posted

High Average of 235 in the 2000-01 season

Eleven (11) 800 series, Twenty-six (26) 300 games

2006 PBA South Region Fort Belvoir Senior Open Champion

2009 TNBA Jerry Dawson Memorial Singles Scratch Champion

2001 Team USA – Maryland State Amateur Champion

(after missing 8 frames of 9<sup>th</sup> game on 2<sup>nd</sup> day of competition)

1997 Maryland State Annual Championship All Event Handicap

(2259 with no handicap)

2004 Maryland State Seniors Champion – Division C (60-64)

1964 Bowl America Topper Classic  
Men's Handicap & Scratch Champion

1970 & 72 Greater Baltimore Bowling Association Championship  
Team Scratch Champion Wrong Siders held record of 3134 (1972-84)

1999 Greater Baltimore Bowling Association Championship  
All Events Scratch Champion (2064)

2004/2005/2006 Greater Baltimore Bowling Association Seniors Champion Class C (60-64)

Greater Baltimore Bowling Association Triple Crown Awards  
2000-01 Sunday Niters - AMF Country Club 232/794/300  
2001-02 Saturday Fun Bunch - Brunswick Perry Hall  
Seniors - AMF Towson 225/767/300

1999-2000 Cecil Harford Bowling Association Annual Mixed Tournament  
Doubles Scratch Champion Michele Bucey

Cecil Harford 700 Club Life Member with 5 titles including  
2 Tournament of Champion titles (2003 & 2004)

2005 Pennsylvania State Bowling Association Seniors Tournament Class C (60-64)  
Doubles Scratch Champion (1445) Charles Earnst

2007 Pennsylvania State Bowling Association Seniors Tournament Class 3 (65-69)  
All Events Scratch 9 game Champion (2194)  
All Events Scratch 6 game Champion (1506)  
All Events Handicap 6 game Champion (1538)

2008 Pennsylvania State Bowling Association Seniors Tournament Class 3 (65-69)  
Singles Scratch Champion

2006 York-Adams USBC Senior Tournament Singles Class B (744)  
All Events Scratch, Singles Scratch, and Singles Handicap Champion

1997 - 2001 North Chesapeake Region Senior Olympics  
5 Single Gold Medals, 3 Doubles Gold Medals,  
2 Doubles Silver Medals, 2 Mixed Doubles Bronze Medals

Maryland State Senior Olympics  
3 Single Event Gold Medals, 2 Doubles Event Gold Medals  
1 Mixed Doubles Event Gold Medal, 1 Silver Medal

Therefore, for his overall performance in the sport of tenpin bowling, the Maryland State USBC Association welcomes Richard H Bucey into its Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance category.