

Robert B Marshall IV

Meritorious Service



Robert Bromwell Marshall IV was born Sept 21st, 1956 in Havre de Grace MD to Isabelle and Robert B. Marshall III. He was raised in the same house as the three preceding Robert B. Marshall's in a rural area of Cecil Co. known as Battle Swamp. He graduated from Perryville High School in 1974 where he lettered 4 years in baseball, 3 years in soccer and 2 years in basketball. In 1973 he moved with his mother and two younger brothers and sister to Aberdeen where he lived until enlisting into the U.S. Marine Corps in 1975. He has been back in Aberdeen since 1979 where he lives today with his wife

of 6 months, Kris Wilkinson.

Bobby got an early start in bowling. In the early 60's his Dad would take him bowling at the duckpin lanes on Rte 40 in Aberdeen. In 1963 his father, along with Tony Moscato and Joe Ciufu Sr, purchased Ideal Lanes in Aberdeen, re-naming it Harford Lanes. Bobby spent those early years dusting gutters, cleaning tables and the parking lot, hanging out in the back with the teen-age pin chasers and whatever other jobs his father found for him to do. Once he satisfied Dad he had done what he was told, the right way, he got to **BOWL!!**

And bowl he did. Harry, the elderly daytime deskman would give him a score sheet and pencil and when he filled up all 16 games on the sheet he'd give him another (after he taught him how to add the score.) In 1964, when Bobby turned 8 years old, he was finally old enough to join the junior leagues and, with the exception of the 4 years in the Marine Corps, has been a sanctioned league bowler ever since.

When the law said he was old enough to get paid, he started pin chasing a couple nights a week and did that until he joined the Marines in 1975. When he returned home in 1979 he went to work full-time at the lanes, doing a little bit of everything from pin chasing and doing the lanes, to cooking and bartending. He took over day to day management from Dad gradually around '83-'84 but Bob Sr. was still close by and kept oversight. When Bob Sr. passed away from a heart attack suddenly in Nov of 1993, Bobby was well prepared for running the operation. Today he is still managing the lanes.

In 1984, Bobby took over the youth program at the lanes from Jerry Farro. While it was already a well-run, productive program, he built it up with a few simple innovations, reaching over 200 bowlers by the early 90's and kept it there through the early 2000's.

He ran several house tournaments and promoted the local, state and national youth tournaments to his bowlers. As often as possible, he would travel to support his bowlers at these events. He began serving on the Eastern MD Junior Bowling Assn. (now the Cecil-Harford USBC Youth) board in 1985. In 1989 he became Vice-President and in 2000 he became the President, a position he still holds.

He joined the MD Tenpin Bowling Council in 1994. In 2008 he became President after serving several years as Vice-President and By-Laws chairman. In the past couple of years he worked with the MSUSBC board in bringing the council under the aegis of the state board.

As a member of the MD State Bowling Proprietors association Bobby served as Vice-President 1995 -97 and President from 1997-2002 and 2009, until recently. He also served on the national BPAA Tournament Committee from 2000 — 2010, travelling around the country to help develop and conduct many tournaments, particularly the International Family Tournament.

In all of these organizations, Bobby's primary focus was, and is, always tournaments. Paying close attention to details, he believes in good average rules, good formats and appropriate prize funds to keep them fair for all bowlers, low average and high average.

In his own bowling he lists as his high-lights:

- 35 years at the ABC's/Open Championships with a lifetime average of 189. High all-events of 2002 & high set of 719 in Salt Lake City in 1996. Over 1300 doubles twice with his brother Cory in 1991 and 1997.
- Three (3) MD State titles, 1985 and 1997 Team Scratch, both in Hagerstown with friends, and 1969 prep division all-events scratch at age 12 with a score of 1631, winning by over 300 pins, also in Hagerstown.
- His first 800 series, 813, rolled in November 1981 with his trusty Yellow-Dot
- Selection to the 1984-85 Baltimore Bowling News All-Metro team and the 1985-86 Delaware Men's All-Star team.
- Inducted into the Cecil-Harford BA Hall of Fame in 2003 for Superior Performance and Meritorious Service.

Therefore, for his outstanding achievements in the game of American Tenpins, the Maryland State USBC Association is proud to induct Robert B Marshall IV into its Hall of Fame in the Meritorious Service Category.