

DIAMOND LEGACY NEWSLETTER

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Reconnect
Make New Friends
Enrich Children's Lives



News from the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

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Message From Alumni Chairman

I am honored to accept the gavel as the new Chairman of the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association. First, let me thank James Wagoner for his extraordinary efforts as Chairman. I would also like to congratulate James on his appointment as Chief Executive Officer.

I want to share a bit about my background. I started in the Babe Ruth program in 1994 serving as a manager for the Evansville, Indiana Babe Ruth League. Over the next few years I continued to serve at the local league level as a manager and League President. In 1998, I was elected State Commissioner for the Southern Indiana Babe Ruth Leagues, a position I held until being elected Ohio Valley Regional Commissioner and a member of the Babe Ruth League International Board of Directors in 2005.

I am proud to admit that my life has revolved around the Babe Ruth League program. Moving forward, I want to focus on the Alumni Association's efforts on improving the effectiveness of our outreach to all

alumni, as well as helping advance the general welfare of Babe Ruth League, Inc. As such, I recently stepped down from the Babe Ruth League Board of Directors to concentrate on increasing the overall growth and engagement of the Alumni Association, especially with our goal to help youth reach their full potential and grow into happy, healthy and productive adults.

At the same time, I am humbled to know that I, along with the Alumni Board and committee members, will represent all those who currently participate or have participated in the Babe Ruth League program.

During my tenure, I would like to ask all those who are currently involved, or who are no longer a part of the Babe Ruth program, to do one thing: Join the Alumni Association.

I am honored to be a part of helping make dreams come true for



our participants, and I urge you to consider your own participation. Our Alumni Association is only as strong as the sum of its parts. We are all "Babe Ruth Leaguers". Millions of kids and volunteers have participated in the program. That's an impressive number when we work together.

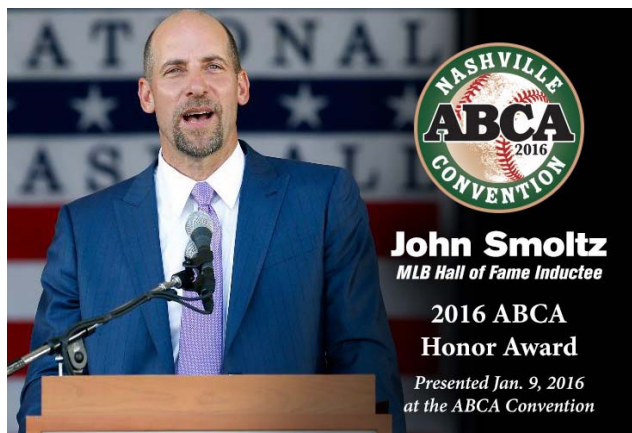
You have a dedicated Board of Directors and committee members, poised to serve your interests. Let us know what you see, hear and feel about Babe Ruth League, and we'll do our best to represent you.

Together we can make a difference!

Mark Watkins

Mark Watkins

Graduate Corner — John Smoltz



Babe Ruth graduate John Smoltz (Lansing, Michigan Babe Ruth League), who was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in July, was presented with the American Baseball Coaches Association's Honor Award at the ABCA Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, held on January 9, 2016. The former National League Cy Young Award winner currently serves as an on-air personality for MLB Network.

The Honor Award is presented each year to individuals involved in baseball, who have distinguished themselves and are recognized for achievements in their profession. The first-ballot Hall of Famer was presented the award and spoke during the Honors Luncheon on January 9, 2016 at the ABCA Convention. Smoltz also gave a presentation titled "Mitigation & Rehabilitation of Tommy John Surgery" along with trainer Chris Verna during the clinics that day.

Smoltz, an eight-time All-Star and the 16th pitcher in Major League history to reach 3,000 career strikeouts, had an illustrious 21-year career on the field. He led the National League twice each in wins, innings pitched and strikeouts and was the only member of the Atlanta Braves to be a part of the franchise's 14-consecutive division titles from 1991-05.

Smoltz, however, missed the entire 2000 season following Tommy John surgery. He was able to return the following year and find success while transitioning from the starting rotation to the bullpen. Ultimately, he became the first player in MLB history to reach at least 250 wins and 150 saves in a career.

Since retiring, Smoltz has broadcasted games for multiple national TV stations including TBS, Fox and MLB Network.

Recently, Smoltz has been an advocate for raising arm care awareness across amateur baseball. This summer, Smoltz became the first pitcher to enter the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame following Tommy John surgery.

Smoltz addressed the growing concern over Tommy John surgery during the conclusion of his 2015 Hall of Fame induction speech: **"It's an epidemic ...I want to encourage the families and parents that are out there that this is not normal to have a surgery at 14 and 15 years old. That you have time, that baseball is not a year-round sport, that you have an opportunity to be athletic and play other sports ... Every throw a kid makes today is a competitive pitch. They don't go outside, they don't have fun, they don't throw enough – but they're competing and maxing out too hard, too early, and that's why we're having these problems. Please, take care of those great future arms."**

Off the field, Smoltz is known for his contributions to several charities and foundations, having been honored with the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award (2005), the Roberto Clemente Award (2005) and the Branch Rickey Award (2007).2014 season.

New Year's Resolutions

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association wishes all members and their families the best for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. 2015 was a great year for the Alumni Association and this would not have been possible without the generosity and support of all of the amazing Babe Ruth League Alumni Association members, volunteers and friends!

Listed below are some suggested New Year Resolutions for members of the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association and Babe Ruth League, Inc .

- Slow down and enjoy every moment with family and friends.
- Make the most out of every single day, serving your family, the Alumni Association and the Babe Ruth League community to the very best of your abilities.
- Voyage to new adventures and meeting new friends—the Babe Ruth League program and Alumni Association are wonderful places of discovery.
- Encourage family, friends and colleagues to join the BRL Alumni Association.
- Encourage a healthier lifestyle for the entire family.
- Resolve to spend more time volunteering for Babe Ruth League.
- Make a donation to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association to ensure the Babe Ruth League program is available for generations to come.
- Do your best to make every practice fun, competitive and instructional.
- Be organized, punctual and enthusiastic.
- Show respect to officials, opposing coaches and all participants.
- Give your best effort at each practice and game, and ask for the same from your players.
- Resolve to focus on the foundational skills.
- Make sure all participants are engaged during practices.
- Resolve not to favor your own child over their teammates.
- Resolve to put the healthy and safety of all players above all else.
- Resolve to always encourage friendly competition.
- Work with your Babe Ruth Leaguer in the backyard.
- Resolve to be a better Babe Ruth League parent. Remember Babe Ruth League is about children having fun with their friends in a safe, healthy and educational environment.
- Update your estate planning—remember the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association.



Pay It Forward Campaign—100 Days of Giving

Have you always wanted to thank a teammate for their support and friendship or a special coach who took extra time to teach you the basic fundamentals of the game, or a Babe Ruth League volunteer for the opportunity of a lifetime? Do you look back fondly on your time involved with the Babe Ruth League program, whether as a player, manager, coach, commissioner or volunteer? Did the life lessons you learned as a participant encourage you to attend college, lead to a professional career and/or helped you develop into a happy and productive adult? Would you be especially proud to carry on the tradition of Babe Ruth League to make sure the program was available for the next generation?

If the Babe Ruth League program is special to you, there are several ways to show your appreciation. One such way is the Alumni Association's newly established campaign - The "**Pay it Forward—100 Days of Giving**" Campaign, began on Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2015 and will end on March 9, 2016.

How can you participate? By simply making out a check to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association with "Pay it Forward" written in the memo section and mailing it to 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, New Jersey 08619.

Why should you Participate? *To show your pride and support.* A financial gift to this campaign, will help support the things that you have benefitted from as a participant and/or volunteer. Your support also helps ensure the next generation of participants and volunteers will have access to the same opportunities. *To remember or honor someone special.* A memorial donation is a special way to honor a departed loved one; an honorary donation is a great way to recognize a person or celebrate a milestone reached by an individual.

Where do your charitable contributions go? They support special programs/projects established by the Alumni and Babe Ruth League. They sponsor players, teams and leagues who would otherwise be unable to participate; provide gear for players, teams and leagues in need, especially league programs who suffer catastrophic loss from fires, floods, theft, vandalism, hurricanes and other sources of destruction. They provide college scholarships for Babe Ruth League participants. They support special causes that donors designate. Your gift makes a difference—especially in the life of a child!

All donations allow you to *pay your gratitude forward* and give all participants and volunteers (current and future) the chance to live the incredible Babe Ruth League experience we all hold dear. It is our goal to raise \$25,000 with this campaign. Any donation, no matter the amount, will be greatly appreciated. Just think...putting away only .25 cents per day—*yes it's that cheap*— can provide a \$25 donation at the end of the 100 days of giving. Contribute to this campaign and your name will be featured with our thanks in a future issue of DIAMOND LEGACY, as well as on the Alumni website. Who doesn't like a little shout out, right?

If you are not a member of the Babe Ruth League Alumni, we encourage you to join—membership is free and the benefits are plenty.

New Committees Formed

The Board of Directors oversees the Alumni Association and divides its work among a series of committees whose names and responsibilities are detailed below:

FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Objective: Provide oversight and guidance to and participation in raising funds to support the work of the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association.

Babe Ruth League Alumni Association Fund Development Committee		
Joseph Cormier Chairman	4903 Grant Road Erath, LA 70533	Cell 337-344-3282 Cormierj63@yahoo.com
George Lally Vice Chairman	85 Spruce Road Norwood, MA 02062	Cell 617-365-2456 georgebrl@norwoodlight.com
Rob Featherston	1001 NE 2 nd Street Bentonville, AR 72712	Cell 479-640-1557 rfeatherston@cox.net
Roger (Jabber) Giles	1782 McBride Road Lewisburg, TN 37091	Cell 931-619-2064 tnbrb@united.net
Steve (Spike) Hupka	1022 Oak Creek Drive Nolensville, TN 37135	Cell 615-390-6800 stevebrl@yahoo.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Objective: Responsible for initiatives, programs, and resources for overall promotion of the Alumni Association.

Babe Ruth League Alumni Association Public Relations/Communications Committee		
Evelyn Skiendziel Chairman	169 Dawson Avenue Clifton, NJ 07012	Phone 973-777-9169 evelyn.skiendziel@harris.com
Doug Belcher Vice Chairman	521 Norman Avenue Arcadia, CA 91007	Phone 626-447-6113 sgv_baberuthbaseball@yahoo.com
Casey Blevins	3901 Sweepstakes Drive Riverbank, CA 95367	Phone 209-814-5376 blevinsfamhome@aol.com
Doug Erickson	445 Delta Avenue Manistique, MI 49854	Cell 906-286-0406 hawkcommissioner@yahoo.com

DEVELOPMENT/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Objective: Responsible for the overall maintenance and development of the Alumni Association.

Babe Ruth League Alumni Association Development/Membership Committee		
Al Solanik Chairman	13 Partridge Court Bridgeton, NJ 08302	Cell 609-501-5009 baberruthguy@comcast.net
Everett Downing Vice Chairman	42 Campbell Avenue North Providence, RI 02904	Cell 401-439-6737 Ricalriplg@aol.com
Cubby Bair	611 East Bishop Street Bellefonte, PA 16823	Phone 814-880-1901 rufump@aol.com
Daniel Hayes	545 Evergreen Street Dresden, TN 38225	Cell 731-621-9879 hayesondet@yahoo.com

Alumni Sponsorships/Partnerships

New Opportunity! Put the power of the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association to work for your company! Partnering with the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association can be a powerful marketing tool for your organization. It's affordable...it's highly visible...*and it works*. And there are several options available to promote your products and services.

In addition, partnering with the Alumni Association will do more than market your company...your sponsorship dollars will provide funds that help the Alumni Association and Babe Ruth League continue its mission to see that each and every child or young adult with a desire to play baseball or softball be afforded the opportunity that opportunity...in a fun environment and in an environment where many life lessons are learned. Life lessons that help youth grow into happy and productive adults.

Partnering with the Alumni Association is an athletic marketer's dream to reach participants, fans, consumers and clients at a very affordable investment. The Alumni can deliver thousands of these individuals who are passionate about the games of baseball and softball.

For more information, please contact Theresa Cleary at 609-278-2308, or via email at theresa@baberuthleague.org. We also invite you to visit the "Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities" page on the Alumni website, where on the you can download a copy of the *new* Advertising and Sponsorship Brochure.

Heard it through the grapevine...

Dr. Charles Steinberg inducted into New England BRL Hall of Fame.

BRL Alum Daniel Murphy named NLCS MVP.

Babe Ruth League welcomes Franklin Sports to its line-up.

Cal Ripken, Jr. named Sr. Advisor to MLB Commissioner on Youth Programs and Outreach.

Class Notes

What's new in your life? Stay in touch and keep us posted on all of your news—send us an email and give us an update on what's happening in your life. Feel free to include photos. EMAIL: theresa@baberuthleague.org Or Send Mail to: Theresa Cleary, Babe Ruth League Alumni Association, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Little Bigger League Reunites



Almost 65 years ago, a group of men dedicated to the youth of America met in Hamilton Township, New Jersey and formed the Hamilton Little Bigger League. Now known as Babe Ruth League, Inc., the program caught on nationally, then internationally, and now ranks as one of premier amateur baseball and softball programs in the world.

They may be in their 70s now, but they are still the Little Bigger League's Boys of Summer. The original surviving members of the Hamilton Little Bigger League (the country's first Babe Ruth team) and their wives gathered on December 15th at the new Babe Ruth League Headquarters in Hamilton Township for a special meeting and luncheon.

Little Bigger League alumnus Jack Zoeller, who is known for his sense of humor, arranged the entire gathering. Jack, now 80, still spends a great deal of his time at Bonacci Field at Switlik Park, providing meticulous care to the original home of Babe Ruth League.

Other LBL alumni in attendance included Jim Stevenson, Frank Schuessler, Leon Newton, Elmer Gafgen, Bob Walker, Dave Bryan, Frank Lugossy, Gil Lugossy, Ed Morris, Jack Schafer, Walt Faigier, Ted Kinter, Joe Brodowski, Bill Hawley, Wes Dawson, Vince Savelli, Ray Bell, Turk Morgan, Ron Fiori, Russ Wilbert, Jack Chrisner, Joe Ryan and Ron Bearce.

As part of the day's events, the gang spent time swapping stories, sharing laughs and looking at clippings from their memorable first year. They concluded with a special rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and the tossing of boxes of cracker jacks and peanuts into the air.



The special time enjoyed by all was another wonderful chapter in their 65 years of history as the Little Bigger League's Boys of Summer.

List of Career Achievements by Babe Ruth

This page shows some of Babe Ruth's special achievements. At the time in which Ruth played, some of baseball's modern awards did not exist. The Division Series and Championship Series did not exist. The MLB All-Star Game did not exist until 1933, late in Ruth's career. At the time of his retirement, Ruth held many of baseball's most esteemed records, some that have been broken and some that still remain.

Achievements:

2x All-Star	7x World Series Champion
1923 AL MVP	12X AL Home Run Champion
6x AL RBI Champion	1924 AL Batting Champion
1916 AL ERA Champion	New York Yankees #3 Retired
Major League Baseball All-Century Team	Major League Baseball All-Time Team
National Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 1936 (Inaugural)	

All-Time Ranks:

1st All-Time Slugging % with 0.690	1st All-Time OPS with 1.164
1st All-Time OPS+ with 206	2nd All-Time on Base % with .474
2nd All-Time RBI List with 2,213	3rd All-Time Home Run List with 714
3rd All-Time Bases on Balls with 2,062	4th All-Time Runs List with 2,174
6th All-Time Total Bases List with 5,793	10th All-Time Batting Average with .342

Major League Records:

Regular Season

- Slugging percentage career 0.690
- Home runs, career – 714 (broken by Hank Aaron on April 8, 1974)
- Most times hitting two or more home runs in a game, career: 72
- Runs batted in, career: 2,213 (broken by Hank Aaron on May 10, 1975)
- Bases on balls, career: 2,062 (broken by Rickey Henderson on April 25, 2001)

As Babe Ruth's achievements were many, look for additional information on his historic accomplishments in future issues of DIAMOND LEGACY.



Happenings in Babe Ruth League

Stay up to date with what is taking place in Babe Ruth League

The Alumni Association is your gateway to Babe Ruth League, Inc. for a lifetime of connections. Our focus is to create and nourish lifetime fellowship and active participation of Alumni with Babe Ruth League through advocacy, support, service and communication.



In lieu of the traditional gift exchange, Babe Ruth League employees donate Christmas gifts for the local Soup Kitchen

Precious friendships forged by young players from the Windsor, CA Cal Ripken League.



The City of Lake Jackson, TX paid tribute to players from the South Brazoria Babe Ruth League. The Mayor presented each player with a Certificate of Commendation.



Then and Now

Babe Ruth League has a rich history that is still being written. The program has been fostering lifelong relationships for many, many years. We are happy to share information about a very special reunion.

North Vancouver Baseball Team Reunites 50 Years after Trip to Babe Ruth World Series



This past October, a group of men, all in their mid-60s, gathered at North Vancouver's Mahon Park, in the shadow of a grandstand sign reading Fen Burdett Stadium. It was a fitting spot for the meeting, considering that 50 years earlier those same men, boys at the time, had spent countless hours training to perform feats on the baseball field rarely matched before or since in Canada. And the great Fen Burdett, a legendary figure in North Shore youth sports, was their manager when they made a run all the way to the 1965 Babe Ruth League World Series held in Anderson, Indiana.

Some of the men were still great friends, but a few hadn't been heard from since getting off that bus that took them home from Indiana where they

became just the second Canadian team to ever win a youth World Series game (no other Canadian team would win one again until 2007). But despite that huge gap in time, a lifetime for many people, the men picked up right where they left off. "You can never break the bond," says Rick Mark, a catcher and team captain who helped organize this reunion. "The warmth was evident right from the beginning.... You always have that."

The old ball players settled right back into their comfortable patter, recalling old plays with uncanny accuracy, swapping stories about the girls back in the day and, of course, giving each other the kind-hearted grief that only a great teammate can give. They didn't hesitate, for instance, to bust the chops of Graham Chapman, the man who came up with the idea of this 50-year reunion, because he wasn't able to perfectly recreate the team photo that ran in the old North Shore Citizen 50 years ago.

"He couldn't get down on his knee," says Mark. "We were giving him a bad time." It didn't matter much that Chapman had lost both of his legs due to kidney problems over the years. It did matter that he was there, though. It mattered greatly. "This was a big deal for him," says Mark. "It turned out to be a big deal for all of us."

The journey to the World Series started at Mahon Park where the North Vancouver all-stars won three straight to win the district championships in the summer of '65. The journey nearly ended soon after at the provincial championships in Kelowna where the boys lost their first game of the double-knockout tournament. They kept fighting though, winning five straight games to book a ticket to the Pacific Northwest regionals in Hoquiam, Washington, where they won five more to make the World Series.

"We were pretty determined and pretty experienced and pretty big," Mark says about what drove the North Van boys to success. "Everybody carried their weight and played hard. We had a purpose." Muscle and moxie may have driven them to succeed, but a huge part of the story for the boys is what literally drove them to the World Series. A big old bus. "Five days on a bus, baby. It was unbelievable," says Mark. Highlights of the trip included getting chased off a practice field by a swarm of mosquitoes in Minneapolis, going to a McDonald's restaurant for the first time (the franchise came to Canada in 1967), and stopping in Spokane to see the movie *Help!*

Continued on Next Page

Then and Now

"We loved it," says Mark. "We were so into The Beatles."

They were the last team to arrive in Anderson, earning themselves a spot on the front page of the local newspaper. The tournament's official program contained welcome messages from Lyndon Johnson and Lester Pearson, and the games were played in a stadium full of 6,600 appreciative fans.

Ace pitcher Norm Kennedy, who had thrown a no-hitter and a one-hitter in the Pacific Northwest playoffs, went to work again in their first game, throwing a three-hitter as North Van knocked off California 12-1 to open the tournament. That was it though – two losses later they were on their way back to Canada.

When they returned home, however, they were little celebrities. Len Corben – another legendary name in North Shore sports because of his historical articles and books on the subject – was working as a reporter for the Citizen at the time and somehow talked his publisher Hal Straight and editor Ralph Hall into letting him follow the team all the way to the World Series. "They both loved baseball," Corben wrote in a 2005 story commemorating the team's 40th anniversary. "They must have sensed how special this team was, so allowed me time to travel to all the tournaments. Straight even came up with money for my flight to Indiana, a rare perk for a community paper."

Corben was there once again Sunday, now included as part of the team along with Fen Burdett's son Mike, who was too young to play with the all-stars but still came with the team to Indiana. It was a fitting tribute, considering Fen helped turn the boys into a great team, and Corben's coverage in the Citizen helped turn the boys into household names. "We had a reception when we got home," says Mark. "We knew we were kind of a big deal, but we didn't have any context. We just assumed people covered these kinds of things."

Though none went on to play big league baseball, most of the boys went on to become big deals in the community. Three of them – Mark, Dick Burns and Dave Pearce – served as school principals on the North Shore. Many still live on the North Shore, but a few are scattered across B.C. and beyond. Nearly all made it back for Sunday's reunion, a testament to the power of sport and team, even after half a century.

"The remarkable thing was how easy we blended back together and how those memories were clearly shared memories," says Mark, adding that when the team first reunited at a pub before heading to Mahon, he tried to get some lunch ordered but couldn't get them to shut up about baseball long enough to pick the food. "The guys just weren't interested."

No one left unsatisfied though. Kennedy had managed to wrangle 18 brand new baseballs from the Babe Ruth League and they all signed them for personal souvenirs. Mark also put together photo and clipping packages for each player.

"Everybody got to walk away with something to show their kids, to talk about it and let them know it actually happened," he says with a laugh. "It's so bloody long ago."

It was a lifetime ago, but Mark now realizes it was an experience that shaped their lives to come.

"As kids we were in America and we were competing and we were winning," he says. "It's always been a huge part of my life to have that kind of experience at 14 and 15 years old. It just generated all kinds of belief and confidence."

That confidence is something he's strived to pass on to new generations throughout his life, says Mark, whether it's through sports or arts or any endeavor that pushes you to be your best. "I'm a big believer in winning. I think winning matters, or excelling in your performance," he says. "You don't always get to win, but if you're on the stage, you'd really like to get some applause, to get to the point where that rehearsal matters and you nail it when you're out there."

The North Van all-stars nailed it in 1965. And it's great to see, 50 years later, they've nailed it again.

Memorial Gifts Provide a Lasting Tribute

Memorial, honorarium and scholarship gifts to the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Alumni Association create a perpetual stream of income for the Alumni Association.

A memorial donation is a special way to honor a departed loved one, teammate, coach, or any other individual that held a special place in your heart. A honorary donation is a great way to recognize a person or celebrate a milestone reached by an individual. Acknowledgements are mailed to the families of those memorialized and to the individuals who are honored.

Philanthropic support is essential today, as a shifting economy poses a significant challenge for college-bound students. Babe Ruth League Alumni and friends have the ability to turn the dream of a quality education into a solid reality. Donors may contribute to an existing scholarship fund or consider establishing an endowed scholarship. Endowed scholarships are funded through the returns on a capital investment that provide continual financial aid to students over time. Donors may have their names or the name of loved one or another honoree linked to their fund. You can also designate who is eligible for the scholarship.

There are also several other ways in which to financially support the Alumni Association. Name the Alumni Association as a benefactor in your will or life insurance policy. The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is a great resource for charitable giving.

All donors receive a tax deduction receipt. The Babe Ruth League, Inc. Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) Organization. Whenever you make a donation to the Alumni Association, you will be able to make a tax deduction when you file your taxes. (When it comes to tax deductions, please contact an attorney to discuss your particular circumstances.)

You can provide a lasting tribute by mailing your tax-deductible contribution to: Babe Ruth League Alumni Association, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619. Let us know if there is someone you want to honor with your gift.

Donations can also be made online by visiting the Babe Ruth League Alumni website and clicking on "Make a Gift."

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association relies heavily on endowment support and financial contributions. Your support will help us better serve Babe Ruth League, Inc. and its participating youth.



We want your old pictures!

We are looking for your old pictures. They can include anything—teammates, team photos, plays, special events, etc. We would like to feature pictures from the past in issues of *Diamond Legacy*. Simply scan them and email them to theresa@baberruthleague.org. **HAVE ARTICLES OR STORIES**—Submit them to theresa@baberruthleague.org or mail to Theresa Cleary, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619.



Blast From The Past



Fairview, New Jersey 1965 Babe Ruth State Champs *in 1965 and in 2015*. Pictured left are the state title holders displaying their championship plaque.

Pictured right are members of the original Fairview squad during their 50th reunion. From left: Dennis Peters, Randy Stasi, Dennis Schultz, Peter Mattoli, Joe Olivelli, Ed Dottino, Bob Bannon, John Russo and Mike Checchi.



Support the Alumni by Showing Your Pride

Show the world your Babe Ruth League pride! Babe Ruth alums are everywhere - after all there are millions of us. There's nothing like the feeling of walking down a street miles and miles away from the ball field where you played Babe Ruth baseball or softball and spotting a fellow alum wearing a Babe Ruth shirt, jacket or cap. Now there are even more ways you can proudly represent Babe Ruth League wherever you go by gearing up with an official Alumni t-shirt, pin or decal.

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is proud to bring you affordable, high-quality apparel to show your Babe Ruth League pride. Alumni T-Shirts are now available in two different designs for both men and women. Both shirts sell for \$15 each and are available in the following sizes and colors:



- Medium, Large, XL, XXL
- White, Pink, Dark Blue and Light Blue

Alumni pins* and decals are a great way to share your Babe Ruth League spirit. Alumni decals sell for \$1 each. Purchase decals for yourself or get a bunch to give to special Babe Ruth League Alumni and friends.

*Alumni pins retail for \$10 each and are only available to members of the Alumni Association. If you are not a member of the Alumni, join today - membership is free - and the benefits are many.

When you shop for Alumni merchandise, you'll be making a wise purchase as proceeds support the Alumni's mission to provide scholarships, support participant projects and programs established by BRL, sponsor players, teams and leagues who would otherwise be unable to participate in BRL and a host of other worthy causes.

Resolve To Get Involved!

The Alumni Association exists to personally and professionally support Babe Ruth League successes; to inspire pride in, and promote involvement with the organization.

RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED by joining the Alumni Association today. Membership is free and the benefits are plenty!

FRIENDS we will miss...



Norman R. Messier, 76, of Lyndon, Vermont, passed away on December 17, 2015.

Norm grew up and went to school in Franklin, Vermont, graduating from Franklin High School in 1957. He matriculated to what was Johnson's Teacher College and finished with a Master's in 1961. For six years, he taught at Highgate High School, worked as a guidance counselor at Fairfax for a year, and then worked in school administration at the Orleans Essex North Supervisory Union. In 1985, Norm became the Superintendent for the Caledonia North Supervisory Union until retiring there in 1996.

Norm loved sports and coached soccer, boys and girls basketball, baseball and softball. He first became involved with Babe Ruth League in 1972, umpiring at regional tournaments. He went on to serve as Assistant State and State Commissioner for Vermont. In 2006, he was elected New England Regional Commissioner and an automatic member of the Babe Ruth League Board of Directors.



George M. Denke, 93, of Drums, Pennsylvania, passed away on October 18, 2015.

George served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, participating in the Middle Eastern Theatre during World War II and was a life member of VFW Post 6708 in McAdoo.

For more than 40 years, he worked as a sales representative for Amoco Oil Company and was recognized as an honorary retired member of Teamsters International.

Since 1955, George had been the cornerstone of longevity for the Middle Atlantic Babe Ruth League program, having served as Pennsylvania District 4 Commissioner for more than 30 years in a career that ranged from team manager to League President to the state level. He was instrumental in starting the Valley Babe Ruth league, which was the first Babe Ruth League in District 4 and one of the first leagues in Pennsylvania.



Sincere Thanks to Those Who Donated During the Past Quarter

In Memory Of...

Ronald Tellefsen

By Nancy and Robert Faherty

In Memory Of...

Eva Sermons

By Joseph Cormier

In Memory Of...

Norm Messier

By Steven Tellefsen
By James Wagoner
By Mark Watkins
By Joseph Smiegocki

In Honor Of...

Mike Markins

By Joseph Cormier

James Wagoner

By Joseph Cormier

Miscellaneous Contributions

By Roger Giles

By Louisiana Babe Ruth Leagues

By Jimmy Turnbow

By Jerry Bodden

By Mark Watkins

Welcome New Alumni Members

MARK BACCUS from Levelland, Texas. BRL Affiliations: Player, manager/coach, and volunteer with the Levelland, Texas Babe Ruth League.

DOUG ERICKSON from Manistique, Michigan. BRL Affiliations: Player, manager/coach, umpire, sponsor, Board Member, League official, volunteer and scorekeeper for the CUP Youth Babe Ruth League; and Michigan State Commissioner.

VICTOR GONZALEZ from Williamsburg, Virginia. BRL Affiliations: Volunteer and parent of participant for the Williamsburg Youth Babe Ruth League.

REGGIE HATFIELD from Skowhegan, Maine. BRL Affiliations: Manager/coach and league official for the Skowhegan Cal Ripken League; and District and Assistant State Commissioner for Maine Cal Ripken Babe Ruth Leagues.

PHIL JULIANO from Arlington, Virginia. BRL Affiliations: Board member and volunteer for the Arlington Babe Ruth League.

JEFF TROFHOLZ of Palm Desert, California. BRL Affiliations: Participant in the East Anaheim Babe Ruth League.

JIMMY TURNBOW from Newbern, Tennessee. BRL Affiliations: Manager, coach and volunteer for the Newbern Babe Ruth League; and Assistant State Commissioner for West Tennessee.

Brain Teasers/Trivia—Do You Know the Answer

Answers appear at the bottom of the page

1. If you have three, you have three. If you have two, you have two. If you have one, you have none. What is it?
2. What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, and has a bed but never sleeps?
3. Two boxers are in a match scheduled for 12 rounds. One of the boxers gets knocked out after only six rounds, yet no man throws a punch. How is this possible?
4. What has four eyes but cannot see?
5. What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?
6. What can travel around the world while staying in a corner?
7. What is always coming but never arrives?
8. What shortstop holds the major league records for games played, assists and double plays?
9. What did Babe Ruth, Ted Williams and Willie Mays all do in their first major league at-bats?
10. Who was the only pitcher to lead the National League in strikeouts three times during the 1980s?
11. What 50-year-old minor league pitcher did 57,000 fans crowd the Orange Bowl to watch in 1956?
12. Who set a major league record for the fewest errors by a shortstop, with three in 1990?
13. Who was the only major leaguer to play at least 500 games with each of four teams—Houston, Montreal, New York and Detroit?



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The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) Organization. Whenever you give a donation to the Alumni Association, you will be able to make a tax deduction when you file your taxes. Donating to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association can help you make a difference for a worthy cause and help you achieve tax benefits at the same time. If you wish to make a financial contribution, please make the check payable to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association and mail to 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619.



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- Answers to Brain Teasers
1. Choices
 2. A River
 3. Both boxers are female
 4. Mississippi
 5. A towel
 6. A stamp
 7. Tomorrow
 8. Ozzie Smith
 9. Strike out
 10. Steve Carlton
 11. Satchel Page
 12. Cal Ripken, Jr.
 13. Rusty Staub