



MEDIA RELEASE

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Recreation & Parks Director Tony Laws inducted into National Softball Hall of Fame

SPARKS, NV—

On November 9, 2019, USA Softball hosted its 39th annual National Softball Hall of Fame induction ceremony honoring the eight member class of 2019. The inductees take their place among the 420 USA Softball legends enshrined in the USA Softball Hall of Fame located in Kansas City, MO. One inductee holds a special significance to Burlington, NC - Recreation & Parks Director Tony Laws. Laws was inducted as a Hall of Farmer for his Meritorious Service to USA Softball and the development of the sport of softball.

Laws has been active with USA Softball for over 50 years. Three separate times he has been Team Leader for National Softball Teams competing for world titles in South Africa (Men's - 2000), China (Jr. Women's - 2003), Canada (Women's - 2004). His advocacy for Senior Slow-Pitch Softball is recognized throughout the County. Burlington hosts the National Senior Slow Pitch Tournament each year, driving tourism dollars to the community and providing a great deal of fun for competitors. Laws currently serves as a State USA Softball Commissioner representing North Carolina.

Laws's influence on softball was emphasized by everyone that spoke about him. Piedmont Virginia State Softball Commissioner stated that Laws was "instrumental in bringing the USA Softball Convention to North Carolina twice in the past decade", Also saying that Laws's has "always been a loyal supporter of the game regardless of the discipline."

USA Softball Director of Membership Services John Miller exclaimed that Laws is "really a big deal" in softball. Miller added that Laws "is so dedicated to what he does and you don't find people any more that continue to do that type of work day in and day out."

It is clear that Law's leadership in softball has helped solidify Burlington's place in softball history. USA Softball Commissioner for Central Virginia and Laws' Nominator, Henry Pollard, commented "some of the biggest tournaments I ever umpired were at Tony's Park there in Burlington," referring to Burlington City Park. Mr. Pollard's comments ring true as Burlington City Park was featured in the photos submitted by 3 of the 8 Class of 2019 Hall of Fame inductees.

Fellow Hall of Famer and Executive Director of the International Senior Softball Association, R.B. Thomas, commented that "Tony has done an excellent job enhancing the program and has been committed to keeping Senior Softball in the United States," adding that the Senior National Tournament has been held in Burlington for a number of years and "Tony and his staff always do an excellent job hosting."

Other 2019 USA Softball Hall of Fame Inductees were: Umpire Rick Havercroft, Slow Pitch Player Britt Hightower, Fast Pitch Player Jessica Mendoza, Slow Pitch Player Mike Nye, Slow Pitch Player Ron Parnell, Commissioner Joey Rich, and Meritorious Service Warren Jones.

During his acceptance speech, Laws thanked his wife Patsy, son Lee Laws, and son and daughter-in-law Chad and Carly Laws who joined him at the Induction Ceremony. He said “Softball has been good to me... the people that I have had the pleasure of being with and meeting people in places I would have never met them before has really enriched my life.” He concluded by saying he was “humbled and honored to be in the position I am in tonight.”

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“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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