

## **Meet the 2025 HOF Inductees**

### **Theodis Bowe IV – Player**

A native of Milford, Delaware, Theo was a standout outfielder at Milford High in 2005-2008, where he set numerous school records as well as two state records in stolen bases (season and career). He was 1st team All Henlopen during his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons. In his sophomore season, Theo batted .431 with a .536 OPS and 21 stolen bases. His junior year saw him bat .516 with a .608 OPS and 38 stolen bases (state record). In his senior campaign, he batted .476 with a .608 OPS and 34 stolen bases. The Cincinnati Reds recognized Theo's talent as they drafted him in the 21st round of the 2008 Major League Draft. Theo went on to play 6 seasons in the Reds organization, reaching as high as AA Pensacola. He was named Top Prospect two times and was named a California League all-star in 2012. Bowe finished his minor league career with 410 games and a .259 batting average in 1,489 plate appearances.

### **Larry A. Chance - Player**

Born in Nassawadox, Virginia, Larry has dedicated a lifetime to baseball here on the Eastern Shore. In his younger days, he played little league and Babe Ruth baseball where he was an integral part of numerous winning teams. In high school, Larry played for the Atlantic Cardinals, where he was a starting pitcher and shortstop. His teams won the district title in 1975 and 1976 while competing with strong teams from the Virginia Beach and Norfolk areas. In his senior year, his pitching record was 5-2 with a 1.92 ERA and he hit .384 with 3 home runs. After a ten year layoff, Larry signed on to play for the Virginia Shores of the Eastern Shore Baseball League. He played under Hall of Fame manager Dave Tyler from 1987 to 1990 as a shortstop and pitcher. At 65 years old, Larry is still playing baseball, now in an over 50 league in Salisbury. However, Larry's biggest impact on baseball on the Eastern Shore may be his coaching and training of young athletes. He managed teams in little league, high school, and American Legion and trained numerous baseball and softball players who went on to be collegiate athletes.

## **Mark “Holy” Comolli - Player**

A native of Tillamook, Oregon, Mark spent the early days of his baseball career playing in lower Sussex County little league through big league. His teams won Henlopen conference titles in 1993 at Selbyville Middle School and in 1997 at Indian River High School. In Mark's senior year, he was named first team all-state utility, played in the Blue-Gold game at Frawley Stadium, and played on the Carpenter Cup team in Philadelphia. After high school, Mark attended Delaware Technical & Community College where they advanced to the NJCAA Division II Championship in 1998. Unfortunately Mark injured his elbow during that run and required Tommy John surgery. However, he returned to Del Tech in 2000 and the team won the regionals, district, and the 2001 NJCAA Division 2 World Series, where Mark was named MVP of the tournament. In June 2001, Mark was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 25th round of the Major League draft and was named comeback player of the year in Training and Conditioning magazine. He played in the Blue Jays system for 3 years, making it as high as Triple A two times. Mark was a first pick in the 2003 Rule 5 draft to the Tampa Bay Rays and played with the Bakersfield Blaze in 2004. He played his final two pro seasons in the Canadian/American League with North Shore and New Haven in 2005 and 2006. In Mark's 185 game professional career, he compiled a record of 17-30 with 38 saves and a 4.76 ERA.

## **Harvey Ellingsworth – Umpire**

Born in Bridgeville, Delaware, Harvey has been an icon in the umpiring community on the Eastern Shore for numerous decades. A U.S. Army veteran from 1969-1971, he has umpired in the Sussex County little league for 54 years and is still umpiring at 75 years of age. In addition to his little league service, Harvey umpired in the Eastern Shore Baseball League from 1982 to 1995 and was the umpire assigner for Delaware. He has also umpired in the ASA for 15 years, USSSA for 20 years, and High School Baseball Federation for 15 years. Exhibiting his dedication to the local baseball community, Harvey has been a member of the Board of Directors for Sports at the Beach since 2003 and received the Georgetown Little League Volunteer of the Year award in 2024.

## **Brian Femi– Manager**

A native of Frostburg, Maryland, Brian Femi is the most accomplished high school baseball coach ever on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. 2025 marks Brian's 35th season as head varsity baseball coach at St. Michael's High School. He has compiled a record of 475-220 (68%) with five state championships (2001, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2017), 4-time state finalist (2000, 2012, 2018, 2021), ten regional championships, and two Bayside Conference championships. Making these achievements even more impressive is that St. Michaels is the second smallest public high school in Maryland. Prior to St. Michaels, he was the head varsity baseball coach at Easton High School for three seasons. With his 22 wins there, Brian is only three wins short of 500 at the start of the 2025 season. In addition to his success at St. Michaels, he has been a head and assistant coach with Team Maryland (high school all-stars) and Big 26 Team Maryland. In 2014, he led Team Maryland to its first-ever Heartland Classic Championship in Norman, Oklahoma. Brian has twice been selected as the National Regional Coach of the Year, once Maryland State Coach of the Year, and District 8 (Eastern Shore) Coach of the Year eight times. In 2011, he was inducted into the Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches (MSABC) Hall of Fame and has been selected for induction into the National High School Baseball Coaches Association (NHSBCA) Hall of Fame in December this year.

## **Matt Phillips – Player**

Born in Salisbury, Maryland, Matt was a right-handed pitcher for Seaford High School, where they won the state championship in 1993. He was a two-time all-state selection and won the 1994 Delaware Gatorade State Player of the Year award. Matt continued his baseball career at the University of Delaware and was a three-time First Team All Conference pitcher. He was also named the 1998 Atlantic East Conference Pitcher of the Year. He tied the Blue Hens career wins record with 33 wins and only 5 losses and had a stretch where he won a record 23 games in a row. Matt also ranks in the top 10 in all-time strikeouts and games pitched. He was also one of eight pitchers to throw a no hitter against Hofstra in 1997. Follow his collegiate career, Matt was selected in the 14th round of the 1998 Major League draft by the Boston Red Sox. He played two seasons professionally before retiring after the 1999 season. Matt finished with a 6-9 record with a 4.49 ERA in 146 innings pitched.

## **Jerry Pusey - Player**

A native of Crisfield, Maryland, Jerry's family moved to Fruitland after World War II ended. His youth baseball journey included playing in Fruitland Little League and Salisbury Pony League, where he was a perennial all-star who led many pitching and batting categories in both leagues. In his second year of Pony League, Jerry was recruited by Gene Corbett, St. Louis Cardinals scout and Delmar Railroaders manager, to play for Delmar in the Central Shore League. In 1960-1961, he played in the Salisbury Colt League where he was an all-star each year and led his team to the District Colt League Championship in 1961. Jerry went undefeated in three years of pitching varsity baseball at Wi-Hi and threw a no hitter against Milford High as a junior. As a senior, Jerry batted .444, leading the team in batting average and stolen bases while going undefeated on the mound and not allowing an earned run all season. Jerry was among the finalists at tryouts held at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium for the Hearst Newspapers sponsored all-star game held annually at Yankee Stadium. After high school, he participated in numerous major league tryout camps and was offered a contract by the Milwaukee Braves, but he chose to attend the University of Maryland, where he was already accepted and enrolled. Jerry played freshman baseball and freshman/varsity soccer at Maryland. Following his 3rd semester, he withdrew from school and returned home to help support his mother and three younger siblings. Jerry went on to star in local fast-pitch softball for many years as well as coaching and officiating several youth baseball and soccer teams.

## **Cory Willey - Player**

Born in Cambridge, Maryland, Cory graduated from Cambridge - South Dorchester High School in 1999. After graduation, he enrolled at Chesapeake College, where the head baseball coach converted Cory from an outfielder/first baseman to a left-handed power pitcher. Head Coach Frank Szymanski knew what he was doing, as Cory went on to become a pitching ace for both the Junior College Chesapeake Skipjacks and Division III Salisbury University. After college, Cory played in the Boston Red Sox (2004) and the Philadelphia Phillies (2007) organizations, reaching the AA Reading Phillies in 2007. He also played Independent League baseball with four different organizations, wrapping up his professional career in 2010. In six professional seasons, Cory had a record of 27-11, an ERA of 3.80, and 276 strikeouts in 289 innings pitched. Cory also played in the Eastern Shore Baseball League with Tri-County and the Perdue Chicks, before and after his professional stints. In the ESBL, he compiled a 31-4 record with an ERA of .650 and 396 strikeouts in 269 innings pitched.