

WELCOME TO THE 11TH ANNUAL
AVON PARK CHAMPIONS CLUB



HALL OF FAME BANQUET

INDUCTEES

Adrian Battles

Don Hickman

Dr. James Marcum

Walter Nunnallee

FEBRUARY 25, 2023



TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

Welcome Walter Nunnallee
 InvocationFather Ronnie Sison
 Pledge of Allegiance Walter Nunnallee
 Opening RemarksStephanie Devlin, President
 EntertainmentAPHS Show Choir
 AP Baseball Museum PresentationDr. Ron Sevigny
 Dinner Served by APHS Culinary
 President's AwardStephanie Devlin, President
 Student ScholarshipsChet Brojek, Vice-President

Induction of Adrian Battles

Induction of Don Hickman

Induction of Dr. James Marcum

Induction of Walter Nunnallee

Closing RemarksStephanie Devlin, President

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the Avon Park Champions Club is to create a championship environment in Avon Park both by honoring the past and supporting our local academic and athletic programs. All the championships in the history of Avon Park were a product of the support of families, coaches, teachers, teammates, classmates - the entire community. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community effort to produce championship caliber programs. The Avon Park Champions Club was formed to provide the support necessary to afford each student that same opportunity that many of us experienced in years past. To steal a quote from Field of Dreams, "build it and they will come;" create a championship environment in our community and the championships will come!

If you are interested in supporting the Champions Club, please visit our website at www.apchampionsclub.com or scan this QR code to make a donation



For more information:
 118 South Lake Avenue, Avon Park, FL 33825
 Phone: 863-453-5959 | Email: info@apchampionsclub.com

TONIGHT'S SPONSORS

PLATINUM PLUS (\$1,250)

Avanti Co.	John Palmer Electric
Bagwell Lumber	Kenny Dixon
Bill Jarrett Ford	MIDFLORIDA Credit Union
Carney Foundation	NUCOR
Cowpoke's Watering Hole	Sevigny & Associates
devtech	SouthState Bank
Huston Chevrolet	Walter & Joyce Nunnallee
Jahna Concrete	Wild Turkey Tavern
Jarrett-Gordon Ford	

PLATINUM (\$500)

Chet & Chris Brojek
Edward Jones (Jeff Roth & Cheryl Brown)
Heartland National Bank
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church

GOLD (\$250)

Avon Park Noon Rotary Club
Barben Fruit Co.
Edgewood Landscaping
GeoDev
Griffin's Dry Cleaning & Laundry
Hicks Oil
Long's Air Conditioning
Souther Signs

SILVER (\$100)

Ann Montsdeoca McCoun
Big T Tire
Designer's Top Shop
18 East Restaurant
Jean Lund
Ron Sevigny
Steve & Becky Ford
The Home Depot

HALL OF FAMERS

Class of 2012

Lucy Derkman
Joe Franza
Reginald "Guy" Garrett
Thomas Gordon
Ronnie Jackson
Bill Jarrett

Class of 2013

Chet Brojek
Frederic "Fred" Jahna
Virgil Martin
Rance "Hoppy" Rewis
J. C. Walker

Class of 2014

Ralph Hill
Dwayne Lemler
Dexter Seigler
Ronald Sevigny
Don Sisemore

Class of 2015

Robert Barben
Rodney Davis
Dale Landress
Jean Lund
Jimmy Prevatt

Class of 2016

Alvin Conner
Cherri Lee
Al Loveless
Fred Montsdeoca
Wendell Williams

Class of 2017

Chuck Anderson
Thomas Bagwell
John Crittenden
Willie English
Anthony Gordon

Class of 2018

Charles "Charlie" Bonjokian
Joe Jackson
Laurie Welch
Stanley Wells

Class of 2019

Ann Carter
Kenny Long
Steve Maxwell
Clyde "Chop" Pough

Class of 2020

C. Elton Crews
Kenny Dixon
Dean Lemler
David Sisemore

Class of 2022

Kimberly Best
Dr. Catherine P. Cornelius
Sherwin Mackintosh
Durrah Martin

SUPPORTING THE PRESENT

The Avon Park Champions Club helps support the following programs, sports, clubs and organizations:

All Avon Park Public Schools
APHS AVID
APHS Culinary
APHS Baseball
APHS & APMS Basketball
APHS & APMS Cheer
APHS Football
APHS Soccer
APHS Tennis
APHS Girl's Flag Football
APMS Volleyball
Avon Park Diamond Club
Avon Park Youth Football
Avon Park Dixie Youth Baseball
APHS Choir & Band
Boys' and Girls' Club
Music on Main Street
APHS Student-Athlete of the Month
Parade of Athletes
Central Florida Striders
Champions Elite Track Team
Children's Museum of the Highlands
Marc Mero (motivational speaker)
Jingle Bell Run
Harvest Festival Anchor Sponsor
School Advisory Committee
Joe Franza Scholarship
Sebring Firemen, Inc.
APHS Robotics
APHS FBLA
AP Touchdown Club
APHS Project Graduation
School Advisory Council
Central Florida Striders
Leadership Highlands

ENCOURAGING THE FUTURE

The Avon Park Champions Club seeks to assist students who have demonstrated integrity, strength of character, financial need, a good academic record, commitment to pursue a college education and a desire to contribute.

Scholarship Recipients

2014

Charles Council
Maria Tataris

2015

Brianna Cox
Rachel Gaidos

2016

Paul Devlin
Chase Langston

2017

Cassidy Beers
Luis Cervera
Jaydee Grice
Diana Eugenio-Hernandez

2018

Kristen Farless
Joseph Franza
Bryce Langston
Denise Limdimas
Madison Thomas

2019

Neaychma Fogle
Kirsten Oca
Magnolia Santiago
Amy Schlosser
Miranda Bustos

2020

William Parker
Jacey Pella
Kevin Myers
Olivia Guerndt
Aiden Pierce

2021

Hannah Loomis
Joshua Farless
Jazmia McDonald
Samuel Morgan
Jocelyn Hernandez
Ja'Nya Jenkins

2022

Alicia Perry
Hadley Jackson
Landon Cox
Addie Ferguson
Briana Martinez
Adrianna Martinez

ADRIAN BATTLES

Adrian Battles was born on January 30, 1971, at Walker Memorial Hospital in Avon Park to parents Linda Jackson and the late Joseph Battles. Adrian is the oldest of eight children giving him five sisters and two brothers: Chiquita, Joteish, Nikki, Jessica, Jasmine, Algernon and Joseph. Adrian is married to Candace Battles, and he is the proud father of five daughters and two sons: Shanice, Zanichaily, Adrian II, Nia, Cameryn, Antonio, and Paige.



Adrian's passion for football began at Avon Park Middle School and continued to cultivate through high school. At Avon Park High School, Adrian excelled as a defensive lineman. Adrian played a pivotal role in two undefeated seasons, as well as two state 2A championships: in 1987, and again in 1988, when he earned awards for Most Valuable Player and Most Outstanding Defensive Lineman.

After high school, Adrian joined the United States Army, and within his first year of active-duty service, he was deployed to Kuwait in support of the Gulf War. He went on to complete seven additional deployments including one rotation to Haiti, and six rotations between Iraq and Afghanistan. Adrian's 22 years of active service includes duty assignments to Fort Bragg, N.C.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and Vilseck, Germany where he retired in 2012.

After retiring from the Army, Adrian contracted at the 7th Special Forces Group Compound in Northwest Florida. His wife continued her service to the country, and eventually the Battles' family was assigned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), Alaska. While in Alaska, Adrian took the opportunity to sharpen a different passion of his: cooking. Adrian enrolled in, and graduated from, the University of Alaska, Anchorage Culinary Arts program, class of 2017.

After his family completed their tour in Alaska, they decided to settle in Crestview, Florida where he is currently the Assistant Culinary Director at Crosspoint Church in Niceville.

Adrian's military awards include Army Commendation Medal (5th Award), Army Achievement Medal, NATO Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal (6th Award) National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Afghan Campaign Medal with 2 Campaign Stars and Iraq Campaign Medal with Arrowhead, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (3rd Award), United Nations Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Marksman Badge.

Plans for the Battles family include a restaurant in Crestview, a run for City Council and continuing to serve God and the communities of Okaloosa County through Crosspoint Culinary Ministry.



DON HICKMAN

Donald Hickman was born in Dayton, Ohio, on December 23, 1953, to Donald Hickman Sr. and Opal Hickman. In August of 1974, he married the love of his life, Beverly Rasmusson Hickman. They have resided in Avon Park since 1986. He has two sisters, three children, and five grandchildren.



Growing up and all through school, Don played football, basketball and participated both in choir and band. In his senior year (1972), his football team finished second in the state. During his high school years, Don was captain of the football team, the wrestling team, and track team.

Don played football at Graceland University in Iowa. When he was there, Graceland won their first conference championship, and Don made the All-Conference team. Following graduation from Graceland, Don started working at a small junior high school in Omaha, Nebraska, where he coached football, wrestling, and track. His teams won two city championships in football, and one in wrestling.

Don and his family moved to Florida on January 16, 1986. He then started a job at Avon Park Elementary School as a physical education teacher. He was awarded Teacher of the Year for the improvements of the physical education classes, which included a new track with a 35-station obstacle course, a strengthening course, basketball courts, and playground equipment.

Don then started coaching football with Bill Jarrett and Charlie Bonjokian on the JV team and helped scout for the varsity team. In 1990 Don, with the help of Chet Brojek and Hoppy Rewis, started a weightlifting team. This program developed quickly, earning many medals and district wins, with many lifters going to state.

Don started the Travis Todd Memorial Weightlifting Tournament in honor of one of his wrestlers. At times, there would be as many as 20 teams participating. This tournament was very dear to Don's heart, as Travis was not only a team leader and great wrestler, but also a dear friend.

During his long teaching and coaching career, Don Hickman has won many awards, including:

- Teacher of the Year 1986 – Avon Park Elementary School
- Coach of the Year 2005 – All County
- District Coach of the year 2005 -Boy's Weightlifting
- Coach of the Year 2007 – Girls' Weightlifting
- Coach of the Year 2008 – Girls' Tennis
- District Coach of the Year 2015, 2016 and 2017 – Boy's Weightlifting
- Cross Country Coach 2015, 2016, 2017 (school record was set by both girls and boys)
- News-Sun Unsung Hero 2017
- Heartland FCA Hall of Fame 2017

Don has been instrumental in helping numerous Avon Park High School students go on to find their dream at his alma mater and other colleges.

Although Don loved coaching, he always preferred to teach and help others in any way he could, and his help of others continues today.

Don has always turned to God for help in his life and gives him credit for his success, his family, his friends, and the opportunity to teach, coach, and otherwise help students and others.

DR. JAMES MARCUM

Dr. James Marcum grew up in Avon Park Florida and participated in youth baseball (Coach Lew Mundt, Coach Jimmy Hart, and Coach Ronnie Jackson) and was a member of the Avon Park baseball state championship team of 1980.



With degrees from the University of Texas, Medical Center of Delaware, and University of Kentucky, he is currently in practice as a senior cardiologist with the Chattanooga Heart Institute specializing in disease reversal.

As speaker/director of the 501c-3 ministry, Heartwise Ministries, He has been blessed with a syndicated television, radio, and social media ministry helping others see the "Big Picture" in health. Several years ago, USA Today named as one of the most influential physicians in America.

His published articles and books include, "Medicines that Kill" and "Ultimate Prescription" (Tyndale Press) along with the seven-week Bible study, "Biblical Prescriptions for Life." These resources empowers others in health. The youth program "God Heals Me" is reaching a younger generation.

The weekly YouTube channel "Biblical Prescriptions for Life" has received millions of views. The Biblical Prescriptions worship app is helping others improve health through daily worship. As a teacher and consultant, he is called on to travel extensively.

He has two grown children, married to Sonya (32 years) and resides in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He enjoys traveling, outdoor activities and spending time with loved ones.

WALTER NUNNALLEE

Hue and Nancy Nunnallee with their five children (later expanding to seven children) moved to Avon Park in 1956. It was a homecoming of sorts because Nancy "Betts" Nunnallee graduated in 1940 from APHS as her class' valedictorian, and Hue Nunnallee had been stationed during the war at the Avon Park Bombing Range training as a B-26 bomber pilot.



Walter (who was the fourth of the Nunnallee kids) entered first grade at Avon Elementary in 1959 and graduated from APHS in 1971.

Walter loved his high school years, and was very active in high school activities. He graduated as salutatorian, earning the second highest GPA in his senior class (behind Susie Skipper Hunnicutt). Because of his great teachers at APHS, Walter's GPA was also the second highest GPA in Highlands County for graduating classes of 1971 (including Sebring High School and Lake Placid High School). He served as an officer in numerous scholastic and service high school organizations.

Nunnallee loved playing high school sports. He was a hurdler and sprinter on the track team (earning Most Valuable Track Member in his junior and senior years). He also placed second in high hurdles at the 1970 state high school track meet in Gainesville. His high school track coach was young Chet Brojek (who later became an iconic Florida high school track coach and is a fellow 2013 HOF inductee).

Walter also played high school football and was named Best Offensive Player his senior year. Not only did Walter get to play his high school football with 2014 Hall of Famer Donald Sisemore, but he was also coached by Joe Franza (HOF Class of 2012) and Ralph Hill (HOF Class of 2014). How could Walter not have had a terrific athletic experience at APHS having played alongside a Champions

Club Hall of Famer and coached by three Champions Club Hall of Famers?!

Walter graduated Magna Cum Laude from Florida State University in 1975 with a major in accounting (earning a 4.0 GPA in his major). Upon graduation, he moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, and worked three years as a CPA with the international accounting firm of KPMG. In 1978 Walter began attending the University of North Carolina School of Law, graduating on 1981 (finishing in the top 15% of his class).

After practicing several years as a tax attorney in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1984 Walter entered the Graduate Tax Program at the University of Florida School of Law in Gainesville, Florida, earning his LL.M (Taxation) Degree in 1985 (finishing first in his class). He was asked by the Law School Faculty to stay an additional year and teach tax law at the Florida Law School. In that position, Nunnallee learned that he had a passion for teaching tax law at the law school level.

In 1988, Walter accepted a full-time position to teach tax law at NCCU School of Law, and shortly thereafter became a tenured full professor. During this time, Nunnallee served as: President of the Tax Section of the NC Bar Association; member of NC Bar Executive Committee; and member of the Board of Advisors of the J. Nelson Young Tax Institute. He also authored numerous tax articles published in national publications, including the Oregon Law Review; NCCU Law Review; Tax Notes published by Tax Analysts; The ABA's Tax Lawyer; and The Review of Taxation of Individuals. He was awarded "Teacher of the Year" three times by NCCU School of Law and also received the "Scholar of the Year" award. On multiple occasions, he served as an adjunct professor of tax law at: Duke University School of Law; UNC School of Law; and, the Graduate Tax Program at the University of Florida College of Law.

Walter was the subject of a featured newspaper article in the Durham, NC Herald Sun entitled "NCCU's Walter Nunnallee Makes Tax Law Fun." Here are a few excerpts:
"[In 1988, Walter Nunnallee at] NCCU School Law launched the

first of what are now five courses in tax law. [During Nunnallee's tenure] over 80 students have gone on to obtain master of law degrees in taxation at some of the nation's top law schools [that offer graduate tax programs] including the Law Schools of New York University, Northwestern University, Georgetown University, and the University of Florida. [In the world of training tax attorneys] this makes NCCU a powerhouse next to most larger law schools, including Duke and UNC. As an arm of a historically black university, NCCU Law is better known for its graduates' contributions to civil rights and discrimination. But [since Nunnallee's arrival], its record in producing experts in taxation law is among the school's best-kept secrets. A professor at Duke Law School, Larry Zelenak, who also teaches tax law and has known Nunnallee for years, says he appreciates Nunnallee's infectious zeal for the subject. 'He's truly remarkable in his ability to get students so enthusiastic about tax law. They not only take all the courses he offers but go on to take more,' Zelenak said. 'He's a real Pied Piper.'"

Nunnallee has co-authored three comprehensive tax manuals commonly used nationwide by CPAs and tax attorneys and was a nationally recognized speaker at continuing education tax conferences around the country, including speaking at: the Virginia Tax Conference; UNC Law School's J. Nelson Young Tax Institute; Southern Federal Tax Institute; and, the Montana School of Law Tax Institute. He also has made hundreds of continuing education tax lectures sponsored by various state CPA societies, including: North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Iowa, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maryland, Colorado, Tennessee, Oregon, New York, and others. Over the years, he has been given scores of awards by these state CPA societies for the high participant ratings he has earned for his presentations.

Walter is married to Joyce Strickler Nunnallee (his best friend, most-valued advisor and faithful supporter, and love of his life). Nunnallee has two children who live in Raleigh, North Carolina: Claire Nunnallee and Andy Nunnallee. He also has two step-daughters (SuAnne and Sabrina) and three step-grandchildren (Kyla, Lauren, and Weston), all of whom reside in Tennessee.

CLUB BOARD

Executive Board

President Stephanie Devlin
Vice President Chet Brojek
Secretary Dawn Henderson
Treasurer..... Walter Nunnallee

Board of Directors

Charles Devlin, Scott Dressel, Kimberly Ferguson, Amy Jackson,
Ronnie Jackson, Lew Mundt, Joe Murphy



BBQ CREW



Head Chef
Ronnie Jackson

BBQ Team

Ronnie Jackson
Lew Mundt
Billy Jackson
Keith Bentley
Gary Smith
Dean Lemler
Danny Albritton

*Thanks to the
volunteers who help
us cook! We couldn't
do it without you!*