

# Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



## DR. JAMES E. VAN HORN Class of 2011

*"In Recognition of a Lifetime of Outstanding Achievement in the game of Baseball.  
The State of Alabama will forever be in your debt."*

James Van Horn was born in San Francisco, California on October 28, 1937 to a military family, James H. and Margaret H. Van Horn. Following the death of his father during World War II, he was raised in Palmyer, Alabama. While attending Hewitt-Trussville High School, he won the Alabama High School Cross-country Championship and lettered in football and track. Following high school, he attended the University of Alabama and was on the varsity track, cross country, and rifle teams. He was inducted into the A Club. The University conferred the BS, MA, and EdD degrees for academic work completed.

Van Horn served four and a half years active duty in the U. S. Army following his initial graduation from the University of Alabama. This service included 13 months in Viet Nam where he was decorated eight times for service as an armed helicopter pilot. He continued his military service in the U. S. Army Reserve retiring with rank of Colonel.

In 1972, while serving as the Chairman of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division of Jefferson State Junior College, he was chosen to become the Commissioner of the Alabama Junior College Conference. He held this position until his retirement in November 1998. In addition, he served as Alabama's representative to the National Junior College Athletic Association, first as assistant regional director (1972-1976) and then as regional director (1976-1998).

While serving as NJCAA regional director, he was a member at various times of the Tennis, International relations, Track and Field, and Executive Committees. He has chaired All-American Awards, and Districting Committees. He served on the Baseball Committee for 18 years, nine as chairman. He served as the NJCAA representative for the JUCO Baseball Championship tournament for nine years, Southeast District Director for Baseball (AL/GA/FL) for 13 years, and NJCAA representative to the National Amateur Baseball Council twice. He served on the first Alabama Sports Festival Steering Committee and was charged with organizing the baseball segment played at Rickwood Field in Birmingham.

While serving as the Wallace State Community College dean of instruction and athletic director, he hosted the first NJCAA Men's Invitational Championship Fall Golf, and the first eight NJCAA Women's Invitational Championship Slow Pitch Softball Tournaments.

In 1989, Van Horn was inducted into the Alabama Junior College Athletic Hall Of Fame.

In retirement, Dr. Van Horn and his wife, Jane, reside in Orlando, Florida. They have two daughters, Sonya Van Horn lives in Raleigh, NC, where she serves as Executive Director of Partnerships in Assistive Technology, and Barbara Van Horn, a self-employed CPA, lives nearby with their granddaughter Stacy Helman. He served as secretary- treasurer of a national veterans association for two years and currently serves as president of his homeowners association.

**Inducted January 21, 2011**