

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award



JOE C. ELLIOTT, JR. **2016 Recipient**

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

Coach Joe C. Elliott, Jr. has been involved in promoting amateur baseball for more than 50 years. He has been a player, coach, manager, committee member, commissioner, and even an umpire when needed.

His years of service promoting baseball started in 1961 when he was hired to teach and coach at Bibb County High School. In 1961-62 he coached Babe Ruth Baseball and in 1963 he started coaching American Legion Baseball. In the 1970s and 1980s he coached semi-pro teams in the Birmingham-Bessemer Amateur League. Since 1991 he has mainly worked with the American Legion teams after his youngest son, Frank, played on the Tuscaloosa Post 34 team. Young Frank then found himself head coach of Post 34 for one season and won the State Championship with his proud father cheering him on. Since then Coach Elliott has been coach or manager of the Centreville Post 128 team for many years. His leadership as teacher, coach, principal, and two terms as Superintendent of Education has given him the opportunity to promote many players into college and from college into jobs. He retired from education in 1995 but not from baseball.

Coach Joe Elliott is 82 years old. He lives with his daughter Gail, next door to his other daughter Joy. He works with his oldest son Joe Tom in their garden and family logging business. He is a scout and recruiter for his youngest son, Frank, who is now head baseball coach at George C. Wallace Community College in Selma. Coach Elliott has spent a fortune on baseballs, bats, uniforms, gatorade, umpire fees, and gasoline. If he were given every dime back he would turn around and spend it on baseball again.

Coach Elliott's family says of him being the recipient of the 2016 Alabama Baseball Coaches Association's Distinguished Service Award, "It is a great honor for him to be recognized for his many years of service. He is very appreciative to receive this award."

Honored January 22, 2016