

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award



WALTER “CHET” ATKINS 2018 Recipient

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

Walter “Chet” Atkins joined the Navy in 1955, where he served his country for 33 years. After his retirement in 1988, he began working as a “part-time” professional baseball scout for his longtime friend Joe Mason. Chet helped Joe a total of 18 years, from 1988-2000 while he was with the New York Mets and from 2000-2005 while Joe was with the Boston Red Sox. Fitting that Chet finished his scouting career with the Red Sox, since he grew up a big fan of them as a youth. After he retired from scouting, for several years he transported professional players’ cars from their homes to their teams locations at the beginning and end of their seasons.

Chet was known throughout Alabama as Joe’s right hand man, who’s down home personality made him very well liked and admired by all the coaches, players and their mommas and daddies that he came into contact with. Chet had the unique gift of making you feel special whenever you had an encounter with him. He may have been “part-time” in title, by he was “full-time” when it came to how many high school and college baseball games he saw, and how many peoples lives he touched.

Honored January 19, 2018