



# The **Legendary**

*Where Legends Are Remembered!*

**Items of interest for your informational consumption . . . !**

FALL 2022

*Our mission has been to acknowledge, promote, archive, and disseminate the illustrious history and impact that basketball as a sport has had on Metro-Columbus and surrounding counties, which has produced some of the most accomplished women and men in the field of sport, business, and social activism.*

## ‘22 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony - MORE THAN BASKETBALL -

By S. Yolanda Robinson / Photos by Terry Gilliam

Many people who attended The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony on August 20, 2022 are commenting on how much love was in the room. It was inspiring to hear how basketball has transformed the lives of former players and coaches.

2022 Hall of Famer Jerry Saunders jokingly said how he got started playing basketball in his backyard. “It started with the NBA (National Backyard Association,” he said. This led him into a world of social justice where he is presently the CEO of The Africentric Personal Development Shop and serves on many boards that help a lot of families in our community facing abuse issues.

As this year’s Hall of Famers accepted their awards, you heard messages to never give up. Many of them ranked high in the field of basketball but it didn’t last forever. Clark Kellogg played for the Indiana Pacers, and he got hurt. His love for basketball and his desire to continue took him into another part of basketball where he became one of the leading sports analyses in the country working for ESPN and CBS. He presently serves on the board of



trustees at The Ohio State University where he graduated 1996 in marketing.

The same is true of Reggie Rankin who played for the Ohio University Bob Cats. Although he did not make it to the National Basketball Association, he helps many get there as being a scout for the Golden State Warriors. As one of the scouts he assisted the Warriors in recruiting championship teams. The Golden State Warriors has four NBA championships.

Todd Penn was one of the herald basketball players in the country when he played high school basketball at Linden McKinley High School. He loved basketball so much that he did not have a plan. When he attended college



## Spread The Word!

GCBLA invites you to share this Legendary Newsletter with your friends, relatives and colleagues whether they are basketball enthusiasts or not. There is always lots of pertinent information within these pages!

all he wanted to do was play. He never thought about studying and started using drugs. This caused him to become homeless. In 2008 he prayed and asked God to help him and He did. Todd said this experience makes him grateful



for things he would normally take for granted. If he had to live his life over again, he would study hard and make good grades. "I realize God has a purpose for my life. I want to share my experience with the younger generation." Todd said. "Both me and my wife spend our weekends visiting homeless camps feeding them and telling them God loves them." Todd stated. "We hug them. It is probably the only hug they will have for a while. I been there and can identify with their pain. God saved me. I am so grateful." Todd said.

Ray Miller, owner and publisher of The Columbus and Dayton African American Journal challenged the men in the audience to connect with their families even if they are not in the homes as he accepted his award. And the audience heard him. Many men came up to him and said let's do it. 2022 Hall of Famer Adam Troy and former GCBLA



inductees Senator Herschell Craig and Don Sellers were some of them.

Skip Young, President of the Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association, believes there is a positive change coming to Columbus, Ohio. "I was glad to see this type of event make things happen, he said. It creates a synergy in the room of sisterly and brotherly love," he said.

Young's statement is true. A change is occurring right on right now. 2022 Hall of Famer Fran Frazier who is the recipient of the S. Yolanda Robinson Humanitarian award is spearheading "Love Letters to Black Girls starting the last week in September and ending on October 2, 2022. Jerry Saunders



received the Curt Moody Leadership Award. Earlier in 2022, Hall of Fame Inductees Classics of Columbus sponsored a highly successful All Star Basketball event where they raised \$400,000 to go toward HBCUs. They have presently given \$28,000 in contracts to minority business and are planning a larger event in April, 2023.

2022 Hall of Fame Inductee Omari Barnes represents GCBLA delivering meals through IMPACT Christian Ministries.

2022 Hall of Fame Inductees message after leaving the enshrinement ceremony. Basketball is more than playing on the court. It is our relationships with each other. It is God's gift to you and what you do with it. It's about the love



## Support local high school athletics!

Make it a point to attend a (or several) boys and/or girls high school athletic event(s). Support the student-athletes of your community or alma mater. The players today could be the ones you'll be watching on television tomorrow!

we send out in our community. Love is healing. Pass it on.

### Posthumous Inductions:

- Eddie Clark / *Player, Coach*
- Eddie Guice / *Player, Coach*
- Bruce Howard / *Coach*
- Granville Waiters / *Player*

### 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees:

- Congresswoman Joyce Beatty / *Leadership*
- Classic of Columbus / *Media*
- Fran Frazier / *Humanitarian Award*
- S. Yolanda Robinson / *Humanitarian Award*
- Clark Kellogg / *Ambassador for Basketball*
- Ray Miller / *Media*
- Jerry Saunders / *Leadership*
- Adam Troy / *Leadership*
- Jene Davis / *Coach*
- Jeraine Guice / *Player, Coach*
- Tihon Johnson / *Player*
- Todd Penn / *Player*
- Reggie Rankin / *Player, NBA Scout*
- Katie Smith / *Player, Coach*
- Kevin Weakley / *Coach*

### MVP of Character Student Athlete Award:

- LB Towns, Jr. / *Linden McKinley HS*
- Megan Weakley / *Worthington Christian HS*



*Remembering*

# Joe Roberts

Indeed being a legend goes beyond performing physical feats. Every athlete does that, it's their business. It's the ones who are heroic away from their respective sport, the ones who sacrifice their time, money, and sometimes even personal well-being for the betterment of others, that are worthy of our admiration. Joe Roberts was such a legendary hero.

Joe Roberts (86) transitioned on Monday, October 11, 2022, at his home, with his wife (Celia), by his side in Oakland, California. Joe was a stand-out at East High School and later played and captained the 1960 Ohio State University NCAA championship basketball team, which included the likes of Jerry Lucas, John Havilicek, and Mel Nowell. Joe was drafted by the Syracuse Nationals, now the Philadelphia 76er's, playing four (4) years in the NBA, and one (1) year with ABA Kentucky Colonels. Joe later coached in the NBA with the Golden State Warriors, he acted as Head Coach during the 1975 NBA Finals, when Al Attles was ejected from game four (4), and led the team to a sweep to clinch the title. Joe is a 2013 GCBLA inductee, and has been a keynote speaker at one of Hall of Fame events.

We send our deepest condolences to his family during the passing of a true legendary coach/player and more importantly an extraordinary human being.





**Want to nominate a player, coach or team?**

GCBLA is accepting nominations for future HOF induction consideration. Download a nomination form from our website: [www.greatercbla.org](http://www.greatercbla.org) and follow the guidelines and instructions for submission.

**GCBLA Gear  
Now Available!**



<https://teamtime.shop/collections/greater-columbus-basketball-legends-association-26697503>

**Come visit our website & check out our selection and pricing!**

**2023 HALL of FAME  
INDUCTION**

The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association will conduct it's 7th Hall of Fame Induction & Awards ceremony in partnership with Classic for Columbus, sponsors of the HBCU All-Star Basketball & Celebrity Extravaganza, which will be held at the Schottenstein Center (OSU Campus), on April 21, 2023.

Further details will be forthcoming. So keep a look out, you do not want to miss this extraordinary event.



**MISSION of MERCY**

Former Linden McKinley High School, basketball stand-out and recent Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Hall of Fame inductee, is on a mission to assist those in our community, whom many of us pass by each and every day, seeking basic assistance and just a little empathy and love. Todd has taken the call to serve the least of us, particularly since he was once living that same life some years past. It is as Jesus said to his disciples, "Who will be my helpers, in the way of the Lord", they replied we will, and so did Todd Penn. Todd provides clothing and other items such as adult hats, socks (black), sleeping bags, blankets, and coats to homeless women/men around metropolitan Columbus every week with his wife. Todd needs your assistance to continue carrying out this mission of love. You can send any items or donations to Todd Penn, 3860 Bark Willow Lane, Columbus, Ohio 43207. We at GCBLA are in support of this Hall of Famer's efforts, and will do all we can to support him and help those in need, we are our sisters and brothers keeping. For further information contact Todd at (614) 288-7408.

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Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association has registered to participate in the **AMAZON SMILE** program, which allows customers to support their favorite non-profit charitable organizations. With every eligible purchase made from Amazon, a portion will be given to GCBLA. To participate search [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) and insert, The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. For further information contact us via email at [legendscbla@gmail.com](mailto:legendscbla@gmail.com).



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