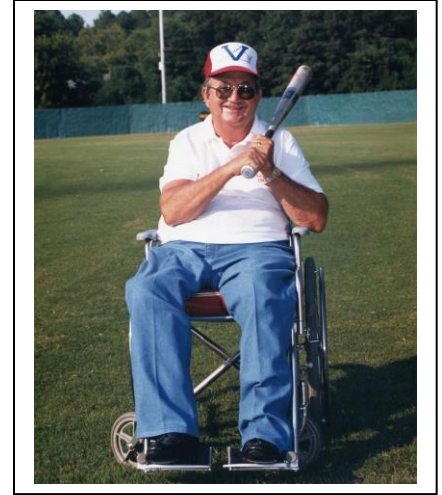


GLENN RICKETTS

At a young age, Glenn Ricketts exhibited a passion for baseball, playing at Madison Heights High School, and, to the benefit of multiple generations of local youth, living out his dreams and ambitions in tangible and exemplary ways over the next half-century.

Following graduation from Madison Heights High School, Ricketts joined the U.S. Navy and experienced a life-altering event when he became a wheelchair-bound paraplegic as a result of an accident aboard an aircraft carrier positioned off Cuba in 1953. Following recovery and rehabilitation, he returned home to fulfill his decision to influence the young people of Amherst County through youth sports. The fulfillment of this goal subsequently played out over more than four decades, with his involvement in Madison Heights youth baseball, first Little League, then Dixie Youth. At times, he also coached in Lynchburg for youth teams, including an American Legion team.



He served as coach for eleven- and twelve-year-olds for 43 years. One of his Madison Heights teams, in 1979, was the first Amherst County baseball team to win a Virginia State Championship and to then play in the Dixie Youth World Series in North Carolina. He also coached youth basketball and church league softball for several years. Ricketts' active involvement in Madison Heights youth baseball began in 1958 and did not conclude until his death in 2001.

Madison Heights Dixie Youth teams now consistently contend for regional and state championships, with 3 teams playing in the World Series. Central Virginia has hosted 3 Dixie Youth World Series.

Glenn Ricketts' influence on the growth and development of Amherst County young people did not cease at his death. The fulfillment of his visions – to have a baseball complex and to host a Dixie Youth World Series – both occurred in his lifetime. The W. Glenn Ricketts Youth Sports Complex in Madison Heights not only bears the name of one whose contributions are almost immeasurable, but will also stand as a testament to future generations that a seemingly devastating moment in one's life can serve to propel him to greatness far beyond anything ever imagined.

Willie Glenn Ricketts – October 7, 1928 - September 20, 2001

Career Highlights

- Designated as All-Star with U.S. Navy baseball team, Pensacola, Florida, 1953, as a pitcher
- Wheelchair basketball, Richmond Charioteers, 1954-55
- Distinguished Service Award, Madison Heights Jaycees, 1962
- Coach, Madison Heights Dixie Youth Baseball, 1958 – 2001
- Coach, Virginia State Championship Dixie Youth Baseball Team, 1979
- Dixie Youth World Series, 1979
- Madison Heights Youth Baseball Association Board of Directors, 1958 – 2001
- Madison Heights Youth Baseball Association, Executive Vice President, 1990-2001