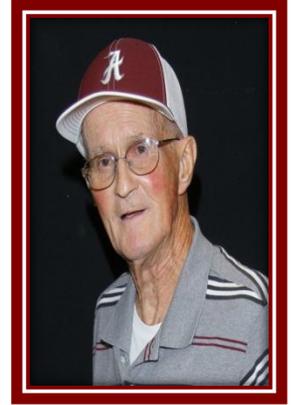




## Jim Brent



Jim Brent, the man behind the camera. Anyone who has ever had a child playing youth sports in Amherst County has a picture taken by Jim Brent. The same can be said about players in Lynchburg. Jim has spent more than 50 years photographing youth sports in our area. Whether it be baseball, softball, football, basketball or soccer, Jim finds his way to the fields with camera in hand. His start in photography was with his brother Kent. They would travel all over the area taking pictures of every sport. After Kent's death many people were worried that Jim would give up his profession. That never crossed his mind. He partnered up with his and Kent's assistant Michelle Jones and it was back to work as normal. As a professional photographer most organizations in Amherst County contract him to take the team pictures of all the teams in their program. That's not the end of that story. All during the season in every sport he is there taking individual pictures of the players and spectators. Those pictures are not for sale. He gives them to the parents. When All-Star teams are selected he is right there to take a picture of every team. He never asks the organizations for any money. It is his generosity that describes who he is.

Born in Nelson County, Jim considers home from the farthest northern border of Nelson County to the far southern border of Lynchburg and every ballfield and gymnasium in between. For 50 years he was employed at the Lynchburg News and Advance as an advertising consultant. This job opened many doors for his love for photography. Regularly, you would see a sports picture in the sports section of the paper photographed by Jim Brent and possibly even more times in the Amherst New Era Progress. Hall of Fame photographer Lee Luther Jr. would often call on Jim to fill in and provide pictures for some event that was going on in the county. Madison Heights Baseball Association hosted three Dixie Youth World Series. Jim was there from the day before the first pitch was thrown until the lights were turned off after the Championship Game. He watched most of every game through the lens of his camera.

Jim not only took pictures of youth sports. He coached as well. He was affiliated with Lynchburg Little League for 56 years. Within that organization he wore many hats. He coached almost every year that he was in the program, he served on the Board of Directors, He worked the concession stand, did field maintenance. and guess what else, "Took Pictures". In 2005 he received the Mayors Award of Excellence. Amherst County never held it against him for volunteering all that time in the Lynchburg organization as long as he showed up at one of our fields on a regular basis to take pictures, and that he did. The man was everywhere.

Jim is an avid high school sports supporter. When not taking pictures, he can be found at one of the local high school games cheering on the home team. It doesn't make a difference what sport it is, he supports it.

In 2012 when the Amherst County Sports Hall of Fame inducted its first class of Inductees, Jim was there to take pictures of every inductee and their families and friends. He has provided the Board of Directors with hundreds of photographs of the memories of everyone involved. Yes, you guessed it, he has never charged a penny for a single picture he has provided us. This year we have taken the camera out of his hands and turned it over to Michelle. It is his turn to enjoy the other side of the lenses.