

## LEROY FLOYD

Amherst County has enjoyed considerable success in baseball, consistently more than in other sports, and much of that success can be attributed to the efforts in developing and maintaining youth leagues. At various times, as many as 500 young people have been involved in Dixie Youth Baseball. It has now grown into a large enterprise, with a six-figure annual budget and a complex covering 36 acres, serving 35 teams.

In reaching these levels of involvement for the county, one name stands out from all the others and that is Leroy Floyd of Madison Heights. The short version is that he was president of the Madison Heights youth baseball program for 20 years and National Director of Dixie Youth Baseball, which serves 11 states, for 36 years. Such behind-the-scenes devotion has helped ensure a steady stream of experienced and skilled players at the high school level and beyond.



During his tenure, more than 25 teams have won district titles, 12 have won the state championship, and one, the 1979 Dixie Pre-Majors, won the Dixie World Series. Three former Dixie Youth players from Amherst County have become major leaguers, with many others in the minors.

Floyd, now a retiree from Lynchburg Foundry and Griffin Pipe, combined a lifelong love for baseball with his deep interest in the development of young people to volunteer his time “in the trenches.” At some point, he has been involved in every aspect of laying the foundation for a successful program: seeing that fields are maintained and prepared for games, officials scheduled, game schedules prepared, players registered and assigned, coaches recruited, and funds raised and allocated.

He has been described as a man who knew how to get things done and was not afraid to ask those who would help reach goals. Hosting a Dixie Youth World Series brings tremendous economic benefit to the area, and Madison Heights has hosted 3 such events. Floyd served as tournament director for the Dixie World Series in 1982.

Floyd’s years as a director of the National Dixie Youth Association helped perpetuate these opportunities for young people. He cites Dixie Youth Baseball’s growing success as being attributable to the leadership provided by those who volunteer their time from all the participating states. Amherst County and the Commonwealth of Virginia have obviously also been so fortunate with Leroy Floyd’s 36 years of service.

R. Leroy Floyd – September 30, 1938

### Career Highlights

- Madison Heights Little League President, 1 year
- Madison Heights Dixie Youth President, 19 years
- National Director, Dixie Youth Baseball, 35 years
- 1982 Dixie Youth World Series tournament director
- Member: Lynchburg Area Sports Hall of Fame