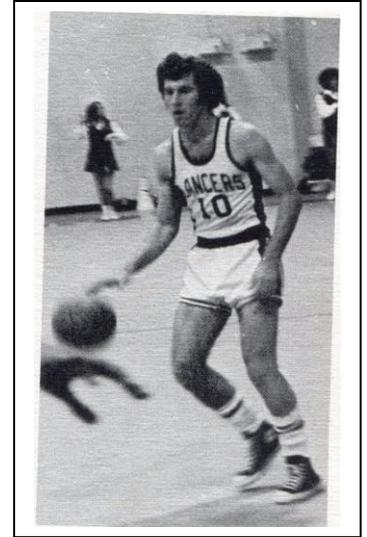


## RANDY THOMAS

Randy Thomas had all the credentials to be a natural athlete, born into a baseball family at the time that his father, Gerald Thomas, was involved in developing as a professional. He now follows his father into the Amherst Sports Hall of Fame, with many parallel achievements. Young Randy became his father's side-kick, as the elder Thomas assumed a coaching job at ACHS, giving Randy the opportunity to be in the gym and on the playing field at an early age.

Thomas was introduced to organized baseball as an 8-year-old, playing at the old Shrader Field in Madison Heights. Among his other early supporters were Dick Holt and Hall of Famer Glenn Ricketts, followed by Hall of Fame Coaches Tom Berry, Don Thompson, and Ernie Guill. He played baseball at ACHS at a time that they won district championships three consecutive years, as well as regionals on two occasions. Those teams were led by Hall of Fame Coach Jim Procopio.



Thomas went on to play baseball at Lynchburg College, coached by his father on a team that won three championships. Named to the Division III All-America team as a third-team player, he was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the fourth round in 1976. He spent his entire professional career with the Cardinals, was considered an excellent defensive shortstop, and was part of championship teams at every level from Rookie League to AAA. Thomas was teamed with many future major leaguers during his years with the Cardinals.

Following professional baseball, Thomas came to ACHS to take the reins of the baseball team, and won a regional championship in 1993. He later became athletic director at ACHS. His positions in leadership in sports led him into school administration and he completed his Doctorate in Education at the University of Virginia in 2003. The culmination of his professional life in education was as Superintendent of the Page County School System in Luray, Virginia.

Randall Wayne Thomas, Ed.D. – April 18, 1955

### Career Highlights

- Youth leagues: Baseball – Little League, Pony League, Colt League, Connie Mack Baseball, American Legion Baseball
- ACHS: Football – 2 years; Basketball – 4 years; Baseball – 4 years, Valley District Championship (1970), Western District Championship (1972, 1973), district batting title (1973); Northwest Region Championship (1972, 1973)
- LC: Baseball – 3 years, VCAA Championship (1974, 1975, 1976), First Team All-VCAA (1974, 1975, 1976), baseball team (1976) inducted into LC Sports Hall of Fame; team ranked #2 nationally in Division III; All-American, 3<sup>rd</sup> team (1976)
- Professional baseball: Drafted, St. Louis Cardinals organization; Rookie League, Appalachian League Championship (Rookie, 1976), Western Carolina League Championship (A, 1977), Texas League Championship (AA, 1979), American Association Championship (AAA, 1980); Non-roster invitee to Major League Spring Training (1981)
- ACHS: Teacher, Athletic Director (1985-1994), Baseball Coach (1986-1994), Region III Championship (1993)