

Arkansas High School Athletic Administrator Association 2016 Hall of Fame

BETTYE FRANCIS



Bettye Francis was born in Camden and attended Camden High School. She attended Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau, Mo. And completed her degree at Little Rock University (now the university of Arkansas at Little Rock) with a B.S. degree in Education and Social Studies and a minor in General Science.

Francis received additional educational hours at UALR and the University of Arkansas., She was licensed to teach Health, Physical Education, Social Studies, Chemistry, General Science and Physical Science 7-2 and ESL (English as Second Language).

Francis spent seven years teaching at Little Rock's St. Theresa Catholic School and 29 years at Little Rock's Mount St. Mary Academy.

Francis coached swimming, volleyball and golf. She was swimming coach for 29 years and won several state championships and produced several state runner-up teams. She coached volleyball for 27 years and won two state championships and had two state runner-up teams. She coached golf for five years.

Francis was the athletic director at Mount St, Mary for 20 years and instituted the school's junior high program. She was a member of the Arkansas Officials Association for 16 years, having the opportunity to officiate

at several state volleyball tournaments.

Francis spent six years at Little Rock Hall and retired in 2015 after teaching 41 years.

Bettye Francis' memberships also include:

- *Member of NFHSC and AHSCA for 29 years
- *Member of AHSAAA for over 20 years and one of the first women in the organization.
- *Member of the National Federation Swimming and Diving Committee.
- *Member of the Arkansas Activities Association Volleyball Advisory Committee.
- *Member of the Arkansas Activities Association Swimming Advisory Committee.

Bettye has been married to Don Francis for nearly 51 years. They lived in Jackson, Miss., West Monroe, La. And Little Rock.

Bettye and Don have three children:

- Joe (Kellie) and granddaughter Taylor who live in Carey, N.C.
- Mark (Pat) and grandchildren Ian, Rader, Jake and Ellie.
- Tony (Angela) and grandchildren Elizabeth, Scarlett, Houston and Lauren.

Bettye and Don attend St. Theresa Catholic Church, where Don is a Permanent Deacon and sings with Acapella Rising, a men's barbershop chorus. Bettye sings with Top of the Rock chorus, a member of Sweet Adeline International. She also sings with Heart of The Rock, a small ensemble at Top of The Rock.

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LEVANDERS RANDALL

Levanders Randall was born in Tamo, Arkansas, a small community south of Pine Bluff. When he was a small boy, his family moved to Pine Bluff. He grew up there and attended public schools.

After graduating from Merrill High School, where he was a great athlete, he joined the Navy. He had been offered scholarships, but he chose to experience the opportunities that the Navy offered.

After four years, Randall accepted a scholarship at AM&N (now UA-Pine Bluff) where he lettered in football. He graduated from AM&N in 1964 with a B.S.E. degree in Physical Education and a minor in Science.

After graduation, Randall worked at Blacksville Junior High in the Newport School District starting in 1964.

Randall's second job was at Cotton Plant Vocational High School (CPHS after 1970) in 1965 and he remained there until his retirement. At Cotton Plant he coached track, baseball, basketball and football. He eventually became the head football coach. He also taught Science and Physical Education.

During his tenure in the Cotton Plant School system, Randall also served as Dean of Students, Athletic Director and high school principal for one year. In 1974 he was appointed as the head boys and girls track coach until 1992. For 10 years he also served as the supervisor of the Arkansas Workforce Federal Program at Cotton Plant.

Randall guided his track teams to a total of 15 district and conference championships. He won four state championships (1978, 1979, 1980, 1982) and had one state runner-up position (1983). Two of his former track standouts participated in the 1978 Olympics - James Bunch and Mitty Chunn, who ran at UA-Pine Bluff.

Randall has been married to the former Ruth Powell for 53 years. They have two daughters and two granddaughters.

The most rewarding experience of his life has been his service at Ash Grove Baptist Church as a Sunday School teacher and a deacon.

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JIM ROWLAND



Jim Rowland is a Little Rock native, who has lived in the Fort Smith area since 1963.

Rowland received his BSE from Arkansas State Teachers College in 1963. He received his Master of Science in Education from State College of Arkansas in 1971. He also received his Secondary Administrative Certificate from the University of Arkansas and received his Certified Athletic Administration in 2003.

Rowland started his coaching career in 1963 as the head football and track coach at Fort Smith Darby Junior High. From 1966-1970 he was the offensive coordinator at Fort Smith Northside. He later became the head football coach and athletic coordinator at Fort Smith Southside. He served as the head football coach through '82. Rowland was an assistant principal at Southside from 1982-1991. He became the school's athletic director in 1992 and currently holds the same position.

Rowland was president of the Arkansas High School Athletic Administrators Association from 1995-1997. He was the Athletic Director of the Year in 1999 and 2001 and received the AHSAAA's State Award of Merit in 1994 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1998 and 2013.

Rowland served on the National Federation of High Schools' Advisory Board for four years. He received the NFHS Citation in 2000 and the Arkansas Activities Association Citation Award in 2014.

In 2009 the football stadium at Southside High School was named in his honor. He was selected to the Southside Hall of Honor and Northside Hall of Fame in 2014 and the Southside Ring of Honor this school year.

Rowland has been married to Norma Rowland, a retired teacher, for 53 years. They have two children and seven grandchildren. His son Steve Rowland and his wife Jill have four children – Jack and Connor Rowland and Grace Ann and Joe Rothwell. His son Matt Rowland and his wife Jolee have two children – Landen and Hayden and one granddaughter, Jordyn.

Rowland is a member of Grand Avenue Baptist Church where he serves as Deacon and as a member of the Board of Overseers.