



SCAHOF Announces Recipients of 2017 Special Awards

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COLUMBIA, SC – South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame president Tom McQueeney has announced that Dr. Danny Morrison, formerly of the Carolina Panthers; longtime Charleston mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.; Coach Fisher DeBerry of the Isle of Palms; and Jay Pitts of Lexington will be honored for their various contributions to sports in the Palmetto State when the organization hosts its 57th annual banquet and induction ceremony on May 15 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Morrison will be recognized with the Bobby Richardson Sportsmanship Award that is sponsored by Pete and Ane DiVenere; DeBerry will be honored with the Willie Jeffries Ambassador for Sports Award that is sponsored by Defender Services; Riley will be honored with the Felix “Doc” Blanchard Athlete/Citizen Award; and Pitts will receive the sixth annual Dom Fusci Leadership in Action Award that is sponsored by Founders Federal Credit Union.

The four will be honored along with the new inductees of the SCAHOF Class of 2017 which include Andre’ Goodman of the University of South Carolina, Donnell Woolford and Kris Benson of Clemson, Bobby Johnson of Furman, Tony Dunkin of Coastal Carolina, Bob McCullough of Benedict and Willie Simon of S.C. State. Coach Simon will be enshrined posthumously.

Additionally, special recognition will be given to Coastal Carolina University’s baseball team and Clemson University’s football team for their respective NCAA Championships.

Tickets (table of eight for \$600) and program sponsorships may be purchased by calling the SCAHOF office at 803/779-0905. The event, which includes a reception and dinner, begins at 5:30 p.m.

Bobby Richardson Sportsmanship Award

*Dr. Danny Morrison, Past-President
Carolina Panthers*

From a commitment to customer service to the aesthetic renovations of Bank of America Stadium, Dr. Danny Morrison’s contributions as president of the Carolina Panthers was clearly evident as the steward of Owner/Founder Jerry Richardson’s vision.

Morrison's association with the Panthers began more than 20 years ago at Wofford College, where Morrison served as director of athletics from 1985-97 and senior vice president from 1997-01. As Wofford's AD, Morrison coordinated a fundraising effort that enabled the college to refurbish its facilities necessary for hosting an NFL training camp. The Panthers have now held their training camp at Wofford for 23 consecutive seasons.

Prior to joining the Panthers, Morrison was in his fifth year as director of athletics at Texas Christian University where he directed the development of the program into one of the most successful in the nation. Morrison served as Commissioner of the Southern Conference for four years (2001-05) prior to joining the Horned Frogs. As commissioner, he established numerous progressive initiatives and created partnerships with corporate entities including the expansion and enhancement of the conference's television schedule through various networks.

A native of Burlington, N.C., Morrison attended Wofford, lettered four years in basketball and graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa in 1975 with a bachelor of arts in mathematics. His pursuit of excellence as athletics director earned him induction into the Wofford Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002, and he is currently on the college's board of trustees. Morrison also obtained a master's of education in administration and supervision from the University of North Carolina in 1981 and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of South Carolina in 2000.



Danny Morrison

Bobby Richardson Sportsmanship Award

- 2017 – Danny Morrison, Charlotte
- 2016 – Not awarded
- 2015 – The Jacobs Family, Clinton
- 2014 – Billy D'Andrea, Clemson
- 2013 – Not awarded
- 2012 – Bobby Cremins, Charleston
- 2011 – Les Robinson, Sullivan's Island
- 2010 – Armanti Edwards, Greenwood
- 2009 – Not awarded
- 2008 – Andre Roberts, Columbia
- 2007 – Not awarded
- 2006 – Sam Gado, Columbia
- 2005 – Kevin Kimery, Columbia

Willie Jeffries Ambassador for Sports Award

*Coach Fisher DeBerry, Isle of Palms
Former Head Football Coach, U.S. Air Force Academy*

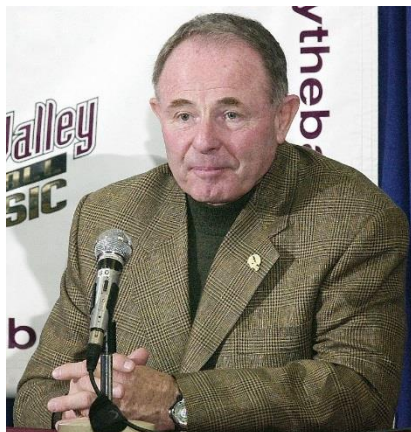
Coach Fisher DeBerry, a native of Cheraw and current resident of the Isle of Palms, served as the head football coach at the United States Air Force Academy from 1984-2006 and compiled a record of 169–109–1. DeBerry led 17 of his 23 Falcons squads to winning records and captured 12 bowl bids. Three times (1985, 1995 and 1998) his teams won the Western Athletic Conference title, and when DeBerry retired on December 15, 2006, he finished with the most wins and highest winning percentage (.608) in Air Force football history. In 2011, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as a coach.

After graduating from Wofford in 1960 where he lettered in football and baseball, DeBerry spent six years coaching in the high school ranks before returning to his alma mater. While an assistant coach at Wofford, the Terriers won 21 consecutive games and was ranked No. 1 in the NAIA. For the next nine years (1971-79), DeBerry was an assistant coach at Appalachian State where three times the Mountaineers were ranked in the top 10 nationally in either rushing, total offense or scoring offense.

DeBerry was named Western Athletic Conference Coach of the Year three times in his career, and in 1985, captured the Paul “Bear” Bryant Award as college football's coach of the year. He was also awarded the State Farm Coach of Distinction Award in 2001, and was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame. DeBerry received an honorary doctorate of humanities from Wofford in 2003.

In 1996, DeBerry served as president of the American Football Coaches Association, and is the current chairman of the AFCA ethics committee. He was honored in 1998 by the Independence Bowl as a member of its Hall of Honor and in 2005, DeBerry was recognized with induction into the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame.

Coach DeBerry delivers motivational speeches to religious and corporate groups around the country, and has strong ties to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was inducted into the organization's Hall of Champions in 2005. He currently heads the Fisher DeBerry Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support and education of single mothers and their children, as well as other charitable causes.



Coach Fisher DeBerry

Willie Jeffries Ambassador for Sports Award

2017 – Fisher DeBerry, Isle of Palms
2016 – Not awarded
2015 – Dawn Staley, Columbia
2014 – Mike Veeck, Charleston
2013 – John Rhodes, Myrtle Beach
2012 – Steve Wilmot, Hilton Head Island
2011 – Ray Tanner, Columbia

Felix “Doc” Blanchard Athlete/Citizen Award

Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

Former Mayor, City of Charleston

Joseph P. Riley, Jr. served as Charleston’s mayor for an unprecedented 10 terms and ranks as one of America’s longest serving mayors as he began his first term on December 15, 1975 and ended on January 11, 2016.

Born in Charleston and a 1964 graduate of The Citadel and the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1967, Riley served in the S.C. House of Representatives from 1968-74.

As mayor, he spearheaded the redevelopment of the historic downtown Market Area and his work toward making his hometown a tourist site has paid great dividends as Charleston is rated annually as the top destination city.

A member of the sailing team while a cadet, Riley is an avid sports fan and was more than instrumental in the creation of the Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Ball Park, which is situated on the banks of the scenic Ashley River and serves as the baseball home of The Citadel Bulldogs and the South Atlantic League’s Charleston RiverDogs. The park is a unique partnership that became one of the first facilities where a college and minor league team shared a field. While he insisted for a different name, Charleston City Council voted unanimously to name the park for him and it is now affectionately called “The Joe.” Riley was also influential with the Family Circle Cup’s move from Hilton Head to Charleston, and he has been effective in making the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department a focal point of his administrations.

The highly decorated Riley has been recognized by the National Association of Democratic Mayors (President, 1988–92); Outstanding Mayors Award by the National Urban Coalition (1983); Distinguished Citizen Award by the National Association of Realtors; South Carolina's

Order of the Palmetto and South Carolinian of the Year; the Verner Award by the South Carolina Arts Commission (1982); Municipal Leader of the Year by American City & County (1991); Thomas Jefferson Award from the American Institute of Architects for Public Architecture (1994); Seaside Prize from the Seaside Institute (1997); President's Award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, for outstanding leadership (2000); Urban Land Institute J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionary Urban Development (2000); Keystone Award, by the American Architectural Foundation (2002); one of the 25 most dynamic mayors in America by *Newsweek* Magazine (1996); The American Society of Landscape Architects named him an Honorary Member, for leadership and vision; enshrined in The Citadel Athletic Hall of Fame (2014); and was a recipient of The National Medal of Arts in 2009, as presented by President Barack Obama.



Joe Riley, Jr.

Felix “Doc” Blanchard Athlete/Citizen Award

2017 – Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Charleston
2016 – Not awarded
2015 – Gregg Nibert, Clinton
2014 – Not awarded
2013 – Not awarded
2012 – Not awarded
2011 – Shrine Centers of the Carolinas
2010 – Judge Sol Blatt, Jr., Charleston

Dom Fusci Leadership in Action Award

Jay Pitts

SCAHOF Board Member, Lexington

The Dom Fusci Leadership in Action Award is presented annually to recognize a member of the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame’s Board of Directors who, like Dom, is able to demonstrate quiet and effective leadership by their actions. Dom was inducted into our Hall with the Class of 1991, having enjoyed a spectacular career as a University of South Carolina football player (1942-43) who earned All-Southern Conference honors and who later served on the SCAHOF board for more than two decades.

This year, the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame Board of Directors is pleased to present the Dom Fusci Award to Jay Pitts of Lexington. The longtime producer of the SCAHOF Induction

Ceremony & Banquet, Pitts, who served as president in 1998, is the new director of tourism for Pickens County and is responsible for managing and directing the New Liberty Civic Center, Haygood Mills and the Pickens County Museum. A 1984 graduate of the University of South Carolina, he is the former executive director of the SC State Museum Foundation.

Pitts has enjoyed stints with the SC State Museum Foundation (executive director), SC Real Estate Commission & SC Real Estate Appraiser Board (administrator), Engineers & Land Surveyors Board of the SC Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulations (assistant deputy director & education director), University of South Carolina's College of Engineers (director of alumni relations and special events). In addition he has served as the long-time executive producer/writer of the Miss South Carolina Pageant.



Jay Pitts

Dom Fusci Leadership in Action Award

- 2017 – Jay Pitts, Lexington
- 2016 – Julian Gibbons, Columbia
- 2015 – Sonny Dickinson, Columbia
- 2014 – Dennis Powell, Columbia
- 2013 – Jeff Grantz, Columbia
- 2012 – Ken Wheat, Columbia