



JAMES F. WALKER, JR.

James was born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1926, and together with his wife of over fifty years, Clara, raised two children. He started pitching horseshoes at the age of twelve at his home.

He started pitching again in 1956, while in the U.S. Air Force. He pitched at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas, Iceland, and the Pacific Air Force Base in Eniwetok, Japan.

James was a member of the NHPA and the Texas HPA from 1954 through 1960. He served as Vice President of the Texas State Horseshoe Association from 1959 to 1960. Military commitments, including a tour in Viet Nam, prevented James from competing in Tournament play from that time until his retirement in 1970. He again became a member of the NHPA and has been a member of the LSHPA for the past ten years. In the late 1980's, James met Don Holland and began pitching with the Shreveport Horseshoe Pitchers Association. He has pitched in the Shreveport Double-Ringer Horseshoe Pitching League and in SHPA sponsored Tournaments since.

His accomplishments on the Courts include the following:

- 1951: Tournament Champion in Eniwetok, Japan
- 1955: Tournament Champion in Iceland
- 1956-1959: Placed in Top Three in Texas State Singles and Doubles Championships in both Class "A" and "B", several times
- 1960: Texas State Doubles Champion with partner, J.W. Cash.
- 1961: Won the PACAF Minor Sports Doubles Championship in Japan, with partner, Quinn Griswold.
- 1974: Champion of the KRMD sponsored annual 4th of July Tournament in Shreveport.
- 1994: Class "B" Shreveport Spring Classic Champion
- 1995: Class "A" Shreveport Mixed Doubles Champion
Shreveport Double-Ringer Horseshoe Pitching League Champion.

- 1996: Second Place in LSHPA State Singles Class "A" Senior Division.
Class "A" Shreveport Singles Champion.
Class "B" Champion in MDA Doubles Tournament
- 1998: Gold Medal winner in the Horseshoe Pitching and the Washer Pitching events in the Northwest Louisiana Senior Olympic Games.
- 1999: Class "A" Champion in Ken Stewart Open
Class "A" Shreveport Singles Champion
- 2000: Second Place in LSHPA State Singles Class "A" Elder Division.

James currently maintains nearly a 50% ringer percentage and boasts an 80% ringer percent sanctioned game in League play against Don Holland in 1996.

In addition to the above personal accomplishments, James is more notably known in the Northwest area of the State for his volunteer work, especially with the Northwest District of the Senior Olympics, and the Bossier Council On Aging. He has received numerous letters of appreciation from these organizations for his untiring efforts in training their coaches and volunteers and his participation in their events. He has been responsible for the construction and maintenance of horseshoe courts at the Holy Angels Residential Facility in Shreveport and the Bossier Council of Aging premises in Bossier City at no charge to these organizations.

He has shown his love for the game of horseshoes throughout his life and is considered an ambassador for the game and a true gentleman of the sport.