

JOHN HOUGHTALING

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION 2020

I would like to introduce you to one of the new inductees into the Central District HOF...my good friend and shuffleboard partner John Houghtaling.

John was born in the small town of Cooperstown, NY which is also the home to the Baseball Hall Of Fame. He is also an avid fan of baseball and the Yankees. In his early years, he resided in the village of Richfield Springs, a short distance from his birth place. After graduating from high school in 1964, he attended Mohawk Valley Community College and worked at the local Dodge dealer while attending school for 2 years. He then moved on to work for Remington Arms Inc. for 35yrs retiring in 2000. John has always loved watching and participating in sports. He played semi-pro softball 40 years and recorded two hole in ones along the way. After retirement, John moved to Florida in 2002 and became a permanent resident in the sunshine state in 2013. In his personal life, John is a very proud single Dad. His son and daughter-in-law live in Wichita, Kansas, where his son is employed as an engineer with Spirit Aero Systems, a subsidiary of Boeing Aircraft Corporation.

Like many of us, John began playing S.B. in the park as a park player. After a period of time, he joined the ZSC in 2011, determined to improve his skill and knowledge of the game. He was soon learning and playing with some of the best players in the state. From a district am he became a state am in 2014 and 2 years later turned pro in 2016. He has been on an upward trajectory ever since culminating with this tremendous achievement that we are honoring him for tonight. I might add that only 12 others in the ZSC have ever been inducted.

John is passionate about this game that we all love to play. He is especially focused on the amateurs and their progression and participation in the sport. He believes giving back to the game that has given him so much enjoyment and satisfaction. To that end John currently sits on the Board Of Directors at the ZSC and works with the board as well as members to improve the facility, practice his game, help new players, and enjoy the time he spends with his friends at the club. And in his quest to give back to the sport, John has been elected President of our Central District Board.

Back in the fall of 2013, I met John at the Z club. We began practicing together most mornings by ourselves, trying to apply the strategies we had been taught by some of the best players in the game. For most of the year this is what we did. We did not play in many tournaments nor did we participate in our Z club league. During this time, I learned that he had a lot of the attributes required in team sports: picking up your team mates when they are down, insisting there is no letter "I" in team, winning as a team and often losing as a team, and of course always having your team mates back. So in closing tonight I have to say that I was extremely fortunate to find such a tough competitor who wants to play the game the right way. These are some of the reasons why I have enjoyed playing with John for the last 7 years and I am honored to call him my good friend, And now I would like to introduce to you our newest member of the Central District Hall Of Fame, **JOHN HOUGHTALING**.

Presentation by Gary McGaffey