

SPECIAL AWARD INDUCTEES WINNIE & AUSTIN McDONALD!

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are here today to induct Austin & Winnifred McDonald into the Central District Shuffleboard Hall of Fame ~ SPECIAL AWARD CATEGORY.

The McDonalds have been winter residents who have owned their own home in Lakeland and Auburndale for twenty-five years. Their very first brush with shuffling was in 1978 while vacationing in a motel in Auburndale. They just started playing on the 2 courts at the motel and to no one's surprise, they took to the game like "ducks to water"!! When the opportunity arose to move to the Georgetown Mobile Home Park in Lakeland, a park with 12 Courts, they jumped at the opportunity ~ no doubt influenced by those Courts!! Not only did they become members of the Park Shuffleboard Team, they soon became Officers of the Club and were responsible for managing the daily play. However; there remained other challenges, and the McDonalds moved to the District Level of Shuffling, with a high degree of success we might add. They achieved Pro Status in 1984.

When Tournament Director Bill Smith suggested a Central District Pro Masters be started, it was the McDonalds who stepped forward and volunteered to sponsor the event for a trial period of two years ~ "to see if it would fly"?? Fly it did, it is still going to-day, 18 years later.

The McDonalds also made a significant donation to the Winter Haven Club for new washrooms, as well as donating 25 issues of the Preview to the Central District Hall of Fame. The McDonalds have not restricted their shuffling activities to FL. They have competed in both National and International tournaments in Florida and other American States, in Japan and in Canada. Austin served on the Board of the CNSA (Canadian National Shuffleboard Association) and he was inducted into the OSA (Ontario Shuffleboard Association) Hall of Fame in the year 1995.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the record of the McDonalds is a record of contribution to our sport, a record they can be proud of, a record that we have benefited from. We collectively express our appreciation and welcome them to the Central District Hall of Fame.

Presenter Larry Brown, Vice President; 2005 03 19.